

YBPA plans for 2024: New officers sworn-in; Kudel looks ahead

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

The Youngstown Business and Professional Association held an upbeat spring meeting last month, with nearly 80 members in attendance at the new Griffon Brewery and Gastropub.

Included was the installation of YBPA officers for 2024-25, with new faces representing the River Region business community sworn in by Porter Town Justice Dave Truesdale. Melissa Kudel of Bandana's Bar & Grill took over as president from Cheryl Butera. Cheryl and her husband, Mark, stepped down last fall from the business association following 13 years as officers.

Others sworn in were Dotty Riordan as vice president; Steve Kennedy as treasurer; and Lew Bean and Mark Butera installed as board members. Continuing their terms on the board are Stephanie Cattarin of the Upward Niagara Chamber, Steve Zastrow and Cheryl Butera. YBPA said the secretary seat would remain vacant, with Kudel expected to assume many of the responsibilities.

"My new mission is bringing everyone together, promoting Youngstown, the Town of Porter, the village - all working together," Kudel said. "We have a lot of businesses here, lot of different members, different leaders, so we're just trying to put that together."



YBPA officers take their oaths for 2024. (YBPA photo).

Kudel spoke highly of the village's recent St. Patrick's Day parade: "There were tons of people out here to celebrate - families, kids. Youngstown felt young; it's starting to feel very young again."

YBPA parade winners were the McKenzie Highlanders in the adult category, and the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown kazoo band in the children's category. Others were Youngstown businesses This

Must Be the Place B&B and The Village Diner, receiving awards from Niagara County Legislator Irene Myers.

Kudel said YBPA is again applying for the William G. Mayne Jr. Business Community Enhancement Grant, with funding sought to cover the annual business

brochure, website updates, plus new benches and beautification projects. Other funding is being explored with the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission. Kudel said she welcomes member ideas.

Looking ahead, YBPA's 14th annual "Beginning of Summer" Street Dance and Car Cruise is set for 6-9 p.m. Thursday, June 20, on the Main Street strip. As in previous years, the popular community event will again feature a car show of antiques and collectibles; the Thurman Brothers band on stage; a kids' corner; pony rides and activities by Lake-side Quarterhorses; and plenty of street vendors.

YBPA will present its Business of the Year and Community Service recognition award program Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the Niagara Frontier County Club. Honorees include the Youngstown Market-side as Business of the Year, and photographer Wayne Peters with YBPA's Community Service recognition award.

For more information on the YBPA and its 2024 programs, visit www.youngstownnewyork.com, www.youngstownny.com, and on Facebook. Kudel can be contacted at 716-345-2043 or via email at mkudel@buffaloschools.org.

we're willing to do." Of course, The Silo is famous for its "Haystack." The signature sandwich piles seasoned and shaved ribeye steak high on to a hoagie roll, paired with cheese, mayo and crispy potato straws.

The menu also boasts an assortment of hot dog choices, ample chicken dishes, fish and veggie-centric options. "We're going to have some fun specials" in 2024, Alfiere-David said. "Last year, we upgraded our buffalo bison patty, so it's bigger and it's all-natural, and that was a huge hit."

Silo to offer new specials, new ice cream flavors

Continued from Page 1

And I really think a lot of customers knew it, because so many people came in and were like, 'Oh, this is your 25th year of business.' And obviously, we have the banners up showing that. That was exciting.

"And now we're 26, so even more exciting. We're happy to be open."

Alfiere-David and owner Alan Hastings have positioned The

Silo into a place where it's now one of the River Region's most popular culinary destinations.

Though successful, she said there's always room for improvement.

"We always start with the staff," Alfiere-David said. "That's our No. 1 focus; because we know if we have happy people internally, we'll have happy people externally. And it's just tenfold. If our people are happy, they will make

our customers happy. So, we always start asking our employees, 'How did we do? What can we improve on? Does anyone have new ideas?'

