

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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 "110 Years of Barbering in Lewiston"

300th anniversary of Le Magazin Royal set for Sept. 12 at Artpark

First trading post in Niagara



This watercolor image, courtesy of the Historic Association of Lewiston collection, depicts Le Magazin Royal as it would have appeared in the 1720s.

In Western New York, it is not often one gets a chance to celebrate the tricentennial of an historic event. But that's what is happening on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Artpark in Lewiston.

In 1720 – 300 years ago – French dip-

lomat, trader and military officer Louis Thomas Chabert de Joncaire established Le Magazin Royal, a trading post at the Lower Landing of the Niagara, where Artpark stands today.

SEE FREE, continued on Page 8

Imagination Station keeps kids inspired & active during pandemic



Creators Sherri and Joe Marranca stand in front of the Imagination Station (444 Deerfield Drive), a little library full of activities and crafts to keep kids and families engaged.

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO
Interim Tribune Editor

With few activities and programs available to kids these days, parents know that it's all too easy for them to become glued to phones, TV's and video games. Fortunately for those in one North Tonawanda neighborhood, a brightly colored wooden box is helping to get kids away from the screens and foster their creativity.

The Imagination Station, located at 444 Deerfield Drive, was started with the intention of promoting outside and family playtime. Inspired by the nationwide Little Free Library movement as well as the Little Free Pantry locations in North Tonawanda (Nash Road Church and Lumber City Church), the Imagination Station includes things such as books, board games, puzzles, outdoor play toys, and

SEE IMAGINATION, continued on Page 8

YBPA expands its focus in northern Niagara

New website offering, expanded brochure to debut this weekend

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

Like many who have weathered the affects of the COVID-19 pandemic this year, the Youngstown Business and Professional Association was forced to take a step back, with cancellations of a number of community favorites and a refocus on its priorities.

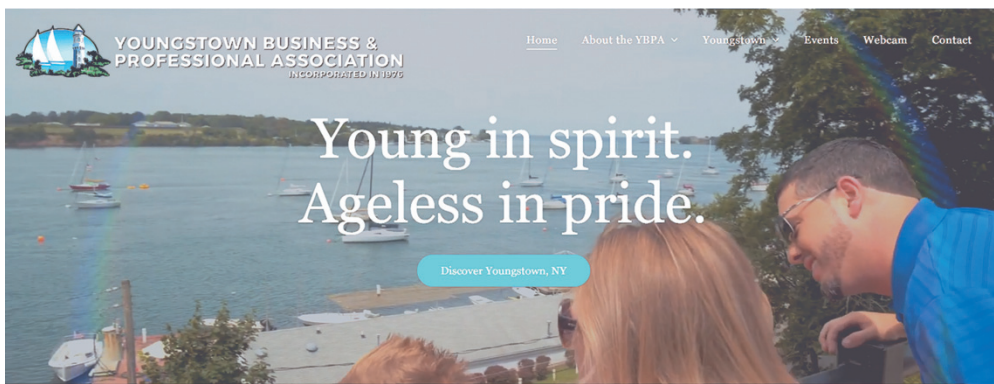
That refocus has resulted in an exciting new presence in the community, marked by YBPA's debut of an attractive new website this weekend to coincide with release of its expanded "Welcome to Town of Porter 2020-2021" brochure serving the northern Niagara Region.

Mark and Cheryl Butera of the YBPA report the new website, www.youngstownny.com, which is going live this weekend, marks a whole new chapter for the com-

munity-oriented business organization that will enter its 45th year of operation in 2021.

"We go back to 1976. It was formed by a group of local businessmen in Youngstown," Mark said of YBPA's beginnings. He said the business organization formed and became part of what was known back then as the Lewiston Business and Professional Association, which came into existence in the late 1950s. Today, that organization is known as the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce.

"So what happened is when the (older) chamber was formed, the municipalities – Youngstown, Sanborn, Ransomville and Lewiston at the time – they were all part of the four groups that founded the chamber. Each of the municipalities back in those days contributed money to support the



A screen grab of the new Youngstown website courtesy of Lewiston Digital.

chamber," Mark said. "So, the Youngstown Business and Professional Association has always been around. It's been a standalone organization, but because Youngstown was

part of the original group of the chamber, and we did so much" for the community.

YBPA introduced its annual informative

SEE YBPA, continued on Page 13

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