



Senior living 101: Biondi celebrates milestone birthday

Submitted by Wheatfield Commons

Moderation, prayer and "making the best of every situation" have carried Howard Biondi through more than a century of life. A resident of Wheatfield Commons, a DePaul Senior Living Community in North Tonawanda, Howard recently celebrated his 101st birthday – one of his proudest accomplishments!

Raised on the east side of Buffalo, Howard attended School No. 6 and Hutchinson Technical High School, dropping out of school as a junior to travel to California to fight forest fires with the Civilian Conservation Corps. Howard later worked in a butcher shop on South Division Street – the same street he grew up on.

In 1943, he was drafted into the Army during World War II. He served three years in New Guinea and the Philippines as a technician fourth grade, with the 496th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun Battalion. After returning home, Biondi worked for A&P for 30 years as meat manager, cutting meat for a small shop after he retired. He also took up golf and served as president of Grover Cleveland Golf Course.

Howard's wife, Theresa Marinaccio – whom he knew since they were children – passed away in 1984 from breast cancer. The couple had three children together.

Howard refers to his home at Wheatfield Commons as "the country club," because staff "cut no corners."

YWCA: 49 Tremont development opening ceremony

The YWCA of the Niagara Frontier will celebrate the opening of its housing development, at 49 Tremont St., with a 1 p.m. ribbon-cutting July 14 in North Tonawanda.

49 Tremont is the fourth state housing program the YWCA has established in Niagara County, creating a footprint totaling in excess of \$11 million in housing developments throughout the region. The new project builds on the YWCA's history of providing housing for victims of domestic violence without a place to call home, and comes as a result of the 2015 merger of the YWCA of Niagara and the YWCA of the Tonawandas. This union allowed the newly formed YWCA of the Niagara Frontier to strengthen its

portfolio and increase its effectiveness within a broader geographical area.

Directly across from Historic Riviera Theatre in the downtown area of North Tonawanda, this 12-apartment, supported permanent residence with a social enterprise component, will aid women in avoiding homelessness and escaping family violence. Programs offered aim to help residents gain stability while preparing for economic self-sufficiency.

This is the YWCA's first supportive housing enterprise for single women.

YWCA of Niagara Frontier CEO Kathleen Granchelli, said, "The YWCA board of directors and staff are very excited to have this project completed and open to serve

the needs of the women in our community."

The ground floor of the historic, refurbished building will feature a café providing refreshment for the community and residents at the Tremont apartments. This commercial enterprise will also provide residents with on-site workforce training and employment opportunities, a model that has proven successful for the YWCA and its clients.

49 Tremont was made possible through funding from the Housing Trust Fund Corp., New York State Homeless Housing and Assistance Program, Empire State Development Corp., City of North Tonawanda and Yahoo Foundation, with construction financing by M&T Bank.

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