

LOCAL MUSIC FANS SUPPORT WNY VETERANS: In partnership with the Sportsmen's Americana Music Foundation and Buffalo Blues 4 Vets, the Veterans One-stop Center of WNY hosted its 4th annual Red, White, Rock 'N Blues Concert fundraiser at the Sportsmen's Tavern on Amherst Street and The Cave on Sept. 19, 2021. Ten bands performed live at three adja-

cent venues including an outdoor stage to raise money for Western New York veterans and their family members. After all was said and done, through the support of a full roster of musicians, sponsors, supporters, attendees and those who bid in the silent auction, they were able to raise over \$40,000.

photo by Peter Sloane

Hearts Harvest Food Pantry & Café holds Grand Opening on T Street

Hearts for the Homeless® hosted the grand opening of its Hearts Harvest Food Pantry & Café, 870 Tonawanda St. in Buffalo's Riverside neighborhood on Oct. 7, 2021. The addition of this building will allow Hearts to continue to serve the community by creating a campus for Hearts for the Homeless®.

"Hearts is forever grateful for all the stakeholders who have helped make this facility a reality. Riverside and the surrounding community will be impacted by this project for years to come," said Nick Calandra, CEO and president at Hearts for the Homeless.

The Hearts Harvest Food Pantry will offer non-perishable goods and also make fresh food available by partnering with FeedMore of WNY and local vendors.

The Hearts Café will be a place that the community as a whole can enjoy while also offering discounted items to create an inclusive environment.

In addition to the pantry and café, Hearts will have a can and bottle recycling center. Proceeds from the café and the redemption center will go back into the ministry to help serve more members of the community.

Similar to the long-standing thrift store and clothing donation bin program, this new facility will allow Hearts to generate revenue while operating a much needed outreach program, Hearts Harvest Food Pantry, for the community.

Hearts for the Homeless®, a faith based non-profit, was founded in 1990 with a mission to serve the chronic homeless as well as other underserved populations. Hearts is able to fund its mission through donor support and entrepreneurial ventures such as the thrift store operation and donated goods recycling program.



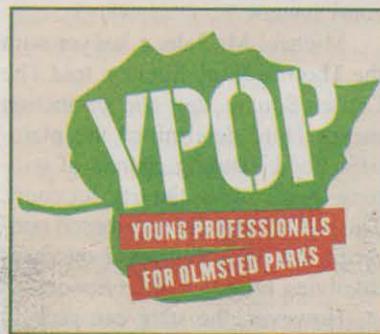
Hearts Harvest Food Pantry & Café.

photo by Roxie Harbison

Young Professionals for Olmsted Parks (YPOP) launches program

The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy has officially opened applications for year two of its successful YPOP program. "On behalf of Conservancy staff and our board of trustees, I am pleased to officially launch year two of YPOP and encourage anyone interested to apply for our 2022 class," said Stephanie Crockatt, Conservancy executive director. "This innovative and inclusive program provides unique participatory experiences in connection to Buffalo's Olmsted parks and community, while building an incredibly fun peer and professional network toward nonprofit service."

Throughout the nine-month program, YPOP participants will gain greater appreciation for Buffalo's Olmsted parks and green spaces; learn about the Conservancy's work and mission through direct access to staff, members of the board of trust-



ees, and YPOP Alumni; network for professional development with local leaders and people of influence; and support the Conservancy's mission for the parks through fundraising and friend-raising.

Event highlights include a Kick-off Party, Olmsted 101: History & Fun, Coffee with the Councilmembers, a Career Development Panel, Olmsted Board Meet & Greet, Volunteer in your Parks, a Full System Park Bus Tour and much more!

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Residents are invited to join the Black Rock Riverside Alliance on Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021 for the first ever Great Community Garden Pumpkin Hunt.

Community gardens within Black Rock and Riverside will be hiding mini pumpkins throughout their green spaces and inviting kids from the local neighborhoods to come search for their Halloween pumpkin.

Participation is free and is based on a first come first serve basis. The pumpkin hunt begins at 9 a.m. and ends once all pumpkins have been found or at 10 a.m., whichever occurs first.

Participating community gardens include: Mayer Avenue Community Garden, 89 Mayer Ave.; Ontario Street Community Garden, 179 Ontario St.; Farmer Street Community Garden, 86 Guernsey St., and Dearborn Street Community Garden, 269 Dearborn St.

Esser Avenue Community Garden, 235 Esser Ave., will be holding its pumpkin hunt from 1 - 2 p.m.

West End Open Studios
After the pumpkin hunt, residents can visit the local art studios participating in the Black Rock Business Association's West End Open Studios from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The venues will also be open the preceding evening, Friday from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Participating open studios include: Papercraft Miracles, 1888 Niagara St., Inspired Buffalo LLC, 115 Hertel Ave., JBL DesignLab, 935 Tonawanda St., The Story Garage, 1875 Niagara St., and Queen City Fine Arts, 1111 Tonawanda St.

Mary Ann Kedron, of the Black Rock Riverside Alliance, said, "The idea of open studios is a celebration off our local makers as well as a rebirth of the BRBA organization. We have so many talented people in our community and this is a way to show off just a few.

"Of the studios we have open this weekend two are women owned businesses and they are thriving. We concentrated on what we are

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BLACK ROCK'S

West End

BLACK ROCK BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

OPEN STUDIOS

Oct 15th & 16th 2021
FRIDAY 4:30-6:30 & SATURDAY 10-2

What's in your Black Rock backyard? PhD is willing to find out

Peter Jablonski delighted the audience on Oct. 7, 2021 at the Black Rock Historical Society with an enlightening discussion of uncovering 19th century history through the excavation of privy pits at old home sites.

Lacking regular trash pickups, these homes would typically use their outhouses as a depository for both normal household wastes as well as artifacts that illustrated early life on the Niagara Frontier.

Using soil probes and ground-penetrating radar to locate a potential outhouse site, Jablonski and his crew would excavate through the layers of soil and debris to recover buried treasures that included everything from fumbled chamber pots to broken china dolls to lost pocket watches. Medicine and elixir bottles, clay pipes and marbles, as well as broken stoneware are also common finds.

Jablonski, a self-proclaimed "PhD" (Privy Hole Digger), extended an invitation to the owners of pre-Civil War homes in Black Rock to make their property available as a site for possible future digs.

If interested, contact the Black Rock Historical Society via email (info@blackrockhistoricalsociety.com) and the Society will put interested parties in touch with Jablonski.