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YBPA: Somewhere recognized as 2020 Business of the Year



YBPA Secretary Mark Butera presents a proclamation to Somewhere's Pat Stack. (Photo by K&D Action Photo and Aerial Imaging)

BY TERRY DUFFY
 Editor-in-Chief

It's been a long time coming. Tuesday evening, the Youngstown Business and Professional Association held a formal get-together at Fort Niagara's Officer's Club. It marked the first time since the

start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 that many of YBPA's roughly 80 active members were even able to gather and meet. Tuesday's session included discussion on a whole range of topics – such as the recent Youngstown Labor Day Parade, the many new faces

SEE SPECIAL, continued on Page 6

Destination Niagara USA new manager of Conference Center, Old Falls Street



Destination Niagara USA operates the Niagara Falls USA Official Visitor Center (Staff photo)

The USA Niagara Development Corp. board of directors met Tuesday and authorized Destination Niagara USA as manager of The Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls and Old Falls Street, beginning in January 2022.

Destination Niagara USA is the official destination market-

ing organization for Niagara County. The private nonprofit has a mission to expand the economic prosperity of the Niagara Falls USA communities by generating individual and group visitation.

"Destination Niagara USA has always been a strong partner to USAN, and we are excited to see

its role in Niagara Falls expand as manager of the Conference Center and Old Falls Street," USAN Chairwoman Francine DeMonte said. "As the business travel and conference industry rebounds, Destination Niagara will be building on the center's prior success."

SEE 5-YEAR, continued on Page 19

Research and Design brings life to vacant Lewiston space

BY JOSHUA MALONI
 GM/Managing Editor

Who knew a boring blank space could be turned into such a bountiful beauty?

Lewiston residents Rani (Somayaji) and Dennis Salemi recently opened Research and Design inside the former HSBC Bank on Center Street. The interior redesign is, quite frankly, shocking, as the space that once housed teller windows, cubicles and a conference room now boasts a mural; an open retail design with designer clothing, shoes and jewelry; and a children's room brimming with toys and Lewiston-branded shirts.

"That is a good thing about the way we work together, we can see it together and then we're like, 'Aha, we get it.' It clicks, and then we can do it," she said.

He added, "I also think it goes back to who we are conceptually

– Research and Design. We've seen similar things in other parts of the country, in other parts of the world, where people take a unique space, and they transform it into something. We're inspired by some of these things."

Research and Design – or RD, as it's known – is the result of two decades of experience in the retail and fashion industries. The owners' first location opened almost a decade ago in Orchard Park. Lewiston's larger version made its debut on Oct. 1, after about four months of remodeling.

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Rani (Somayaji) and Dennis Salemi, left, have filled an empty space in the Rite Aid plaza. They recently opened Research and Design, a store offering an assortment of gift and fashion items – as modeled by Jennifer Campbell, Olivia Gorman and Sarina Deacon.



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