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in the BLUE

Your Guide to
the Unexpected
Buffalo 2024



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—TERESA WATKINS, RADIO HOST/GARDEN WRITER

Every year, Garden Walk Buffalo—the largest free garden tour in the US—presents over 400 gardens to over 60,000 visitors from around the world. Celebrate a gardening scene that continues to bloom and grow at GardensInBuffalo.com.





Dear Visitor,

The reviews are in. And they are beyond enthusiastic. They are, almost without exception, effusive. The Cleveland Plain Dealer called the Buffalo AKG Art Museum “a national treasure.” Architectural Digest referred to Buffalo as a “pilgrimage site for architecture buffs.” To Travel + Leisure, “the signs of Buffalo’s next chapter are unmistakably vibrant.” And the Globe and Mail told its readers that Buffalo is “having a moment.”

Other travel writers have pointed to the city’s “percolating optimism,” “creative renaissance” and “hospitable vibe.” Yes, we still get the occasional backhanded compliment from visitors who can’t quite grasp what’s right in front of their eyes: “Frank Lloyd Wright? In Buffalo? Really?” Or the more diplomatic visitors who simply say, “I had no idea” or “Who knew?” when confronted by the beauty of Garden Walk Buffalo or the history at the Delaware Avenue mansion that is the Teddy Roosevelt Inaugural Site. Most visitors, however, tend to agree with Canadian travel writer Jim Byers, who summed up his visit to Buffalo with an eloquent, “Wow. This place is COOL!”

We think so. And hope you will, too.

Ed Healy

Executive Editor



Visit Buffalo Niagara
403 Main Street, Suite 630
Buffalo, NY 14203-1496
716-852-0511 | 1-800-BUFFALO

VisitBuffaloNiagara.com
info@VisitBuffaloNiagara.com
Social: @visitbuffaloniagara

- Executive Editor*
Ed Healy
- Managing Editor*
Michelle Kearns
- Senior Editor*
Karen Fashana
- Associate Editor*
Drew Brown
- Contributor*
Kate Scaduto
- Art Direction*
Buffalo Spree



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VisitTheUSA.com

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There's Plenty of Family Friendly Fun in Buffalo

**STAY CONNECTED. STAY #INTHEBUF.
FOLLOW US ON ALL PLATFORMS.**



The Sculpture Bar on the second floor of the Gundlach Building features spectacular views of the Buffalo AKG Art Museum campus.

PHOTO: ED HEALY

ON THE COVER

The Jeffrey E. Gundlach Building, designed by OMA/Shohei Shigematsu, is the centerpiece of the newly expanded Buffalo AKG Art Museum, the former Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

Photo: Grant Taylor



Exploring Buffalo's AKG

A museum experience transformed

By Michelle Kearns



**“Luminous.”
“Moving.” “Sublime.”
Accolades for
Buffalo’s reimagined
art museum and
campus came in
with sparkle, like the
gallery’s sheer glass
walls that serve as
giant windows to the
new world inside: a
three-story invitation
to come explore.**

“Worth every penny! The building itself is a true work of art,” wrote a Trip Advisor reviewer who flew in from North Carolina to see the \$195 million expansion and renovation of the former Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

After a three-and-a-half-year construction closure, the modern and contemporary art collection that one critic calls a “national treasure” reopened with a new name – the Buffalo AKG Art Museum — a striking glass and marble addition, generating an effusive, warm public embrace.

The press gushed. The AKG “seamlessly blends the tranquility of nature with the vibrant energy of urban life,” reported the design magazine Designboom. For Steven Litt, art and architecture critic at the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the AKG’s revamp is “an utter delight,” a riveting showcase of “one of the best collections of its kind.”

The museum’s unique take, Litt wrote, presents modern art as a narrative of “the avant-garde from the rise of French Impressionism in the 1860s to works by important living artists just now hitting their stride.”

The new landscape, renovation and architecture that emerged from the museum’s century-old bones now includes three connected buildings, each from a different era. The newest is the cube-like, three-story, glass and marble Gundlach Building, with its soaring, light-filled gallery spaces. Windows frame views, like paintings, and bring the surrounding Frederick Law Olmsted-designed Delaware Park inside. A sinuous glass-enclosed bridge to the 1905 Wilmers Building shows off the grounds with the ripples of an elegant funhouse mirror. A sculpture garden that was part of the 1962 addition – now

known as the Knox Building — was enclosed and dubbed the “Town Square” with a sparkling domed canopy of glass triangles called “Common Sky.” A wide lawn can hold thousands for open-air summer concerts and hides parking that’s been moved underground.

The expansive, connected design — with free admission to the Town Square and adjacent public spaces — was intended as an invitation to the entire community, particularly to the very

young, families, and people of color and others who might not have felt included at the museum in the past.

The change is working. Within the first months of the AKG’s reopening, 100,000 visitors came, close to the 125,000 the museum used to see in an entire year.

Ray Monde was one. The Seattle-based Australian paper collage artist bought a plane ticket here just to see the “jewel box of amazing art” that he first happened upon two decades ago on a

trip to Niagara Falls.

Puzzled about his latest trip, friends asked, Why Buffalo?

“I said, ‘because there’s an extraordinary art museum,’” Monde recalled. “I just remember seeing the collection of the museum and was kind of astounded by how carefully curated it was and how many masterpieces were in this relatively small building...It was amazing to me that this city had so many.”

He didn’t realize the museum had been expanded

continued on page 8



.....
The Wilmers Building, constructed in 1905, was the original home of what was then called the Albright Art Gallery.



.....
A Gundlach Building gallery.





.....
"Common Sky," a canopy of glass and mirrors, covers the Buffalo AKG's Town Square.

.....
"Village Series" sculpture by Simone Leigh.

BUFFALO AKG ART MUSEUM AT NIGHT PHOTO BY MARCO CAPPELLETTI
PHOTOS BY SHARON CANTILLON



Seattle-based artist Ray Monde on his 2023 visit to the Buffalo AKG: "It was beautiful."

PHOTO BY NANCY J PARISI

and transformed. "It's so much better than I imagined," said Monde. "It was the first thing we did when we got to town. We went straight to AKG. It was beautiful."

The well-curated art still captured him. Classics hold court with the new. A Matisse pencil sketch of Notre Dame, Picasso's "La Toilette" nude posing for a mirror, Andy Warhol's "100 Cans" of Campbell's Soup, Jackson Pollock's "Convergence," a white, black, red and blue paint splattered rebellion, share the space with thought-provoking recent works such as "Village Series," a sculpture of a woman with a grass skirt by Simone Leigh and Nick Cave's "Speak Louder," with figures draped

in bedazzled black fabric with horn shaped heads.

"This says to me that someone has really thoughtfully put together

If You Go

Check out the **Burchfield Penney Art Center** across the street, dedicated to the art and vision of watercolorist, Charles E. Burchfield and other regional artists.

the collection to go, 'We're not going to rest on our laurels,'" Monde says. "The collage work by Deborah Roberts, I think is particularly important, especially with Black Lives Matter," he said referring to "That One," a 2018 collage of seated Black boys with sad, thoughtful, and hopeful looks. "For me it's a real reconciliation of how we can live together."

