

# Summer fun returns to Youngstown: Street Dance to feature Yankthecover on stage; plus, classic cars, Kids Corner & plenty of vendors



**BY TERRY DUFFY**  
Editor-in-Chief

It's another neat event in northern Niagara.

Following last weekend's Flag Day parade/community fair in Ransomville and the Plant-O-Rama gardeners extravaganza in Youngstown, next up on the events calendar is the 16th annual Beginning of Summer Street Dance and Classic Car Show, Thursday, June 25, on Main Street. Starting at 6 p.m., this family-fun happening celebrates the end of another school year and the joys of summer. It is presented each year by the Youngstown Business and Professional Association, the Village of Youngstown and Town of Porter.

"We are getting ready," YBPA's Cheryl Butera said. "We will have live music, a classic car cruise, plenty of food vendors, a kid's corner for hula-hoops and chalk-painting and face-painting, too! There will be pony rides offered by Lakeside Quarter Horses, free popcorn offered by the Youngstown Lions (and) Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co. provides a real fire truck presentation for children. We will have vendors, YBPA offers a 50/50 split contest. Niagara Clown Alley's Donuts D Clown provides balloon animals and face painting!"

"The beach balls have been ordered," announced YBPA's Mark Butera to members at last week's get-together in Bandana's Bar & Grille. He revealed that YBPA has signed on "a great local band" for this year's Street Dance entertainment.

Known as Yankthecover, this premier cover band entertains all ages with its "eclectic mix of classic rock, R&B, top 40 and country music." The band features Sal Durante on lead guitar/vocals; Youngstown's Shelly Durante (lead vocals/percussion/flute); Don Kwiatkowski (rhythm guitar/vocals); Rick Fandl (bass guitar/vocals); Rick Daminski (drums/percussion); and Howard Orlando (keyboards/vocals). Yankthecover performs a decades-long mix of cover favorites at a host of WNY events and venues, with sets from Beatles medleys to Lynyrd Skynyrd, Marshall Tucker to



Beginning of Summer Street Dance and Classic Car Show file photos.

Johnny Cash, CCR to Chuck Berry, the Doobies, Allman Brothers, Cheap Trick, and much more.

Also be sure to check out the many vehicles expected at the event's classic car cruise presented by aficionados Albert McFadyen, Dennis Ketch and Town of Porter Councilman Tim Adamson.

"We're going to have a wonderful car cruise," McFadyen said. Ketch seconded that, telling the visitors, "You can bring any car you want. If you're proud of your car, you can bring it. It doesn't have to be a 1920s; it can be your 2015 Corvette or whatever. (There's) going to be a lot of people looking at cars."

And for the younger set there's plenty to do, too, Mark Butera said: "We'll have Donuts D Clown again doing balloons and animals for the kids. The Kids Corner, it's all set, (and) the Youngstown Fire Co. is going to have a truck for the kids to learn about fire safety."

As far as vendors, the expected list includes the Griffon Brewery; the Youngstown Markside Café; the Ontario House (Jug); the new Tom Towers Farm Market, which will team with Three Little Hens Baking Co.; and new YBPA member Grazing Buffalo. Returning favorites include the Youngstown Lions Club with free popcorn; the Youngstown Garden Club, which will hand out roses; the Youngstown Free Library with freeze-pops for the kids; the YBPA's 50/50 split table; Lakeside Quarter Horses; Petey's Treats, which will be open with ice creams; plus, goodies from the Youngstown Village Diner.

All said, it sounds like a fun evening to be in Youngstown. Check out the YBPA page on Facebook or visit the village online at [www.youngstownny.com](http://www.youngstownny.com) for more.



## Strawberry Fest returns to St. John's Episcopal Church



St. John's Episcopal Church, overlooking the Niagara River on Main and Chestnut streets in Youngstown, will hold its annual Strawberry Fest from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 27.

