

Nearly 25 St. Patrick's events in Buffalo-Niagara

Continued from Page 1

rich traditions with tasty and affordable food, safe conditions to celebrate, and good weather. Celebrating in one of these cities will increase your chances of having a memorable holiday, as long as you don't overdo it."

With so much going on, where do you even begin? Well, as often said here, it's all about keeping things local. Here are some good ones to check out in the NFP coverage area:

•Grand Island's Charles N. DeGlopper VFW Post 9249 Ladies Auxiliary opens the Irish celebrations with its annual corned beef and cabbage dinner from 4-7 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at 2121 Grand Island Blvd. Dinner includes corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and dessert. The cost is \$15.

•The Niagara Falls Ancient Order of Hibernians will hold its 40th annual St. Patrick's Day celebration Friday afternoon, March 15, in the Niagara Falls Convention Center. Starting at 4:45 p.m., the "world's shortest parade" will cross over Rainbow Boulevard at Old Falls Street with a procession that includes the honorary St. Patrick, parade grand marshal Robert L. Gedeon Jr. and local officials. The festivities open at 5 p.m. in the Convention Center and continue well into the evening.

"Get ready to immerse yourself in the spirit of Ireland as we bring you an evening filled with music, dancing and good cheer," AOH organizers said. "You'll experience the true essence of St. Patrick's Day with lively performances by The Restless Soles, thrilling step dancers from the McCarthy School of Irish Dance, and a DJ to keep you entertained all evening. There will be family-friendly games and activities to keep guests of all ages in the St. Patrick's Day spirit."

There will also be Irish fare, with corned beef and cabbage dinners, plus a wide selection of beverages. Come 9 p.m., the celebration will resemble a true Irish pub atmosphere, with live music, singing, dancing and more expected.

Tickets are priced at \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Children aged 12 and under are admitted free with paid adult admission. For more information, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40th-annual-niagara-falls-aoh-st-patricks-day-party-tickets-825661916017>.

•Next up on the "must-do" list of local faves is the 12th annual Neil C. Riordan St. Patrick's Day Parade, at noon Saturday, March 16, along Main Street in the Village of Youngstown. The Youngstown Business and Professional Association presents the parade.

YBPA parade coordinator Cheryl Butera said, "In 2011, our dear Mayor Neil Riordan died while in office. He was very beloved. He'd always wanted a St. Patrick's Day parade. So, the year after he passed, the YBPA started a new tradition to honor Neil. This will be our 12th annual parade!"

This event had its beginnings in 2012 as a small, walk-up affair, with participants pushing green, Irish-themed shopping carts down Main Street. It has since grown to become a true commu-

nity event, with military salutes, police and fire company displays, marching bands, dance troupes, school and youth sports teams, community groups, Irish-themed entertainment and some colorful participants parading along the way.

Today, what is fondly known as the "O'Riordan St. Patrick's Day Parade" is regarded by many as one of the best reflections of small-town Irish culture in the area. Butera welcomed visitors to be a part of this tradition. And yes, you can join in and even march if you like.

Led by parade marshal and Town of Porter Councilman Tim Adamson and Robert Emerson of Old Fort Niagara, the parade opens at Main and Hinman streets and heads north to Falkner Park. It then changes direction with an impressive military salute from OFN soldiers to Main and Lockport streets.

Butera said the parade offers something for visitors of all ages. "This year, we will have Niagara Clown Alley clowns, the McCarthy School of Irish Dance (and) the MacKenzie Highlanders," she said. "Bandanas Bar and Grill will have a float, the Stone Jug will have a float, as will the Porter Empty Return, the Friends of the Youngstown Free library and First Presbyterian Church with their kazoo band."

Still more entries include This Must Be the Place guesthouse; Ki-Po Chevrolet in Ransomville; the Youngstown Village Diner, with servings of warm potato soup for visitors; Niagara County Sheriff Michael Filicetti; elected officials from the Village of Youngstown and Town of Porter; veterans from VFW Lake Ontario Post No. 313; the Youngstown Lions; Youngstown Police and Fire departments. Word has it that Ken and Ed from the new Griffon Brewing on Lockport Street will also be making a visit.

YBPA will be represented by parade committee members Butera of Anchor Spirits, Melissa Kudel of Bandanas Bar and Grill, and Colleen Summerville, professor/counselor at SUNY Niagara. "We're carrying the YBPA banner and tossing green beads and bags of candy," Butera said. "We'll have dancing in the street with the MacKenzie Highlanders and McCarthy School of Irish dancers, dancing to Irish music! Following the parade, there will be prizes awarded for best children's float and best adult float."

"This is a rain-or-shine event and is completely free!" Butera said. "You won't want to miss out on this tradition in the quaint Village of Youngstown."

For more information, visit the YBPA Facebook links at YBPA O'Riordan St. Patrick's Day Parade 2024 | Facebook

Still more local happenings to check out:

•The Somewhere Bar and Grill, located on Blairville Road just outside of Youngstown, will hold a special St. Patrick's Day celebration on Sunday, March 17. The daylong event gets underway at noon and features large outdoor tents on site, plenty of Irish beverages for visitors, and a return of The Irish Wake Band on stage, providing some excep-

tional Celtic music.

Somewhere owner Pat Stack wrote, "Yes, we know it's a Sunday so we adjusted the hours - 12 to 7-ish. (It's) beer trucks, tents, whiskey and drinks. As usual, the ninth annual - always and only on the day. Please spread the news - best biggest party in WNY."

•The View Sanborn (formerly Schimshacks), at 2943 Upper Mountain Road in Sanborn, will offer its third annual St. Patrick's Day buffet, from 3-7 p.m. Sunday, March 17. Featured will be homemade shepherd's pie, corned beef and cabbage, and boiled ham with potato and carrots. Desserts include carrot cake, Irish cream cheesecake. And don't forget green beer, a few St. Patrick's Day-themed drink specials and, of course, Guinness.

A few second helpings to check out along the St. Patrick's party trail:

•The WNY Irish pub band Stone Circle will hold a St. Patrick's pre-party from 7-10 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, No. 1411, 7269 Ward Road, North Tonawanda. Visit <https://stoncircleirish.com> for more information.

•The USS The Sullivans St. Patrick's Day celebration is 5-8 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park (Canalside).

•A St. Patrick's Day feast will be presented at 5 p.m. Friday, March 15, at the Youngstown Yacht Club, with a buffet diner and Irish dancers performing at 8 p.m.

•A Ukrainian St. Patrick's Day celebration with entertainment by Captain Tom and the Hooligans is set for 7-10 p.m. March 15 at the Dnipro Ukrainian Cultural Center, 500 Genesee St., Buffalo.

•And, of course, you can't miss the big St. Patrick's Day parade at 2 p.m. March 17 on Delaware Avenue in Buffalo. Among the many participants expected in this one will be '80s band Nerds Gone Wild with an on-street float performance.

As mentioned, so much to do.

Enjoy the celebration - but stay safe!

St. Patrick's Day CELEBRATION



Congratulations to the YBPA on another successful O'Riordan St. Patrick's Day Parade!
Village of Youngstown Board

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