The art of the buildings captured him, too. From the "Common Sky" glass canopy to the bridge where he spotted kids delighting in the "curvy adventure" walk between the Gundlach and Wilmers Buildings. The architecture, he said, was as well curated as the art.

The museum also caught

9-year-old Buffalonian Leo Schwartz's attention. When he was out walking his dog, he looked it over and told his mother he wanted to go in. "The shine of the mirrors and reflections off of it makes it very cool," he said.

The museum's reimagining includes room for concerts, theater, and artmaking, among other programming. Across the white terrazzo floor, where Leo and family stood, kids and grownups were building bright block creations in the new LEGO Creative Commons. Nearby, people were settled in with wine and cappuccino at the in-house restaurant tables and corner lounge chairs. Visitors streamed in through the entrances, from Delaware



Park and Elmwood Avenue.

To Leo's mother Victoria Belniak, the vibe was European, sophisticated, and inviting. "It's very calming in here," she said as she paused to talk to a friend.

As architect Shohei Shigematsu crafted the new AKG design, he weighed people's input from more than a dozen public meetings

and integrated elements into a 21st century museum, which he says is an evolving concept.

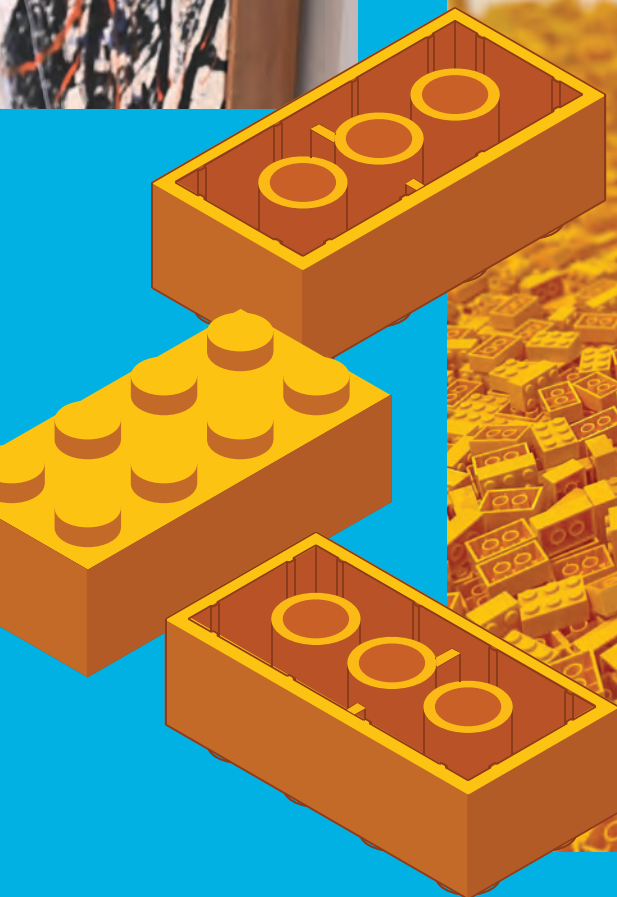
"The museum needed to be more open and also more undefined," he said at a gallery talk. "Those things really inspired me."

For Leo, the museum is an adventure. He liked roaming through different, connected

spaces discovering art like "Junk," the strange talking artwork with video close-ups of eyeballs and lips.

"AKG is an art destination," the visiting artist Monde said. "I'm glad we were here before the hordes arrive because it's an extraordinary space." **BUF**

The Buffalo AKG's Creative Commons is an admission free space that encourages creative play.



LEGO ROOM - ED HEALY

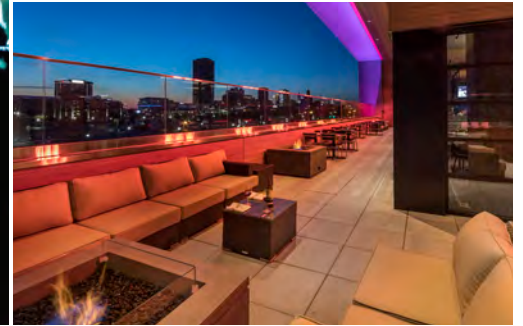
AKG:

“Like visiting the mountains.
Humbling. Sublime.”

Forbes



BUFFALO AKG ART MUSEUM



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A MUSIC-LOVER'S GUIDE TO BUFFALO

By Jeff Miers

.....
Less than Jake performing at
the Town Ballroom.



Buffalo is an ideal destination for the lover of live music. From elegant concert halls to indie-rock watering holes, we've got it all going on, seven days a week. Our city is home to deeply talented professional musicians working in every imaginable genre. True music lovers bask in the region's all-but-limitless live music offerings. Stretch your experience well into the evening hours and Buffalo has you covered. These city venues offer any musical idiom your heart desires.

PHOTO: BOBBY KIRKHAM

The Town Ballroom

681 Main St.

Since opening in Buffalo's Theatre District in 2005, the Town Ballroom has become the premier concert host of its size in the region. Artists like St. Vincent, the Tragically Hip, the Tea Party, Todd Rundgren, Les Claypool, Umphrey's McGee, and hundreds upon hundreds more, have performed here, many of them making the Town Ballroom a regular tour stop.

Nietzsche's

248 Allen St.

This legendary bar is your place for indie rock, folk, jam bands, singer-songwriters, and jazz. It's funky, and man, if those walls could talk, they'd tell stories of Phish playing to a few hundred people before hitting the big time, or indie icon Ani DiFranco honing her craft while still a teen.

Asbury Hall/ The 9th Ward

341 Delaware Ave.

This beautifully restored former house of worship has a striking ambience. From Pat Metheny to Godspeed You Black Emperor, Bruce Cockburn to the Wallflowers, legendary artists and up and comers alike perform here. Basement bar/venue-within-a-venue the 9th Ward allows for more intimate shows, making the whole Babeville complex a hub of our live music scene.

Pausa Art House

9 Wadsworth St.

Owned and operated by musician and musical curator Lazara Martinez, Pausa Art House is a gem in the heart of Buffalo's Allentown District. The intimate, acoustically inviting space provides

the perfect setting for jazz and chamber music, both of which fill Pausa's well-stocked live music itinerary.

The Sportsmen's Tavern/Sportsmen's Park/The Cave

321 Amherst St.,
71 Military Rd.

Since 1985, when Dwane Hall took over the humble watering hole on Amherst Street in Black Rock, the Sportsmen's Tavern has been Buffalo's home for Americana music. In recent years, the Hall family has expanded to create the outdoor Sportsmen's Park adjacent to the club. An ancillary concert venue, The Cave, is just around the corner on Military Road.

Buffalo Iron Works

49 Illinois St.

For the past decade, Buffalo Iron Works — in the historic Cobblestone District — has a reputation as the region's prime jam band venue. The laid back, urban vibe and adventurous itinerary make it a mandatory part of the live music lover's diet.

Mohawk Place

47 East Mohawk St.

Your one stop for multiple artists. It features the finest in regional and national alternative, indie and punk rock.

