

'100 Years of Life on Main Street: Remembering Our Past to Shape our Future'

Oral history project of Niagara Falls National Heritage Area

The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area (NFNHA) is launching "100 Years of Life on Main Street: Remembering Our Past to Shape our Future," a multimedia oral history project to document life in the north end of the City of Niagara Falls. The project is being sponsored by Blue Cardinal Capital, which is investing in the future of Main Street.

A collaborative effort, NFNHA has partnered with students at The Connection teen center, which is participating in Worksource One's summer youth employment program to capture contemporary images of the city's north end and to conduct oral history interviews. About a dozen students have been equipped with digital cameras to photograph around the city and compare them to photos from the past.

Romello Kemp, an incoming senior at Niagara Falls High School,

said he is excited to learn about the neighborhood he grew up in through the project.

"I've lived in the neighborhood for years and have never known its history," Romello said. "This will be a good opportunity to learn more about where we spend so much time while also building our skills and resumes."

NFNHA has also teamed up with the Niagara Falls Public Library and individuals across the country to curate a multimedia exhibition that shares the past, the present and the future revival of Main Street.

There is a deep history of shops and restaurants on the city's north end, such as Newberry's and Woolworth's 5 and 10, Dillard's Hat Store, and Mills Jewelry to name a few. As some of these businesses closed, others persisted with grit and determination: DiCamillo Bakery, Shauntae's Hat and Fashions, and the

Book Corner.

Niagara Falls National Heritage Area Executive Director Sara Capen said the north end will thrive once again, and she is excited to launch a project she has long wanted to undertake.

"Main Streets are the core of communities," Capen said. "They have borne witness to a place's highs and lows. Main Street, Niagara Falls, is no different. Each block tells a story and contains layers of memories that provide a sense of place. It is our hope that we will be able to collect those memories and create a story that spans generations and carry it forward into the future."

Bob Richardson, founder and managing partner of Blue Cardinal Capital, is in support of this exhibit.

"Our company is investing in the neighborhood, and we want to help this community grow and prosper once again," Richardson

said. "We hope everyone in Western New York will come to experience the diversity and inspiring stories that make this street a center of life and culture in the region. Celebrating the past enables the community to welcome and fully appreciate the renaissance of the north end of Niagara Falls."

The oral histories collected as part of this project will be showcased alongside Blue Cardinal's plans for the historic preservation of several north end Main Street properties. The "Life on Main Street" exhibit will be open to the public in the Niagara Falls Amtrak Station later this year.

NFNHA is seeking additional sponsors for this project, which would allow it to expand beyond the north end to include all of Main Street, continue youth engagement for several months, and fully share the story of Main Street, Niagara Falls, across mul-

iple platforms. Sponsorship information can be found here.

For information on how to share memories of the north end or to become a sponsor to this

The Niagara Falls National Heritage Area is one of 49 National Heritage Areas in the U.S. Designated by Congress in 2008, its mission is to preserve, protect and promote the historic, natural and cultural resources of the area stretching from Niagara Falls to Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown. In August 2012, Congress approved the management plan for the National Heritage Area. The site has been following the early-action recommendations in the management plan, which include establishing a small grant program, building partnerships, developing educational programs and an interpretive plan for the National Heritage Area. Learn more at discoverniagara.org.

1980 Step Challenge to benefit local nonprofits including SPCA

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center has launched the 1980 Step Challenge in remembrance of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

On that fateful day, first responders were called to action to bravely climb the 110 stories of the Twin Towers in an attempt to save the lives of those inside the burning buildings. These first re-

sponders climbed the 1,980 steps up, in full gear weighing approximately 45 pounds.

Nearly 3,000 people died in the terrorist attacks including 412 emergency responders. The 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance is to honor this moment in our nation's history by serving in our community and to transform 9/11 into a day of unity, empathy

and service. Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center hopes to make this day an enduring and positive tribute to those lost and injured in the attacks. The hospital seeks to honor the many who rose in service in response to these attacks including first responders, recovery workers, volunteers and members of the military.

