

Rustic Buffalo Outdoor Artisan Market opens in North Tonawanda

While many of the region's annual festivals, fairs and events are in limbo for the season, folks can still get their fix of local summer fun at the newly expanded Rustic Buffalo Artisan Market in North Tonawanda.

With over 135 local artisans on site every weekend, this market promises to become a favorite local destination.

To help plan a visit, Rustic Buffalo has prepared a guide to help plan a day the whole family will enjoy.

Hosting 20 new artisans every weekend through October, the Rustic Buffalo Artisan Outdoor Market is the first of three new additions welcomed to this local shopping spot just in time for summer.

"We opened Rustic Buffalo back in November as one indoor market space where local artisans struggling due to the pandemic could safely sell their goods," said John Pirrone, co-owner of Rustic Buffalo Artisan Outdoor, which is sponsored by Bath Fitter. "When summer craft fairs and festivals started getting canceled, we wanted to do more."

This is not your average craft fair. The selection of vendors is curated based on quality and diversity of goods. That means one will discover everything from repurposed furniture and handcrafted decor to Buffalo themed clothing and gifts.

Shop the outdoor market every weekend, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. now through Oct. 31.

Be sure to also stop by the bake shop and café for fresh sweets – another feature of the expansion. The shop features an array of cookies, scones and more to enjoy either with a coffee or on the go while browsing the grounds.

But that's not all! Tucked inside the shop is 45 new local artisans, plus a gourmet kitchen featuring Buffalo's best makers of sauces, salsas and spreads.

The cafe and bake shop is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tues-



day and Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

There's fun for the kiddos, too. While parents browse the outdoor market's artisan creations, kids can now safely play in the outdoor Family Game Zone. With games such as Yahtzee, Cornhole and Jenga supplied by Knotty Pines craftworks, children will find plenty of fun to occupy themselves.

The Family Game Zone is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every weekend through Oct. 31.

Finally, the day wouldn't be complete without a walk through the original indoor Artisan Market shopping space. This boutique-to-style store is home to more than 110 resident artisans

who are continuously refining and creating new goods.

Safety is top of mind regardless of whether one is shopping inside or out. Capacity will be capped in accordance with state coronavirus guidelines, with social distancing enforced and masks required – consider this the ticket for entry!

Shop the indoor market 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The Rustic Buffalo Artisan Market, Bakeshop and Cafe is located at 6610 Shawnee Road, North Tonawanda. For more information, visit Rusticbuffalodecor.com or call 444-1052.

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