Kleinhans Music Hall

3 Symphony Circle

You only need your ears to know why Kleinhans Music Hall is a National Historic Landmark.

Our country is filled with beautiful concert halls known for outstanding acoustics. But Kleinhans is one of the finest. A single experience taking in the aural grandeur



Sportsmen's Tavern is Buffalo's home for Americana music.

PHOTO BY BOBBY KIRKHAM



Pianist George Caldwell at the Pausa Art House jazz club.

of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra on their “home ice” will tell you as much.

After it opened in the fall of 1940, Kleinhans earned the respect and praise of conductors, musicians, and patrons. Internationally revered Polish American pianist Arthur Rubinstein cut to the quick of its enduring appeal when he said, “Any artist gives his best in a hall such as this.”

Today, under the leadership of its maestro JoAnn Falletta, Kleinhans continues this unblemished tradition with programs that celebrate diversity and balance classical music’s history with the vibrant canon of present-day composers.

The Colored Musicians Club & Jazz Museum

145 Broadway
Founded in 1918 as a social club for African American musicians who were members of the Buffalo Local 533 union — formed in response to Buffalo’s all-white, segregated Local 43 musicians union — the Colored Musicians Club became a community hub for Black musicians, a gathering place for post-gig wind-downs, a regular stop for touring jazz musicians, and a rehearsal space for local players on off-days. A symbol of our city’s deep and abiding musical traditions, and its history of

segregation, the CMC was set to reopen this year after a \$3 million renovation and expansion. New space makes room for performances and programs dedicated to jazz preservation, education and the community.

Outdoor Live Music

Live music offerings outdoors are abundant during our glorious summer season.

Artpark, 25 miles north of Buffalo in Lewiston, boasts an incredible lineup of summer shows at its outdoor amphitheater stage. Its indoor Mainstage Theater roster is also fully stocked. The bucolic setting makes for transformative live music experiences. Bands perform with the Niagara Gorge as a backdrop. Canada is in full view across the river. Stunning sunsets commingle with performances to create something akin to magic.

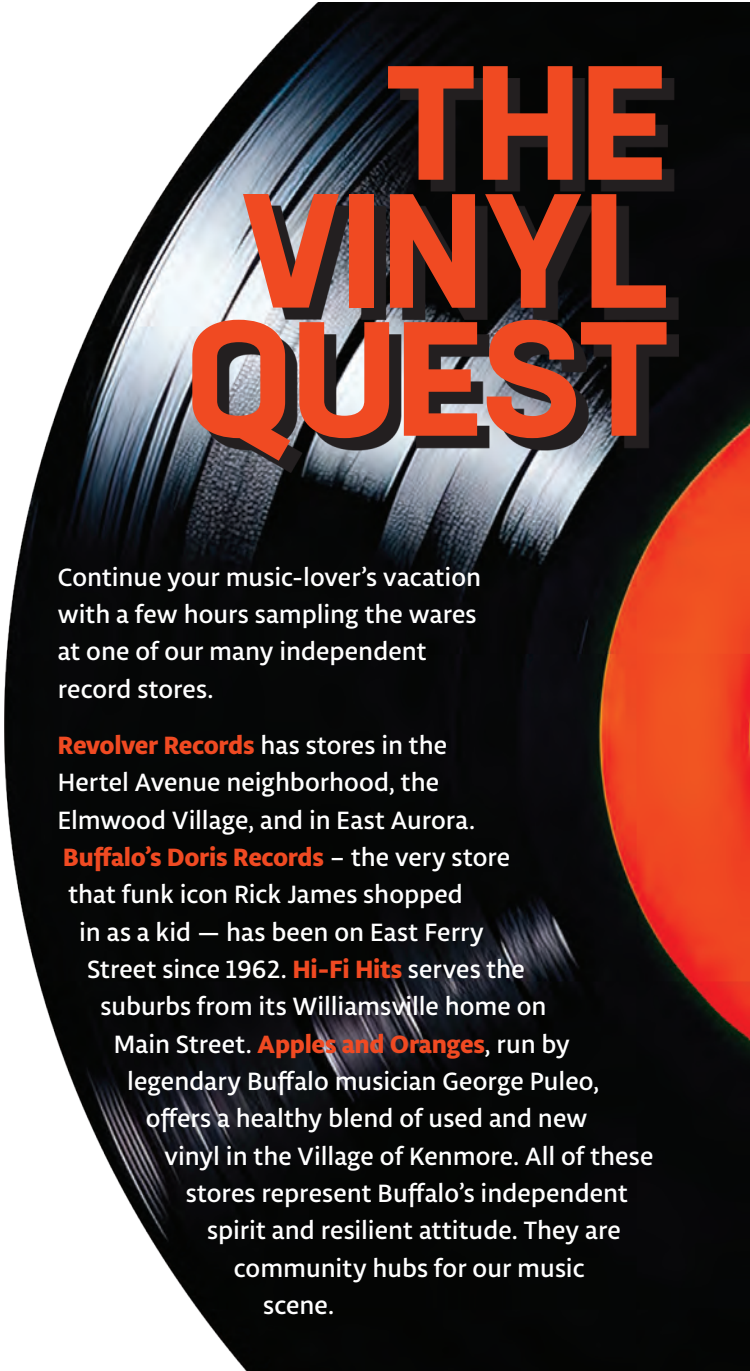
Save the Date

Borderland Music + Arts Festival, September 13-15, 2024, at Knox Farm State Park in East Aurora

The Buffalo Outer Harbor’s seasonal lineup of national touring acts range from jam bands to EDM, classical music and hip-hop. Its schedule will expand when a new amphitheater project finishes in the summer of 2024.

From the weekly free local music showcase series Thursday & Main, at Fountain Plaza in downtown Buffalo, to the

Bidwell Parkway Concert Series in the Elmwood Village, annual festivals like Music Is Art, Cobblestone Live and Borderland, and more intimate waterside concerts at Old Man River in Tonawanda and Buffalo Riverworks, our region offers an embarrassment of riches to the discerning lover of outdoor concerts. **BUF**



Continue your music-lover’s vacation with a few hours sampling the wares at one of our many independent record stores.

Revolver Records has stores in the Hertel Avenue neighborhood, the Elmwood Village, and in East Aurora. **Buffalo’s Doris Records** – the very store that funk icon Rick James shopped in as a kid — has been on East Ferry Street since 1962. **Hi-Fi Hits** serves the suburbs from its Williamsville home on Main Street. **Apples and Oranges**, run by legendary Buffalo musician George Puleo, offers a healthy blend of used and new vinyl in the Village of Kenmore. All of these stores represent Buffalo’s independent spirit and resilient attitude. They are community hubs for our music scene.

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Lucy Desi MUSEUM

Celebrating the lives, careers, and legacies of the “First Couple of Comedy”



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Celebrating BLACK AMERICAN History

By Melvin Bankhead III

BUFFALO, A WATERFRONT CITY ON THE BORDER WITH CANADA, HAS LONG BEEN A CENTRAL HUB OF CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY IN AMERICA.