"And then, we actually ask the customers. So, over winter, on the Silo Facebook, I ask, 'What do you guys want to see? What do you guys want us to feature? Any new specials or menu items?' And we got a lot of great feedback.

"Some were funny - you know,

like a bologna sandwich - but some were great, and ideas that we wouldn't have thought of otherwise.

"We ask; we're honest; we love feedback: constructive criticism, positive reviews - that's everything to us. That's how we base the business - and from the employees and the customers, we want to know that we have happy people here. So, anything we can do to make our employees happy,

we're willing to do." Of course, The Silo is famous for its "Haystack." The signature sandwich piles seasoned and shaved ribeye steak high on to a hoagie roll, paired with cheese, mayo and crispy potato straws.

The menu also boasts an assortment of hot dog choices, ample chicken dishes, fish and veggie-centric options.

"We're going to have some fun specials" in 2024, Alfiere-David said. "Last year, we upgraded our buffalo bison patty, so it's bigger and it's all-natural, and that was a huge hit."

This summer, the burger lineup will rotate.

"We're actually letting our cooks have a creative concept, in the back of house, to kind of come up with their own ideas, and then we're going to let them, if they have a passion for it, we're going to let them try it out and see how it sells," Alfiere-David said.

Down the walkway, "In the caboose, Perry's has new flavors," Alfiere-David said.

Those new choices include:

- Fruit Scoops, a fruity, cereal-inspired ice cream;
- Bee Sting, which is vanilla pudding ice cream with graham cracker and hot honey swirls; and
- Cookie Jar, pairing sea salt caramel ice cream with chocolate chip cookie chunks.

"We'll have those all summer long," Alfiere-David said. In addition, "We got a lot of great feedback on having the dairy-free and the low-sugar ice cream. ... We will definitely do that again."

The Silo is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The restaurant is located at 115 N. Water St., Lewiston. For more information, call 716-754-9680 or check out <https://www.lewistonsilo.com>. Visit on social media at Facebook // X/ Twitter // Instagram.

HANDYMAN SERVICES
716-799-9858
"Trust Earned"

LEWISTON ASSEMBLY
WORSHIP IN THE PARK
STANDING WITH JESUS AS WE STAND WITH OUR COMMUNITY
IN ACADEMY PARK ON SATURDAY MAY 11
170 S. 9TH STREET LEWISTON, NY 14092
7:00-8:00 PM
BRING A LAWN CHAIR
CARNIVAL WITH FUN GAMES AND PRIZES
4:30-6:30 PM

TODAY'S a Good Day to Protect Your Identity
2nd Annual Shred-It Event
May 11, 2024
10:00am to 1:00pm
(Rain or Shine)
Lewiston Porter High School, 4061 Creek Rd, Youngstown
\$10 for one copy box or kitchen size trash bag
No limit on number of boxes or bags!
Cash or check accepted for payment
Document Destruction
Old Bank Statements
Cancelled Checks
Medical Records
Any Personal Information
Shredded On-Site
This is a fundraiser sponsored by the Lewiston Porter Alumni Association

Wagner's Farm Market and Grill
For Mother's Day...
Beautiful Hanging Baskets
Also: Annuals Perennials Vegetable Plants
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
2672 Lockport Rd., Sanborn • 716.731.4440
Market Open Mon-Sat 9am-6pm • Grill Open Mon-Sat at 11am

Dirty Windows?
WINDOW & GUTTER CLEANING
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
LOCALLY OWNED
EST 1975
\$25 OFF YOUR 1ST SERVICE
Kleen Windows, Inc.
(716)773-7580 kleenwindows.com

Have Computer Problems?
Get **\$20 OFF** Any Service
Use Coupon Code **42513**
24/7 Emergency Service
Data Recovery
Virus Removal
Regular Maintenance
Call Now Get a Free Diagnosis
866-848-0045
Friendly Certified Computer Repair Experts
Geeks OnSite