

# Niagara Falls Heritage Arts begins 2020 fall season with 'NF Murals'

Niagara Falls Heritage Arts, the public art initiative of the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area, has announced its fall 2020 mural season with three artists lined up for "NF Murals." The project was initiated in 2019 for a successful season with eight artists. It's designed to connect the public with contemporary art, showcasing the area's rich heritage and culture.

A press release said, "NF Murals' highlights the deeply rooted strength and pride of residents in the surrounding neighborhoods. A new logo has been designed to inspire the discovery of art and history which 'NF Murals' shares with the public. They have also launched a new website at nfmurals.org dedicated to following the artists' process and the inspiration behind their mural concepts."

LaShonda Davis is one of the artists lined up this season, depicting "Uhuru Love" in a beautiful mural at the cross streets of Main and Depot. Love was born in Niagara Falls and is a widely recognized artist who is best known for her artwork exhibits in



the 1960s.

"Uhuru's work stood for freedom, and that's why it meant so much for me to be a part of this project," Davis said.

Another artist this season, Princessa Williams, has begun work on a mural depicting the late Congressman John Lewis. Williams said she is excited to share her work with the public.

"Many people do not know that Mr. Lewis has family members in Niagara Falls," Williams said. "I am honored to share my art with others and invoke conversations on Lewis' critical role in the civil rights movement. It will be exciting to honor him together with his family."

Along with Williams and Davis, Jalen Law has begun his depiction of Calvin "Pop" Porter, a Niagara Falls boxer who made it to the American Olympics and went professional in 1982.

"My design is built with the intention of shedding light on Porter's life through intentionally using vibrant colors," Law said. "When viewers see this mural, I want the colors to pull them into the portrait, to educate them on who 'Pop' was and what he means for the City of Niagara Falls."

"NF Murals" will announce more artists each week through the fall season. Follow the artists' work on Instagram, Facebook and nfmurals.org.

Niagara Falls Heritage Arts is the public art initiative of the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area and was made possible by a grant from the New York State Health Foundation. Local artists submit concepts and create powerful murals in our community, sharing the story of Niagara Falls with messages of compassion, social justice and freedom. Learn more at nfmurals.org.

# DMV doubles number of available appointments

Previously expired documents must be renewed by Nov. 3

Niagara County Clerk Joseph A. Jastrzemski said New York state is requiring all previously expired documents that were still considered valid during the pandemic be renewed by Nov. 3: This includes driver's licenses, vehicle registrations and non-driver identification cards.

"This was a little bit unexpected, as all indications had pointed to expired documents being good into December - and the state could still extend it again," Jastrzemski said. "However, we want to take steps now to meet the public demand and so we are doubling the number of appointments available at our DMV offices."

He explained DMVs had planned for 20-30 minutes between appointments, but that will now be reduced to 10-15 minutes. Jastrzemski said that, while this will undoubtedly create a little bit of backup at times, his offices have the protocols in place to maintain appropriate social distancing.

"The more complicated transactions that take longer, like

dealer work, putting cars, trailers and motorcycles back on the road, purchase of cars out of state and so on tend to decline after summer," he said. "The standard stuff, like license and registration renewals, can be done pretty quickly, especially if people have their paperwork in order before arriving. So, I think any backup at our office should be minimal and manageable."

Jastrzemski said this change should create an additional 4,000 appointments each month. In addition, he reminded people that transactions like registration renewals and turning in plates can be done using the drop boxes located at each DMV location. Jastrzemski asked those who have already booked an appointment but decide to schedule for something sooner, to please be courteous and cancel their original appointment so another resident can utilize that time.

For more information, visit [www.niagaracounty.com/Departments/Motor-Vehicles-Department](http://www.niagaracounty.com/Departments/Motor-Vehicles-Department).

## IN THE NEWS

### Volunteers urgently needed for FeedMore WNY's Meals on Wheels program

As FeedMore WNY continues to respond to the increased need for food assistance in WNY as a result of the pandemic, it is in urgent need of volunteers to help deliver meals to homebound neighbors through its Meals on Wheels program. FeedMore WNY's Meals on Wheels program provides nutritious meals to homebound older community members and people living with disabilities who are unable to shop for and prepare food.

Home-delivered meal volunteers are needed throughout Niagara and Erie counties. FeedMore WNY Meals on Wheels distribution sites in Niagara County include:

• **Anthony Spallino Towers site** - Volunteers pick up meals at Anthony Spallino Towers, 720 10th St., Niagara Falls. Meals for delivery arrive between 10:45 and 11 a.m.

• **Lockport Presbyterian Home site** - Volunteers pick up meals at the Lockport Presbyterian Home, 305 High St., Lockport. Meals for delivery arrive between 10:45 and 11 a.m.

• **St. John the Baptist Church site** - Volunteers pick up meals at 44 McCollum St., Lockport,

(across the street from the church). Meals for delivery arrive between 10:55 and 11:10 a.m.

• **Wheatfield site** - Volunteers pick up meals at the Town of Wheatfield Community and Senior Center, 2800 Church Road. Meals for delivery arrive between 11:25 and 11:40 a.m.

• **Lewiston site** - Volunteers pick up meals at the Lewiston Senior Center, 4361 Lower River Road. Meals for delivery arrive between 11:15 and 11:30 a.m.

Delivery takes approximately one hour to complete. Volunteer opportunities are available weekdays; volunteers choose how frequently they would like to volunteer.

FeedMore WNY has added more than 2,200 home-delivered meal clients to its Meals on Wheels program as a result of the pandemic. In order to help ensure the safety of its clients and volunteers, FeedMore WNY has implemented new policies and procedures during the meal delivery process, including mask wearing and social distancing.

"Volunteers are the lifeblood of FeedMore WNY's Meals on Wheels program. We would not be able to provide nutritious food and friendship to our hungry, homebound neighbors without our dedicated network of volunteers," said Tara A. Ellis, FeedMore WNY president and CEO.

"With the increased need for food assistance in the community due to the COVID-19 health crisis, we need volunteers now more than ever. So many of our home-delivered meal volunteers say that they get more out of delivering meals than they give. By sharing an hour of your time, you can truly save a life."

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To learn more and sign up as a volunteer in the City of Buffalo or through any of FeedMore WNY's Meals on Wheels sites, visit [www.feedmorewny.org/volunteer](http://www.feedmorewny.org/volunteer) or contact FeedMore WNY Volunteer Manager Kyle Dillman at 822-2005, ext. 3077, or at [volunteer@feedmorewny.org](mailto:volunteer@feedmorewny.org).

#### About FeedMore WNY

FeedMore WNY offers dignity, hope and a brighter future by providing nutritious food, friendship and skills training to its Western New York neighbors in need. Through its food bank distribution center and partner

hunger-relief agencies, as well as its home-delivered meal program and other targeted feeding programs, FeedMore WNY alleviates hunger and assists community members of all ages throughout Cattaraugus, Chautauque, Erie and Niagara counties. More information can be found at [www.feedmorewny.org](http://www.feedmorewny.org).

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