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THE FIGHT FOR NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES IN 1975
ESTABLISHED JANUARY 25, 1852

THIS IS
OUR CITY
OUR FAMILY
OUR FRIENDS
UNITED
LOVE & MOURN
1-14-2021



Lillie Wiley-Upshaw, chair of the Buffalo Niagara Freedom Station Coalition, the group responsible for the restoration of the 175-year-old Michigan Street Baptist Church.

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN GABRIS



.....
 The African American Heritage Corridor is a place where civil rights history comes alive.

That legacy, long ignored and forgotten, is newly celebrated in the heart of downtown: The Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor, with updated, renovated, and expanded buildings debuting this year, is now a place where civil rights history comes alive.

People can visit the church built in 1845 by African Americans who helped people flee enslavement using the Underground Railroad. Walk through the house where the church's pastor, a founding NAACP member, lived with his family for decades. Hear his Victrola play, see the typewriter where he wrote his sermons, and understand how he brokered power in his decades-long career. Round the corner to the Black musicians' union clubhouse and museum where Aretha Franklin, Billie Holiday, Dizzy Gillespie, and John Coltrane ate, drank, and performed during

segregation. A new, developing museum of radio history will share the stories and voices of Black political activists who were not heard on most radio stations in the 1960s.

"You know, you don't have a lot of other places in the country where you have African American-specific museums, culture and arts ... within steps of one another," said Terry Alford, executive director of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission. "And, of course, it served as one of the catalysts in the country for this new art form called jazz."

The stops in the Heritage Corridor reveal a past that has been neglected but is now being celebrated.

.....
Michigan Street Baptist Church

511 Michigan Avenue
michiganstreetbaptistchurch.org
 The church, built for and by

Buffalo's Black residents, was a final stop on the Underground Railroad to freedom in Canada, and a meeting place for organizers of the civil rights movement. Led by Rev. J. Edward Nash Sr., it was a place where Frederick Douglass, an abolitionist and orator, and W.E.B. Du Bois, a sociologist and activist, came to speak. Founders of the Niagara Movement, the forerunner of the NAACP, met there. Step into the building with tall windows rimmed in colored glass and see where progressive social history lives on.

.....
The Nash House Museum

36 Nash Street
nashhousemuseum.com
 The home and time capsule history of Rev. J. Edward Nash Sr., who served as pastor of Michigan Street Baptist Church from 1892 to 1953, is now a museum. Located just behind the church, it's

filled with the things that he touched and used every day, like the fully-equipped vintage kitchen and desk and books. The church, his home, and the home of neighboring parishioner activist Mary Burnett Talbert, since torn down, were meeting sites for local and national civil rights activists. Nash and Talbert helped the Niagara Movement get started as W.E.B. DuBois organized a series of meetings in Fort Erie, Ontario, in the summer of 1905.

.....
The Colored Musicians Club & Jazz Museum

145 Broadway
thecoloredmusiciansclub.com
 In the early 1900s, Buffalo's Black musicians were banned from joining the all-White union Local 43 of the American Federation of Musicians. In response, they formed their own union, the Local 533, in 1917. The next year, its members created





If You Go

Visitors Center:
136 Broadway St.,
Buffalo, NY 14203

Office Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 9am-5 pm

Tour Hours:
Sat. 10 am-2pm by
appointment



Vintage instruments on display at the Colored Musicians Club & Museum.

the Colored Musicians Club, a social club where musicians hung out, ate, drank, practiced, and joined impromptu jam sessions along the well-worn wood bar that stretches the length of the upstairs club. The Colored Musicians Club & Jazz Museum is the only continuously running, all-Black-owned music venue in the nation, and a tribute to jazz and Buffalo's impact as a place where people like Duke Ellington, Count Basie, and Ella Fitzgerald came together and music evolved.

WUFO Radio Station & Black History Collective

143 Broadway, Buffalo
wufoblackradiohistorycollective.org

Established in 1961, WUFO was the first radio station with programming for Buffalo's Black community. In 1998, sales manager Sheila Brown quit because the station's owners "did

not treat the community properly." In 2006, she returned to the station and became general manager. In 2013, she bought it and became the first Black woman to own a radio station in Western New York. WUFO, 1080-AM and 96.5 FM, air classic hip-hop, urban adult contemporary music, and community talk shows. In 2018, Brown launched the Black History Collective, a museum that celebrates the station's history and connection to the Civil Rights Movement.

"Each one of these entities are basically now serving as museums," Alford said. "Buffalo represents about 185 years of the African American experience right up until today." [BUF](#)

The Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum & The Buffalo Filling Station by Frank Lloyd Wright

263 Michigan at 201 Seneca - Downtown Buffalo, NY 14203

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PHOTO BY: MARK MULVILLE

Five Points

The Five Points neighborhood at the intersection of West Utica, Brayton and Rhode Island streets on Buffalo's West Side has blossomed into a must-eat foodie destination.

FOR PEOPLE WHO LOVE TO EAT

Food critics, travel writers, visiting politicians and just plain folks have given Buffalo's food scene plenty of accolades over the years, tipping their hats – and forks – in the direction of our chicken wings, beef on weck sandwiches, fish fry dinners, hot dogs and pizza. Yes, our reputation as one of the comfort food capitals is well earned and well deserved, but in recent years the definition of the best of Buffalo cuisine has been changing. Immigrant chefs have brought new ingredients and dishes to their adopted home and Buffalo-born chefs who learned their craft in big city kitchens on the coasts have returned home bearing culinary gifts. Haven't dined in Buffalo before? Enjoy this tempting taste of Buffalo's diverse and creative food scene.





3



6

3 Casa Azul

Megan O'Connor mixes a cocktail for a customer at Casa Azul in the Allentown neighborhood.
191 Allen St., Buffalo

3 Tiny Thai

When Tiny Thai owner and chef Kae Baramée isn't on the road in her food truck she also operates a take-out store.
27 Chandler St., Buffalo

3 Jay's

Jay's Artisan Pizza, – and its Neapolitan-style pies – was named the No. 8 best pizzeria in the United States by 50 Top Pizza USA.
2872 Delaware Ave., Kenmore

3 Oliver's Restaurant

Chris Keller, executive chef at Oliver's Restaurant, putting the finishing touches on a serving of ramp agnolotti.
2095 Delaware Ave., Buffalo

3 Butter Block

Abby Carlson-Pici of Butter Block with a fresh-out-of-the-oven tray of pastry perfection – Apple Danish with Sharp Cheddar Streusel.
426 Rhode Island St., Buffalo

3 Weiss Farms

Weiss Farms is a pillar of Buffalo's farming community. They sell their fruits and vegetables at the Elmwood Village Farmer's Market, along the grassy median of Bidwell Parkway at Elmwood Avenue.
7828 Eden Rd., Eden

BUTTER BLOCK AND WEISS FARMS PHOTOS BY RANDY DUCHAIINE
PHOTOS BY SHARON CANTILLON

7



10





8



Wayland Brewing

You can partake of 17 taps and an extensive menu of brunch, daytime, and dinner options at Wayland Brewing Company.
3740 North Buffalo St., Orchard Park