Homemade strawberry shortcake made with local berries, freshly baked shortcake and real whipped cream will be served. Grilled foods will be prepared and served by the Youngstown Lions Club. Donuts D. Clown will be on hand from noon to 3 p.m. for children of all ages, and the Nickel City Blues Band will perform starting at 2 p.m.

The Strawberry Fest dates back to World War II when the congregation hosted a "strawberry social" for soldiers stationed at nearby Fort Niagara. In those days, the church served homemade

strawberry ice cream topped with fresh strawberries.

The church, built in 1878, will be open continuously throughout the event for self-guided tours. St. John's is one of only a few remaining board-and-batten carpenter gothic churches with an active congregation in Western New York, and is listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places

## Youngstown Business and Professional Association celebrating 50-year anniversary

Then and now: A look at village businesses from 1976-2026

Submitted by the Youngstown Business and Professional Association

The Youngstown Business and Professional Association was incorporated in 1976. At that time, the YBPA president was Victor Szarejko, DDS. Originally, the purpose of YBPA was to be able to offer health insurance to various businesses in Youngstown. That job later went to the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce, but the YBPA continued on as an association serving the community.

In 1976, there were two physicians, two dentists and an attorney available in the Village of Youngstown. There was even an appointed "Welcome Wagon Hostess" to welcome newcomers. At one point, there was a Marine Midland bank in the form of a trailer in the B-Kwik parking lot. Soon, there was an HSBC bank on second street, which then became First Niagara

Bank then finally KeyBank (which closed in 2018).

The many businesses then and now have undergone many changes. There were 49 listed businesses in 1976. Not all were YBPA members. Today, we've grown to 82 members. Not all are brick and mortar.

Cheryl Irish-Butera was here during that time frame, as was Dotty Riordan, who helped with this timeline. In the 1970s, there was a restaurant known as The Fyfe & Drum located at 440 Main St. It offered fine dining as well as live music on occasion. Unfortunately, there was a fire and the restaurant was closed. In its place today is the Hill of Beans Coffee Stop, with many newly built apartments in the rear.



A look at the 1976 YBPA brochure. (Submitted) • Youngstown's Main Street today.



A look at the 1976 YBPA brochure. (Submitted) • Youngstown's Main Street today.

What was then Dirty Harry's restaurant, at 930 Lake Road, today is Bandana's Bar & Grill. Cheryl's uncle, Jim, and her aunt, Jackie (Emma) Lampman, owned and operated Jimmy's Pizzeria at 425 Main St., which, today, is the very popular Youngstown Village Diner.

At 431, then was Emma's Ice Cream (part of Jimmy's Pizzeria). That, today, is Petey's Treats ice cream shop. Back then, there were two businesses - Captain's Galley at 412 Main St., and 418 Main St., Phillip's Place.

In the 1980s, those two buildings were combined to become Brennan's Irish Pub, then The Irish Rose, and finally The Mug and Musket. 400 Main St., for years (per Dot-

ty), was a grocery store called Reeds Market, which then became Jo Marie's Hairstyling and then became Nadine's clothing shop and later Ashker's Coffee Shop, The Youngstown Galley, and currently the Sister and Brother Children's Apparel clothing store.

At 311 Main St., was Nolan's Exxon, which later became the location of Main Street Pizzeria. At 201 Lockport St., was then Ventry's Automotive, which became Heritage Auto, and today is A/M Automotive.

Then and now, located at 128 Lockport St., is Dan and Lucy Realtors. In 1976, housed at 120 Lockport St., was the Town of Porter offices and Village Library, which, later (for 30 years), was Dr. Rama Bojedla and, for a short time, became Happy Tails dog grooming following the

SEE YBPA, continued on Page 20

**Youngstown 2026 Welcome to Summer Street Dance & Car Cruise event on June 25th • 6pm-10pm**

Town of Porter supports the Youngstown Business and Professional Association Inc.

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The Youngstown Business and Professional Assoc. presents the  
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Thursday, June 25, 2026 • 6-10 p.m.  
Sponsored by the Youngstown Business and Professional Association  
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