

# Niagara County launches production program to support manufacturers

Submitted by the Public Information Officer

Niagara County Legislator Rich Andres, chairman of the Economic Development Committee, on Monday announced the launch of the Niagara County production program that will provide matching grants up to \$50,000 to manufacturers for the purchase of equipment and machinery. Andres said the goal of the program is to enhance the competitiveness and facilitate the growth of the manufacturing sector in Niagara County.

"We know that, during the pandemic, many manufacturers had

to use all of their available resources to just stay operational, which meant capital needs for maintaining and upgrading equipment were pushed to the backburner," he said. "Many are still struggling to catch back up, and the fact is, in manufacturing, you need to be constantly investing in your production lines to stay competitive."

Firms eligible for the grant program are for-profit businesses that have been in business since January 2020; the grant they seek is for a project in Niagara County; and the company must

qualify under Small Business Administration size standards (fewer than 500 employees.) Retail and seasonal businesses do not qualify for the Niagara County production program. Temporary, seasonal or easily removable improvements and/or purchases are not eligible.

Those interested in the program can download the application packet at [www.niagaracountybusiness.com/niagara-county-production-program](http://www.niagaracountybusiness.com/niagara-county-production-program). The packet includes submission timelines and further eligibility requirements.

## Youngstown Lions Club announces Lew-Port-area scholarships

The Youngstown Lions Club invites all graduating high school seniors living within the Lewiston-Porter School District, including parochial and home-schooled seniors, to apply for one of its annually sponsored scholarships named in memory of former Youngstown Mayor Neil Riordan. Up to three recipients will be chosen this year to receive awards of \$1,500 each.

Applicants for these scholarships must be enrolled full-time in a college, university or trade

school with a start date of September of the scholarship year, i.e., fall of 2024. In alignment with the "We Serve" mission of the Youngstown Lions Club, students who are pursuing careers intended to provide service to their community such as nursing, education, or the skilled trades, are encouraged to apply.

Requirements include the completed paper application form obtained from the Lewiston-Porter High School counseling center; or

download the application from the Lewiston-Porter website, [www.lew-port.com](http://www.lew-port.com), and navigate to the high school counseling center office site. All completed applications are due to the Lewiston-Porter High School counseling center, either as paper copy or as attachment in an email, no later than Friday, April 19.

For more information on the Youngstown Lions Club, contact Lion Stu Comerford at 716-534-7198.

### IN THE NEWS

#### Taste of Buffalo seeks local artists for poster art contest

The Taste of Buffalo, presented by Tops Friendly Markets, is inviting local artists (students and the general public alike) to capture its essence in art by entering in the 2024 poster art contest.

This year's festival is taking place July 13-14 in Niagara Square and on a portion of Delaware Avenue. Presale food ticket vouchers will be available for purchase at Tops Markets locations beginning in June.

The poster art contest, which kicks off Feb. 25, invites individuals 13 years of age and older to submit their original works of art that best convey the feel and flavor of this summertime food festival. Artwork must include a fork and at least one image of food. Entries will be accepted until April 12. Two cash prizes of \$500 will be awarded (one in each of two age categories - children/13-17 years of age and adult/18-plus years of age).

One grand-prizewinner will then be selected from the two finalists. That person will receive an additional \$500, and their artwork will become the official 2024 Taste of Buffalo poster (and may be used in some of the Taste's other marketing materials). The entries will be judged and the winners will be announced on or about April 25. A complete list of rules and design guidelines can be found on the Tops website at <https://www.topsmarkets.com/tasteofbuffalo> and on [www.tasteofbuffalo.com](http://www.tasteofbuffalo.com).

"Buffalo's food and art scenes are two defining characteristics of what makes our region so special and unique, so we encourage any interested artists to participate in

this year's poster art contest," 2024 TOB Chairman Tom Mahoney said. "We can't wait to review all of the entries and showcase Buffalo artists' talents and creativity."

#### Catholic Charities seeks TAP volunteers

Catholic Charities of Buffalo is currently looking for both older adults and volunteers to participate in its telephone assurance program (TAP).

A press release stated, "This free service provides regular telephone calls from caring volunteers to adults with disabilities, or those over 60 who have limited ability to leave their home, to check on their well-being and offer an opportunity to socialize. The Catholic Charities TAP program is the longest-running social program for homebound older adults in Erie County."

"Social isolation, especially during the cold and dreary winter months, can impact the health and well-being of older adults," said Linda Chadderdon, program manager for Catholic Charities. "Volunteers can help make a difference in alleviating some of the loneliness with regular conversations and socialization."

Volunteers call TAP members once a week. Calls are generally 15-60 minutes and are scheduled between the volunteer and client often at the same time each week.

Interested volunteers must be at least 21 years old. Training will be provided upon acceptance into the program.

TAP is funded through a grant from the Erie County Department of Senior Services and the New York State Office for Aging. Those interested in receiving calls as a

TAP member, or seeking more information on volunteering, can contact Catholic Charities at 716-262-6164 or email [TAP@ccwny.org](mailto:TAP@ccwny.org).

#### Council for Older Adults photo contest

Calling all Niagara shutterbugs ages 55 and up

The Council for Older Adults (COA) in Niagara County invites all Niagara County residents over age 55 to enter the COA amateur photography contest. Prizes include two tickets to a Rivera Theatre Friday night series event and a \$25 gift card to Tops.

"The theme for this year's contest is 'Niagara: Nostalgia or History Today.'" Organizers said, Focus on things of old that are still with us today. Photos must be submitted with an entry form for each photo (you can take a picture of the entry form to send with your photo)

"Each entrant is encouraged to submit three digital photos based on the theme. Paper photographs will not be accepted. Call the COA at 716-285-8224, ext. 215, if you need an entry form sent to you or have questions."

All photos will be posted on the Health Association of Niagara County Inc. (HANCI) Facebook page. Photos, with the required entry form, may be submitted to [coa@hanci.com](mailto:coa@hanci.com) through 3 p.m. March 15. Voting will be online from March 18 through April 1. Photos with the highest number of "Likes" will be the winners.

For more information, call the COA at 716-285-8224, ext. 215, or visit <https://www.facebook.com/The-Health-Association-of-Niagara-County-Inc-HANCI>.

## Another successful 'Doctors with a Heart Day'



Dr. Glenda Rose and Dr. Thomas Barba of Rose Chiropractic, P.C., in Lewiston, recently sponsored the 34th annual "Doctors with a Heart Day" for their patients. Over 2,700 pounds of nonperishable food items were collected from the public to benefit Niagara Community Action Program Inc.'s food pantries, in exchange for chiropractic services or a nutrition response testing exam and consultation.

Niagara Community Action Program Inc. said it is "grateful for the continuous support and commitment to our agency and mission."

Pictured are Dr. Barba and Dr. Rose.



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