Brothers Restaurant

Executive Chef and co-owner Romone Anderson dishes up classic soul food staples at Brothers restaurant.
475 Ellicott St., Buffalo



9



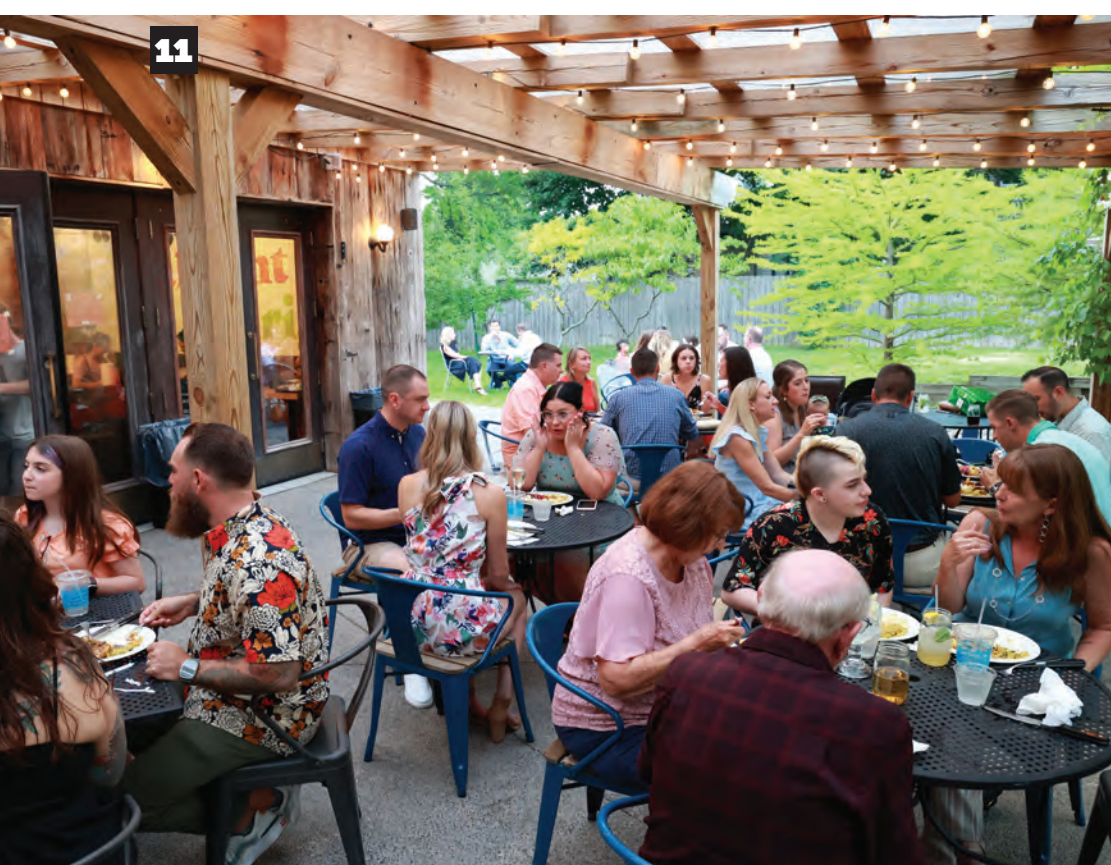
Connors Hot Dogs

Connors Hot Dog Stand has been feeding beachgoers and cottage-dwellers their classic charbroiled hot dogs during warm weather months for more than 70 years.
8905 Lake Shore Rd., Angola

As-Salam

Co-owner Karim Mohammed serves a main course of chicken tikka kebab to a table of diners at As-Salam Dinner & Kebab House.
1389 Bailey Ave., Buffalo

11



Southern Junction

Diners enjoying chef Ryan Fernandez's fusion of Texas-style barbecue and Indian spices at Southern Junction.
356 Connecticut St., Buffalo

12



12 Waxlight Bar a Vin

The talents of chefs Joseph Fenush (left) and Ed Forster are on full display at Waxlight Bar a Vin. Partake in a number of seasonal dishes like roast chicken potato chips and summer squash toast.

27 Chandler St., Buffalo

13 Five Points Bakery

You'll find killer cinnamon rolls, apple cake and an extensive toast menu within the cozy brick environs of Five Points Bakery.

44 Brayton St., Buffalo



14 Ballyhoo

Hot from the kitchen, bartender Warren Weber, delivers two of Ballyhoo's signature sausages, Church Chicken and Short Round.

211 South Park Ave., Buffalo **BUF**

14



PHOTOS BY RANDY DUCHANE

A CITY BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS.

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Classic Pairings

Where to go before or after a show

By Karen Fashana

From Broadway productions of classic musicals to new plays by up-and-coming playwrights, Buffalo's 22 theaters are as diverse as the community they serve. Elevate your evening out on the town with delectable pre-show dining or post-performance cocktails at nearby hotspots. These pairings set the stage for an unforgettable night!

Paul Robeson Theatre

350 Masten Ave., Buffalo

A cultural gem nurturing African American talents since 1968. Embrace award-winning performances in an intimate 130-seat theater at the African American Cultural Center.

Buffalo Kitchen Club

432 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo

Pop in for dinner or drinks before the show at this hip locale in the Elmwood Village neighborhood. Located only four minutes from the Paul Robeson, you'll have plenty of time to savor every bite of their famous fried lobster.

Lancaster Opera House

21 Central Ave., Lancaster

Built in 1897, it's one of the few Town Hall opera houses still left in the country. Experience captivating plays, musicals and concerts at this historic venue nestled in the charming village of Lancaster, just a half an hour's drive east of Buffalo.

Symposium Wine Bar

19 West Main St., Lancaster

Enhance your night out with a glass of wine and light fare from this chic wine bar. Just a short walk from the Opera House's front door.

Shea's Performing Arts Center

650 Main St., Buffalo

Marvel at the opulent architecture of this historic gem while enjoying the best of Broadway. The grandeur of Shea's can only be matched by the performances on its stage!

Bacchus

50 West Chippewa St., Buffalo

Named after the Roman god of wine, Bacchus boasts an award-winning wine selection that Wine Spectator has been celebrating for the last twenty years. Stop in for a glass and appetizer at the bar before the show begins.

Road Less Traveled Productions

456 Main St., Buffalo

With a commitment to sparking dialogue, RLTP crafts thought-provoking productions that creatively reflect the topics of the day.

Osteria 166

166 Franklin St., Buffalo

Break bread with friends over a round of Sunday sauce and Nani's meatballs before the show. This downtown eatery has been feeding theatergoers their fine Italian fare for nearly a decade. Only a 5-minute walk to RLTP.

Jewish Repertory Theatre

2640 North Forest Rd., Getzville

Showcasing the vibrance of Jewish culture, this suburban theater presents high quality plays grounded in Jewish life and values.

Siena

4516 Main St., Snyder

A glass of cabernet and a slice of authentic Italian pizza is the ideal first course before the show. Grab a seat at the bar or reserve a table at this intimate spot in a suburban village north of Buffalo.

