

Special tributes to Somewhere offered ay YBPA meeting



YBPA officers with Pat Stack and his Somewhere family. (Photo by K&D Action Photo and Aerial Imaging)

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on the village business strip, the upcoming holiday season, St. Patrick's Day and many exciting activities in the works for the coming months and next spring.

Oh, and there was one leftover task – YBPA's recognition of a Youngstown area business.

"As you know, the board of directors has decided to uniquely honor our selected Business of the Year for 2020 and 2021, and we are going to be doing that tonight. This is going to be a slow roll, and we are starting that now," YBPA Secretary Mark Butera said.

With that, YBPA revealed its selection of the Somewhere Bar on Blairville Road as the association's Business of the Year.

Operated by the retired Niagara Falls Police detective Pat Stack, this small, off-track country bar – in a relatively short time – has become one of the more popular destinations for many in northern Niagara.

In her conversations in praise of Somewhere, frequent patron and YBPA President Cheryl Irish Butera said the business is unlike any other. She went on to describe Somewhere as full of colorful conversation, unique personalities, tasty foods and drink, Irish culture and truly different experiences.

Some of the happenings at Somewhere include its popular sandlot soccer games on summer nights, those neat food plates, cultural gatherings and happenings, the Sunday concerts, motorcycle rides and of course, you can't forget St. Patrick's Day.

"He's always doing such great things for the community," she said.

Mark Butera went into some of the background behind YBPA's selection of Somewhere. He said that, following a top-three selection of members' ballots from the 2020 winter meeting at Ray's Tavern, the group voted in Somewhere.

"In January 2020, we opened the

ballot and, low and behold, loud and clear, Pat Stack's Somewhere was selected as the Business of the Year," he said. "This truly is a process that is written by the members. We want (everyone) to understand how really important and wonderful that is to be selected by your peers, your professionals, your business operators. And it couldn't be more deserving."

In her remarks, YBPA board member Colleen Mary Summer-ville said, "I'm not surprised you're a winner, because you are a winner. Think I like about Pat is that he is always a hard worker. I first met Pat when he was a detective ... he was a Niagara Falls Police detective who worked narcotics, was an undercover narcotics detective. He retired in 2013 and opened Somewhere in fall of 2014.

"What do you get from Somewhere? You get free drinks. Pat started creating a menu, homemade bread and those meatballs.

He's continued to surprise us, mentioning Somewhere's new kitchen offerings, the Sunday concerts, the motorcycle rides. He's very active in the community and I really like you Pat, I really do."

"One of my favorite things about Somewhere is that Pat hands you the mic and you can sing your favorite song like you're the star of the show. He treats his customers that way. But what I really love the best is his St. Patrick's Day Party. It's gotta be because I'm Irish, but it's the best day ever, daring over 1,000 people at a time.

"In ending, I just want to say that Pat is very kind and thoughtful. I just can't think of a better person to win this award."

Village of Youngstown Trustee Stu Comerford said, "I'm really excited about this 2020 proclamation to honor Somewhere – our business of the year. It is both with pride and appreciation that we honor Somewhere as the 2020 Youngstown

Business of the Year during one of most difficult business years on record."

Comerford then read a proclamation presented by Mayor Raleigh Reynolds and the Board of Trustees. He spoke of Somewhere's record of supporting local events and contributing to the community.

Similar testimonials came from Porter Councilman Tim Adamson and First District Niagara County Legislator Irene Myers.

Stack said, "A lot of what we have here is something special," and he thanked the YBPA for the honor. He made special mention of the Somewhere family: his wife, Cathy; children Josh and Sam; employees Kenny, Eddie and Zubra; the Irish Wake Band; the many, many faithful patrons.

"It's been a great eight years – many memories. We couldn't do it without you," Stack said.

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BY DANIELLE MULLEN

President, Lewiston-Porter Board of Education

If you have a child at Lew-Port, it is very likely they have benefited from the work of the Parent Teacher Student Association. Lew-Port's PTSA is a districtwide organization that services all students pre-K-12. The group is 100% run by volunteers, and all funds raised go directly back to the students.

The PTSA can be found behind the scenes, working for students

and providing unique opportunities. Prior to COVID 19, the PTSA ran the Scholastic Book Fair and Holiday Shop in the elementary schools, and the school store in all four buildings, including the Spirit Wear store in the high school. They provided funding for numerous "extras" at school, including the annual elementary field day and countless enrichment activities. These included bringing in guest speakers and authors, providing tangible equipment and resources, and helping to defray field trip costs, to name a few.

The positive difference the PTSA makes in our district is significant. This year they are looking at creative ways to fundraise so that they can continue their tradition of supporting students.

The PTSA has announced the kickoff of their first "2021 One and DONE!" online giving campaign, where families are asked to do absolutely nothing but make an online contribution. No selling candy or wrapping paper, no running/walking, no dressing up and hiring a sitter for a fancy dinner. The simplicity of this districtwide campaign is in response to the COVID challenges they have all faced over the last 18 months. These challenges have greatly impacted the PTSA's typical fundraising initiatives.

Despite the obstacles, the PTSA was still able to provide \$20,000 in funding to our students last year. They didn't skip a beat with their support of end-of-the-year celebrations for all students, senior scholarships, teacher appreciation, numerous enrichment/

STEAM projects and more. Now they are asking for help, no matter what amount, in order to continue to provide that same level of support throughout the district this year, and for years to come.

You can make a donation in three easy steps. Visit the 2021 "One and DONE!" site (<https://lp-one-and-done.cheddarup.com>). Enter your name and email address. Make your payment in any amount either electronically or follow instructions for check donations. This information can also be found on all of the schools' websites and in the Lew-Port app.

The PTSA truly appreciates donations in any amount and welcomes corporate/business sponsorships as well. Thanks to community partners, anyone who makes a donation will be eligible to receive gift cards, donated items, etc., from their sponsors throughout the campaign.

For more information on how to become a sponsor, contact PTSA President Virginia McAuliffe at vamcauliffe@gmail.com.

If you are interested in learning more about the PTSA, they welcome new faces! Anyone is welcome to attend, including parents, grandparents and students.

General meetings for this school year will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 27, and Jan. 26 and March 30, 2022, in the district offices of the Community Resource Center. You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings.

For more information about the PTSA and how you help, contact them at lewistonporterptsa@gmail.com.

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