

FREE Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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'Christmas in the Village':

A celebration of holiday programs, gift-buying ideas in Youngstown

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

Holiday celebrations in the River Region will head up north on Saturday, Dec. 9, with the return of Youngstown's annual "Christmas in the Village."

Presented by the Village of Youngstown and its business community, this daylong event – with its theme of holiday gnomes – will feature a number of Christmas activities for visitors of all ages in the Youngstown Red Brick Village Center, 240 Lockport St., and throughout the village.

"We welcome you to enjoy 'Christmas in Village!'" Mayor Rob Reisman said.

Activities at the Red Brick get underway at 11 a.m. and continue to 3 p.m. There, younger visi-



Santa visits with little ones at last year's "Christmas in the Village" celebration. (Submitted/file photo)

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tors can enjoy crafting-making in the Youngstown Free Library while adults can peruse some holiday gift ideas at the library's

basket raffle. The draw takes place at 3 p.m. In the Red Brick gym, a vendor's market will take **SEE SPEND, continued on Page 20**



Christmas Walk weekend IS HERE!

The Lewiston Christmas Walk and Lights Parade return this weekend. Find a schedule, participating merchants, photos – everything you need to know to navigate Santa's arrival in the village – online at www.wnypapers.com. Or simply click this link.



GNBC's 'The Nutcracker' showcases dancers, COMPANY'S RESURGENCE

Annual holiday presentation returns to Niagara Falls High School PAC Dec. 8-9

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

When the community comes out to watch the Greater Niagara Ballet Company's production of "The Nutcracker" next weekend, they will notice new backdrops, costumes and dance numbers.

They're also bound to see the GNBC is having a resurgence.

As the ballet company founded by Beverley Feder heads into its 57th year – and 43rd presentation of "The Nutcracker" – the number of participating dancers is growing at a remarkable rate.

GNBC alumna, show performer and director Mary Schnepf said, "We had about a 40% increase from 2021 to 2022, and then another 40% increase from 2022 to 2023.

"We're just trying to work with



these dancers. A lot are coming back. We're hoping that we're providing opportunities that they might not be able to find anywhere else. We're one of the

few ballet companies that have open auditions and, for 'The Nutcracker,' anyway, we take ages 6 through adult; so, that really does

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