Alleyway Theatre

1 Curtain Up Alley, Buffalo

Nestled in the heart of Buffalo's Theatre District, Alleyway showcases new plays and musicals by up-and-coming playwrights.

Streetlight Brasserie

5 East Huron St., Buffalo

With a closing time of 1 am, Streetlight has got you covered before or after a night of theater downtown. Just steps from the Theatre District. **BUF**



Founded in 1980, Alleyway Theatre produces new plays in the former Greyhound Bus Terminal.



Streetlight Brasserie is a chic, upscale restaurant located just steps from the Theatre District.



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History, Mystery and Beauty at **NIAGARA FALLS**

By Amy Moritz and Michelle Kearns



.....
Niagara Falls State Park offers visitors spectacular views of the American Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and Horseshoe Falls.



The majesty of Niagara Falls has captivated visitors for centuries. This trio of waterfalls – the American, Horseshoe, and Bridal Veil – stretch across the border with Canada and inspire vacations, make great wedding photos, and backdrop movie classics, like Marilyn Monroe’s noir thriller “Niagara,” Christopher Reeves’ “Superman” and “Bruce Almighty” with Jim Carrey as a Buffalo-based TV reporter.

To help visitors make the most of their stay, the new Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Welcome Center at Niagara Falls State Park showcases the area’s surprising history — from

Native American culture to the modern environmental movement to the escapades of daredevils like Nik Wallenda, who walked across the Falls on a tightrope in 2012.

“There’s a whole story – beyond the brink of Niagara Falls – that we want to tell,” said Angela Berti, director of public affairs at the state Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation office.

Get started. Take in the misty glory of Niagara Falls and experience the best places around it.

Feel the power of the Falls from just 20 feet away: Cave of the Winds is the name for the wet, windy and exhilarating walk along a

series of wooden platforms to Bridal Veil’s roaring water. (Bring an extra set of dry clothes!) For an exhilarating ride into the heart of the Falls, get on one of the new all-electric boats in the classic Maid of the Mist fleet.

Explore Goat Island. The goats that once roamed here are long gone. Now the island that sits between the American and Canadian Falls has a paved 1.8-mile loop and parking. One highlight: The walk along the three short bridges over churning rapids to a trio of small islets called Three Sisters. At Goat Island’s tip, there’s Terrapin Point, the place to bask in the spray of the Horseshoe Falls.

Head north toward Bridal Veil and you’ll see the statue of Nikola Tesla. The plans in his hands — for the power plant he helped build to generate and send alternating current and electrify cities — shine with the polishing touch of thousands of visitors. (To learn more, for free, stop in for views and a virtual adventure ride through the power generation process at the Niagara Power Vista, a 15-minute drive up Main Street to 5777 Lewiston Road.)

Say hello to some Peruvian expats. At the Aquarium of Niagara, 701 Whirlpool St., “Penguin Coast” is the exhibit home for endangered South American Humboldt

penguins. More space is reserved for other marine mammals, many of them rescued after injury. The lively harbor and gray seals wriggle like caterpillars out of the water. California sea lions bark hellos when excited. Each has a name and a story – from 24-year-old Burgess, the penguin, to Mia, the sea lion, who recovered from malnourishment and became a mom.

Hike the Niagara Gorge. A short walk from the aquarium, down Walnut Avenue to Discovery Way, you'll find the Niagara Gorge Discovery Center & Trail Center and the start of a beginner-friendly hike along the gorge rim. For more challenging hikes, drive north on the Niagara Scenic Parkway to find trails

at Whirlpool State Park and Devil's Hole State Park.

Learn how people living in slavery made it to freedom in Canada at the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, 825 Depot Ave. The building, the former 1863 U.S. Customs House, is attached to the Amtrak station. This small, well-curated museum features a room fashioned to look like the old Cataract House, a bygone hotel where waiters helped shepherd travelers across the suspension bridge that once spanned the gorge. Tour guides explain how the network endured for 65 years.

If you're hungry, consider Savor, 28 Old Falls St., an upscale restaurant managed by Niagara Falls Culinary Institute, where students

wait tables and cook. Try the prix fixe menu. For something sweet, sample the made-from-scratch fare at the school's La Patisserie pastry shop. Power City Eatery, 444 Third St., makes its own bagels and spreads. A few miles away, the Vietnamese restaurant, The Pho Spot, 6600 Niagara Falls Blvd, is known for its spring and summer rolls, soup and stir-fried rice noodles and veggies. Just eight miles down the Niagara River to Lewiston, with its walkable Main Street, cute shops and good restaurants. The Silo is a summer haven with the "Original Haystack," featured on the Travel Channel's "Man v. Food" – a rib-eye sandwich with melted mozzarella, crunchy hashbrowns and a devoted following. [BUF](#)