Niagara Falls Memorial is now calling on the citizens of Niagara County and beyond to use their compassion, creativity and enthusiasm to participate with them in support of local nonprofits groups during this difficult time, including Niagara County SPCA to honor the service dogs of 9/11 who were at ground zero and played an important role in the rescue

and comfort they gave. There is no cost to participate but they would love if every participant donated one cent for every step they take (\$19.80).

Participants can complete their steps now through 11:59 p.m. Sept. 16. To participate and support Niagara County SPCA, visit <https://niagara911day.myevent.com/participant/1288361>.

IN THE NEWS

Seminar on mental health and spirituality

United Baptist-Christian Church will host a seminar on mental health and spirituality

with Dr. Rob Bennet and Miss Vicki Weidman. The event is set for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 19, at 4800 Creek Road, Lewiston.

Youngstown Lions install officers, honor members

The Youngstown Lions Club announced its newly elected officers were installed recently at an outdoor ceremony in the Town of Porter. The new officers slate for 2020-21 includes Terry Cummings, president; John MacArthur, first vice president; Richard Allen, second vice president; John Rolfe, treasurer; Suzanne DeJoseph, recording secretary; and Debby Comerford, corresponding secretary.

In addition, Porter resident Rita Rolfe was awarded the Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award – the highest award presented in Lions Multiple District 20 – by the New York State and Bermuda Lions Foundation. She was lauded for her exemplary service to the Youngstown community and the Youngstown Lions. Rolfe helps organize the Youngstown Community Basket Program and has volunteered throughout the River Region community, including at Mount St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston and the Youngstown Free Library.

The meeting also saw 2019-20 President Millie Gibbs award the Youngstown "Lion of the Year" to Lion Wendy Shaw. The awardee was cited for her outstanding and dedicated service to the Youngstown Lions Club over the past year. In addition, Shaw has been instrumental in providing



improvements to Lions Park in the Village of Youngstown.

"Youngstown Lions know that you need only ask Wendy and the project gets done," the Lions stated in its press release.

Pictured, from left, Gibbs presents the "Lion of the Year" Award to Shaw.

Higgins: \$6.137M in CARES Act funding to help small businesses

US economic development administration awards \$19 million across Western New York

Congressman Brian Higgins announced the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding over \$6 million in funding to help small businesses in Erie and Niagara counties and a total of \$19 million across Western New York. The

funding was included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act approved by the House of Representatives on March 27.

Higgins said, "Western New York small businesses have been hit hard by the pandemic and some don't know where to turn for help. This federal EDA investment in Western New York's economy, including \$6.137 million available to small businesses in Erie and Niagara counties combined, will help local entrepreneurs struggling to access the resources to get through this difficult time."

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency will receive \$5.4 million while the Niagara County Industrial Development Authority is being awarded \$737,000. These EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance grants provide both agencies with resources to administer a revolving loan fund program to support loans for small businesses economically impacted by the coronavirus pandemic in the Erie-Niagara region.

Additional awards were announced by the EDA for the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, the Southern Tier Enterprise Development Organization and the Regional Economic Development and Energy Corp. The five recipients in the Western and Central New York region received a total of \$19 million for small business investments.

LEWISTON-PORTER CHURCH DIRECTORY

Lutheran Church of the Messiah

915 Oneida Street, Lewiston
Phone: 754-4944 Fax: 754-0903
www.messiahlewiston.org

The Reverend Ashlin Marchese, Pastor
The Reverend Thomas R. Mason, Pastor Emeritus

- Outdoor Worship Services (weather permitting) 9:00am on August 30th at the church.
- Online worship can be viewed at MessiahLewiston.org
- Worship will continue on a regular basis starting on September 13th at 8 and 9:30 am

Share Your Message Call us at 773-7676



Tom Darro



"Viewpoint" Telephone Call-In Talk
Monday - Friday 9-11 am

"VIEWPOINT" IS
THE NATION'S FIRST
TWO-WAY TELEPHONE
TALK SHOW



Listen to NFP's editors
each Wednesday at 10:15 am

Now available online at web1440.com