

North Tonawanda Watch

# 99-year-old WWII vet William Gosch is Dyngus Day Parade grand marshal

The North Tonawanda Neighborhood Watch announced its grand marshal for the third annual NT Dyngus Day Parade. 99-year-old WWII veteran William "Bill" Gosch will lead this year's parade, which will be held at 5 p.m. Monday, April 10.

"We are honored to have Mr. Gosch serve as our grand marshal for this year's parade," NT Neighborhood Watch Chairman Joe Marranca said. "It was a unanimous decision among our committee, and we could not think of anyone better to lead our parade."

Gosch said, "I am honored to be the grand marshal for the parade this year. It's going to be a great event, and I'm looking forward to seeing so many smiling faces as we proceed down Oliver Street - a place I remember fondly from growing up."

He added, "It's things like this that keep a community together and continue to remind ourselves how lucky we are to live in a town

like North Tonawanda."

Gosch, who has lived in NT his entire life, graduated from North Tonawanda High School as a member of the Class of 1942, and Niagara University, where he graduated in 1950. In the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Gosch enlisted in the Marine Corps in December 1942, just a few months after finishing high school. He served overseas for two years in the Pacific Theater and participated in four combat missions.

Following the war, Gosch worked for Johns Manville then served as general manager of the Richardson Boat Co. He then spent many years as the manager of the NT Housing Authority. Upon retiring, Gosch enjoyed winters in Hawaii working alongside his beloved wife of 70 years, Lois, in the costume jewelry business. At the impressive age of 97, Gosch was appointed by the NT Common Council to serve as the



William "Bill" Gosch (Submitted photo)

interim 2nd Ward Alderman after the position was vacated by now-Clerk/Treasurer Donna Braun. Marranca continued, "Mr. Gosch is an embodiment of the

'Greatest Generation,' and we as a community will always cherish him. We all appreciate his service to our city and country, and look forward to celebrating this year's

event with one of NT's own hometown heroes."

"We are grateful to have him," Marranca added.

A press release stated, "The NT Dyngus Day Celebration has become a beloved tradition in the city. This year's festivities will feature the parade, which runs down Oliver Street, starting at the block of Buffalo Bolt Way and ending at the City Farmers Market, where there will be an after-party. The after-party will feature live music by polka band Captain Tom and the Hooligans, a beer tent hosted by the Sweeney Hose Fire Co., Polish food, desserts, games and more."

Those interested in the marching in this year's parade can sign up online. For more information about this year's event, or to order the official 2023 commemorative NT Dyngus Day T-shirt, visit [www.NTDyngusday.com](http://www.NTDyngusday.com).

## IN THE NEWS

### Canal Fest to take year off to rebrand, restructure for 40th celebration in 2024

Canal Fest of the Tonawandas announced the third week of July will be a little bit quieter this year along the banks of the Erie Canal. "But just for this year!"

A press release noted event organizers, and the not-for-profit and civic member organizations stemming from both the cities of North Tonawanda and Tonawanda that participate in the eight-day festival, have chosen to take this year off so to better rebrand and restructure Canal Fest for its 40th celebration in 2024.

"Exciting new events, attractions, and entertainment plans are being made now to make the 40th Canal Fest like no other you've ever seen," organizers said. "But like anything else we now call normal, they all take a bit longer to put into motion. So, mark your calendars for July 14-21, 2024! We will see you then!"

### Lewiston Garden Club offers scholarship

The Lewiston Garden Club is seeking candidates for a \$1,000 scholarship.

To be eligible, the student must be a resident of the Town of Lewiston or reside in the Lewiston-Porter Central School District. The scholarship will be awarded to member of the graduating class of 2023 who has demonstrated a commitment to improving the environment and has a strong involvement in community service. The candidate must be planning to pursue post-secondary education in a field related to the environment.

Applications will be available at the high school's guidance offices and on the [www.lewistongardenfest.com](http://www.lewistongardenfest.com) website. Deadline for submission of applications is April 28.

Lewiston Garden Club members donate their time and energy toward beautification and maintenance of several public garden areas in the Village of Lewiston, including Hennepin Park, the Lewiston Historical Museum, and the Lewiston Public Library. GardenFest is a major fundraiser for the

club, and proceeds from it funds the scholarship and beautification efforts.

### Falls Education Foundation Scholarship & Alumni Recognition Dinner

At 5 p.m. May 3, the Niagara Falls Education Foundation will hold its annual Scholarship & Alumni Recognition Dinner at Antonio's Banquet & Conference Center, 7708 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls.

The 2023 dinner will honor Distinguished Alumni Russell Petrozzi, vice president of Capital Cleaners, LaSalle Senior High School 1975; and Emerging Leader Sanguin Starks, Niagara Fall High School 2001.

A press release noted, "The foundation ensures athletic and educational programs are pro-

vided to students in the Niagara Falls City School District, and provides scholarships to NFHS seniors. Alumni and volunteers work throughout the year to raise funds to provide opportunities for students and future leaders. Alumni

and businesses support the foundation through their personal and corporate contributions."

Tickets to the dinner are available at \$55 each, or \$25 each for students. Sponsorships are also available.

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