PHOTO BY ED HEALY



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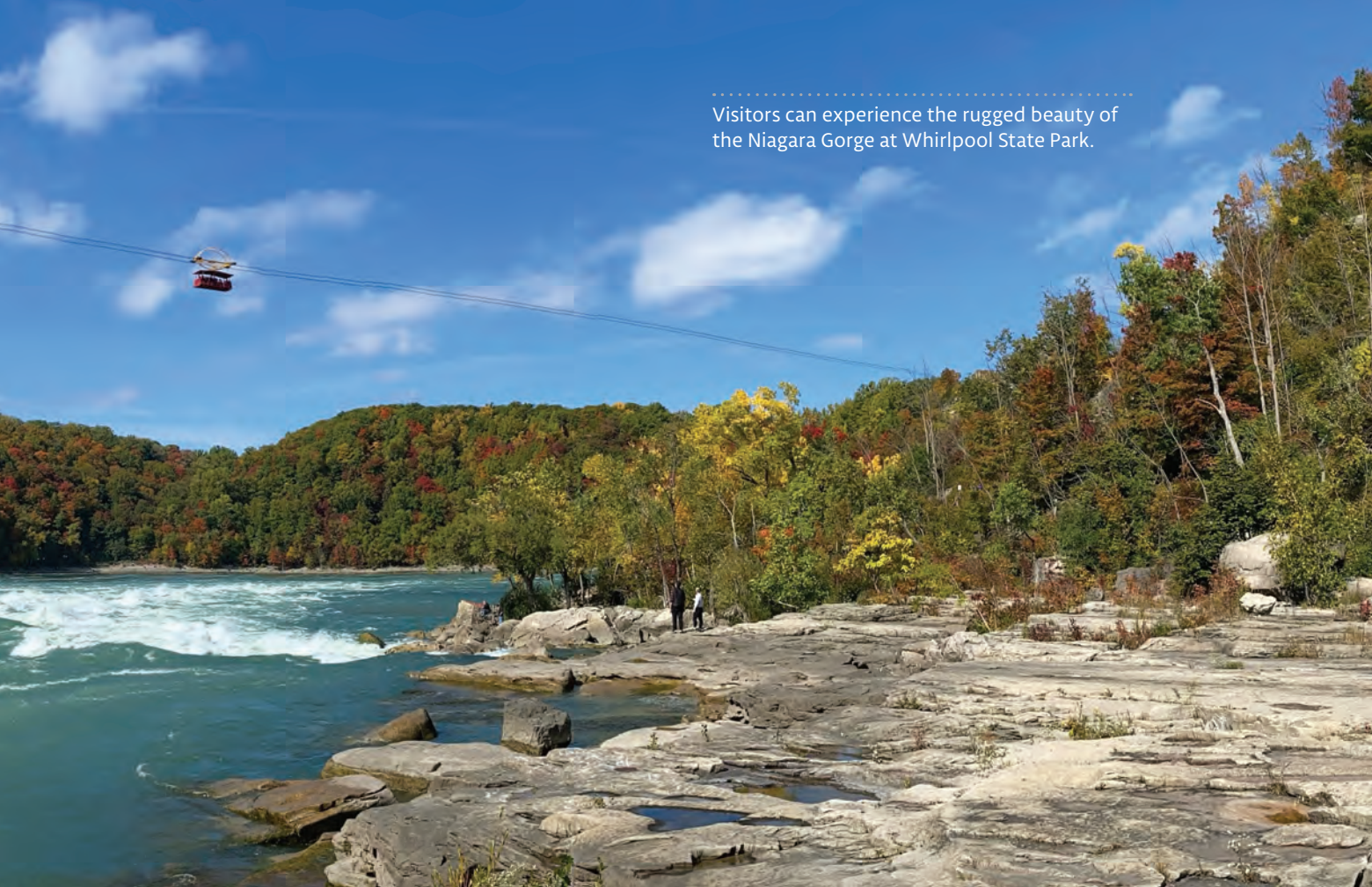
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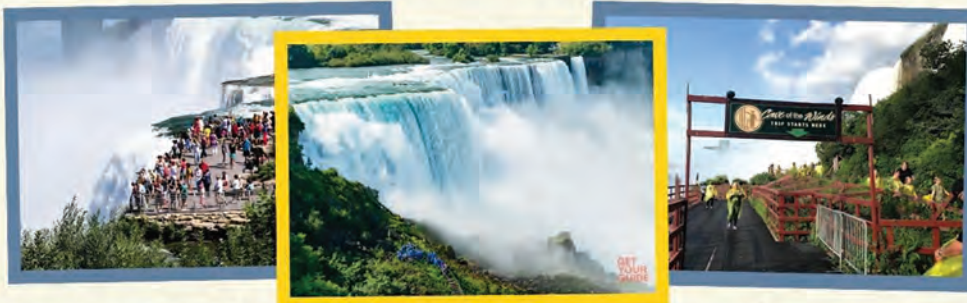
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Buffalo's Vibe is an Urban Bike Ride

A Pedaling Adventure Awaits in the Queen City

By Thea Lona Hassan



From the Boardwalk at Canalside, bikers can connect to waterfront views along the Shoreline Trail.

PHOTO BY GRANT TAYLOR

Buffalo is blessed with the ingredients of a good biking city – no hills, a waterfront border, and a famous park system designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Add to the alchemy a vibrant, inclusive, all-season bike culture, hundreds of miles of connected trails and bike lanes, and scrappy bike advocates, then sprinkle in some pedal-powered magic and a lot of neighborly love. The result: Buffalo is easily, wonderfully explored by bike. It is also a great way to connect with the community and meet new friends.

Whether visiting the city's museums, art spaces, and eateries, pedaling for miles on a trail, spinning tricks at the Lakeside Bike Park on the Outer Harbor or riding alongside hundreds of others on a Slow Roll Buffalo ride on city streets, there is something for everyone in Buffalo's bike scene.

"Buffalo's biking community is the reason I am here," said Zahra Meherali, a Toronto native who moved to the city last fall. "It's the most amazing community I've ever been a part of because it combines community with exercise and compassion. I've never felt it anywhere else. This community has made me a crazy bike girl."

Need a Ride? While Buffalo's geography and street layout are a gift from the glaciers and the city's founders, its bike culture comes from the committed people working to improve access and ease.

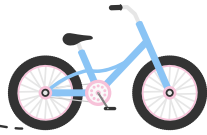
One example is the organization **Reddy Bikeshare**, which offers an inexpensive and easy way to explore the city. With 200 bikes at 68 Bikeshare hubs available for rent for 10 cents a minute (after a \$3 start-up fee) between April and

November, one of their red bikes, complete with a basket and a bell, is ideal for getting around.

Tourists and locals seem to agree – since its launch in 2016, Bikeshare trips have increased 400 percent – with nearly 48,000 trips logged in 2022. Soon, 75 electric bikes, dubbed Reddy Plus, will join the fleet. Sign up for a pass and find a bike on their Social Bicycles app or **reddybikeshare.com**.

"See the city in a slower





fashion...Things move slow enough to take in the people and landscape,” said Simon Husted, marketing and communications coordinator for Reddy Bikeshare. “Bikeshare is the lifehack of a vibrant city.”

Some of Buffalo’s regular cycling happenings and a history by bike tour option:

Slow Roll Buffalo is a guided and supported bike ride every Monday from May through October. Find their schedule and start locations at slowrollbuffalo.org.

East Side Bike Club rides together every Saturday at 10 a.m. from Martin Luther King Jr. Park. Visit esbcbuffalo.com for more information.

Buffalo Bike Tours gives daily, family-friendly history tours

from Memorial Day to Labor Day and provides road bike and e-bike rentals. Book a tour at buffalobiketours.com.

GObike Buffalo hosts the annual SkyRide. The dates of this summer bike ride change each year. Visit gobikebuffalo.org to find the 2024 plan for cycling Buffalo’s 110-foot high SkyWay with breathtaking views.

And don’t miss the **22-mile Shoreline Trail**, which runs alongside Lake Erie and the mighty Niagara River, part of the 750-mile cross-state Empire State Trail. It’s another example of what makes Buffalo a great place to bike.

“Bikes provide a great a way to see the entire city and connect different places... it gives me a lot of joy,” said Marc Moscato, founder of Buffalo Bike Tours. BUF

PHOTO BY DREW BROWN



Reddy Bikeshare is an easy way to explore the city.

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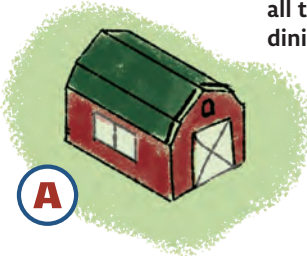


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EAST AURORA: THE SMALL TOWN'S SMALL TOWN

By Ed Healy

It's the village from *Central Casting*. So quintessentially small town that it regularly serves as the set for the Christmas romance movies that have become a staple of cable TV in recent years. With its Five and Dime shop and vintage movie house, East Aurora has an undeniable nostalgic vibe, but it comes with all the contemporary amenities that a traveler looks for – great coffee, small batch brewing, eclectic dining options and plenty to see and do, particularly if you love outdoor adventures. **BUF**



