

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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'Art of Fashion' returns to the NACC

The fourth annual "Art of Fashion" design competition and runway show returns to the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, with what organizers called, "Incredible couture creations by 36 local designers ... worn by over 80 models on the NACC's Grand Theatre stage."

A press release noted, "This design competition and runway show challenged designers to create art inspired by the bravery and resilience of warriors in honor of Veterans Day. The 'Warriors' runway show will be hosted by Kate Glaser of Hope Rises and designs will be judged by Destiny Rogowski of Sweet Heart Pin Ups, Jordan Massimi: Style Mister and owner of Backroom Vintage, Ninja of Ninja Stylz Salon, and designer and international Niagara brand ambassador Tina Mt. Pleasant.

"These are not typical everyday apparel, but rather art presented on a human canvas. On this runway – transformed into a living art gallery – artists can push the boundaries of wearable art design: These one-of-a-kind creations range from dresses made of abandoned teddy bears, to gowns made from steel cages covered in crystal. Even the more traditional designs feature unexpected elements such as upholstery fabrics and intricate embroidery."

The designs featured in this year's runway show were created by professional artists / designers as well as by upcoming stars from local design programs at Buffalo State University, Niagara County Community College and even South Park High School. Designers include: Amy McCalister, Amy Respeto Gonzalez, Anyelis Mendez, Aria Dasher, Brian "Bella" Bussard, Brook D'Angelo, Candace Masters, Carolyn Russell, Chelsea Badding, Dalia Perez, Danielle Ando, Denise Kelly, Ethan Bradley, Evelyn Schrimmel, Janice Spagnola, Jason Buckley, Julia Finucane, Karen Mock, Kia Ellis, Kodee Weir, Kristen Palmeri, Kyle-Lynn Tuttle, Lacey Christ, Laura Chenault, Liz LaMoy, Liz Martin, Maria McLaughlin, Mary Grace Ohrum, Medis Kent, Sheila Zuni, Sydney Ford, Therese Camarra and Veronica Kruger.

Prizes are sponsored by the Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA and will be awarded for creativity, showmanship and design, as well as outstanding artistic merit.

The red doors (Portage Road) to the NACC will open at 5 p.m. with



Pictures from past "NACC Art of Fashion" events. Top, "Life Imitates Art" painting and dress design by Mary Grace Ohrum. • Below, "Tight Rope Walker" by Janice Spagnola – 100% balloons. (Photos submitted by the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center)



Rick Warne Photography
Rick Warne

a preshow party with models wearing winning designs from previous years, plus live music and fashion vendors such as BfloGALS and Beadolio selling artisan jewelry and accessories. One Eye Cat Brewing Co. and Bella Rosa Winery will be on site offering samples of beer and wine, and the VIP reception is being catered by Power City

Eatery. Guests are encouraged to attend in their favorite red carpet looks.

Tickets are \$100 VIP, \$30 for general admission, \$20 for students and seniors, and free for veterans with ID. Purchase by calling the NACC box office at 716-282-7530, ext. 100, or online at www.TheNACC.org/Events.



Sister Joan Nelson celebrated her 100th birthday on Oct. 20, with her Franciscan sisters, students of Stella Niagara Education Park, family and employees of Stella Niagara.

The school celebrated by singing "Happy Birthday" to Sister Joan while the youngest students, twin sisters Madeline and Josephine, presented cards made by the students with their prayer partners, twin sisters Emily and Sophie. In a small twist of fate, Oct. 20 was also Emily and Sophie's birthday, and they are the oldest students at the school.

Born in Pennsylvania, Sister Joan has been a Sister of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity, Stella Niagara, for 79 years! She was an elementary school teacher in New Jersey, New York, Ohio and West Virginia, and served in various departments at the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, an all-girls preparatory academy founded by the Sisters of St. Francis.

With a welcoming smile, Sister Joan is known as a good sport, participating in recreational activities at the Health Center at Stella Niagara, including being selected as Peach Queen and May Queen! Sister Joan always has a smile on her face and is eager to share with others. She loves enjoying sweets – especially chocolate cake – playing bingo, spending time with her family and helping others. (Submitted by Stella Niagara Education Park)

Wheatfield sets Nov. 6 public hearing on town budget

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

The Town of Wheatfield will hold a public hearing on its 2024 preliminary budget at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6, at Town Hall.

By the numbers, the 2024 plan totals \$15,987,253 – an increase of \$859,838 over the town's 2023 adopted budget, and a modest increase in the tax levy. Leading off with the general fund category, it reflects \$5,415,070 in appropriations, \$4,665,070 in revenue, \$750,000 in fund balance spending and a \$0 impact on the tax levy.

Looking at other numbers by fund/district, the budget finds the following: highway fund, \$3,501,775 in appropriations, \$3,001,775 in revenue, \$500,000 from the fund balance, and \$0 on the tax levy; water fund appropriation, \$1,890,342, \$1,890,342 in revenue, \$0 fund balance, and \$0

tax levy impact; sewer fund appropriation, \$1,864,566, \$749,200 in revenue, \$0 fund balance, and \$1,040,366 on the tax levy; fire protection district appropriation, \$1,855,000, \$0 in revenue, \$75,000 fund balance, and \$1,705,000 on the tax levy; lighting districts appropriation, \$35,000, \$0 from revenue and fund balance accounts, and \$35,000 on the tax levy; and garbage district appropriation, \$1,425,000, \$0 revenues, \$25,000 from fund balance, and \$1,400,000 on the tax levy.

The impacts on the 2024 budget tax levy from all of the aforementioned categories totals \$4,180,866, an increase of \$157,756 over the town's 2023 adopted plan.

For more information on the 2024 budget, contact Budget Director Ed Mongold at 716-694-0042, or visit www.wheatfield.ny.us.

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