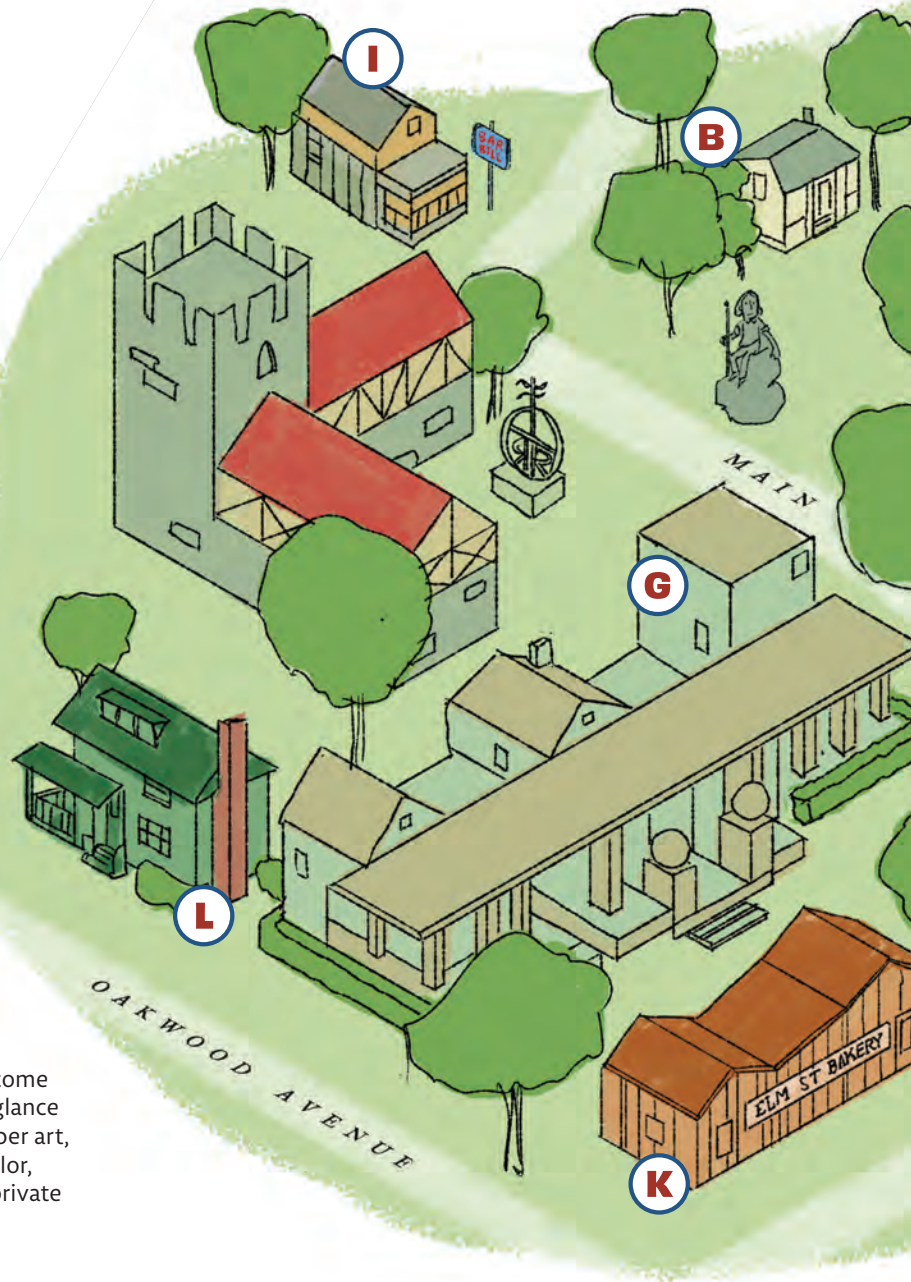
A KNOX FARM STATE PARK 437 Buffalo Rd.
What was once the grand country estate – and working farm – of Buffalo's Seymour Knox family has become one of the region's most beloved places to enjoy the outdoors. Remnants of the farm – split rail fences, barns, caretaker cottages – give the property a quirky charm, and at more than 600 acres there's plenty of room to find your own piece of serenity and solitude.

B MILLARD FILLMORE HOUSE 24 Shearer Ave.
Don't let the storm door fool you, this is the house that the man who would become the 13th President of the United States built with his own hands. The house has been lovingly restored and furnished and returned to the 1820s (with a modern exception) when Millard and Abigail Fillmore lived here, and he was a young attorney on his way up in the world.

C FISHER-PRICE STORE 636 Girard Ave.
East Aurora's credentials as a quintessential American small town go well beyond its charming Main Street. It's also the home of one of the iconic American brand names in children's toys and its flagship store. Here you'll find the toys that are stepped on, tripped over, and played with in living rooms all over the world.

D MUSEJAR 71 Pine St.
In a community known for creativity, MUSEjar has become the place to go for aspiring artists of all ages. A quick glance at their classes and you'll find clay, drawing, dyeing, fiber art, figure drawing, painting, paper art, sculpture, watercolor, and wooden signs. They also host kids' parties, offer private lessons, and have a pottery studio.

E BOOKWORM 34 Elm St.
It's always a sign of a healthy, vibrant community when a bookstore can be found in its shopping district – a place where book lovers can nourish their minds and feed their souls. In East Aurora, the Bookworm is that place. Founded nearly forty years ago, the Bookworm has an extensive selection of both new and pre-read books, including a children's literature section, classic fiction, bestsellers, and poetry.



F TASTE 634 Main St.
Great coffee and a great coffee shop are daily essentials for most travelers. It's just how we like to start our day, no matter where we find ourselves. Have no fear, visitors to East Aurora – the village is home to a classic coffee shop that brews first rate coffee and serves an extensive menu of breakfast, lunch, and dinner items.

G ROYCROFT INN 40 S. Grove St.

This East Aurora institution – a National Historic Landmark – had once fallen into such disrepair it found itself on the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s annual list of the most endangered buildings in the United States. Today, the Roycroft Inn has been returned to its late 19th century origins and serves as a warm and welcoming home away from home for lovers of the American Arts & Crafts Movement.

I BAR-BILL 185 Main St.

Beloved by generations of Southtowners (residents of Buffalo’s southern suburbs and villages), including Bills quarterback Josh Allen, Bar-Bill always ranks near the top of any insider’s list of the best wings in Buffalo. But what really sets Bar-Bill apart from the competition is the presence on its menu of another of Buffalo’s regional specialties – beef on weck. Order both the wings and weck and enjoy the ultimate Buffalo dining experience.

J VIDLER’S 5 & IO 676-694 Main St.

Vidler’s is packed with an eclectic array of merchandise – fabric, penny candy, craft supplies, housewares, toys, books, cards, garden gnomes – that range from essential to comical and everything in between. This family owned and operated business has been pleasing customers – many of them visitors to the area – since 1930. Be sure to check out the Vidler of the Roof!

K ELM STREET BAKERY 72 Elm St.

Don’t be fooled by the “Bakery” name, Elm Street is much more than a purveyor of fine baked goods. They also make killer breakfast sandwiches, delicious pizzas, savory sandwiches, and rich and tasty soups. All set in a light-filled space of rough-hewn wood that’s as sweet as the cookies and cake you should order to go.

L ELBERT HUBBARD MUSEUM 363 Oakwood Ave.

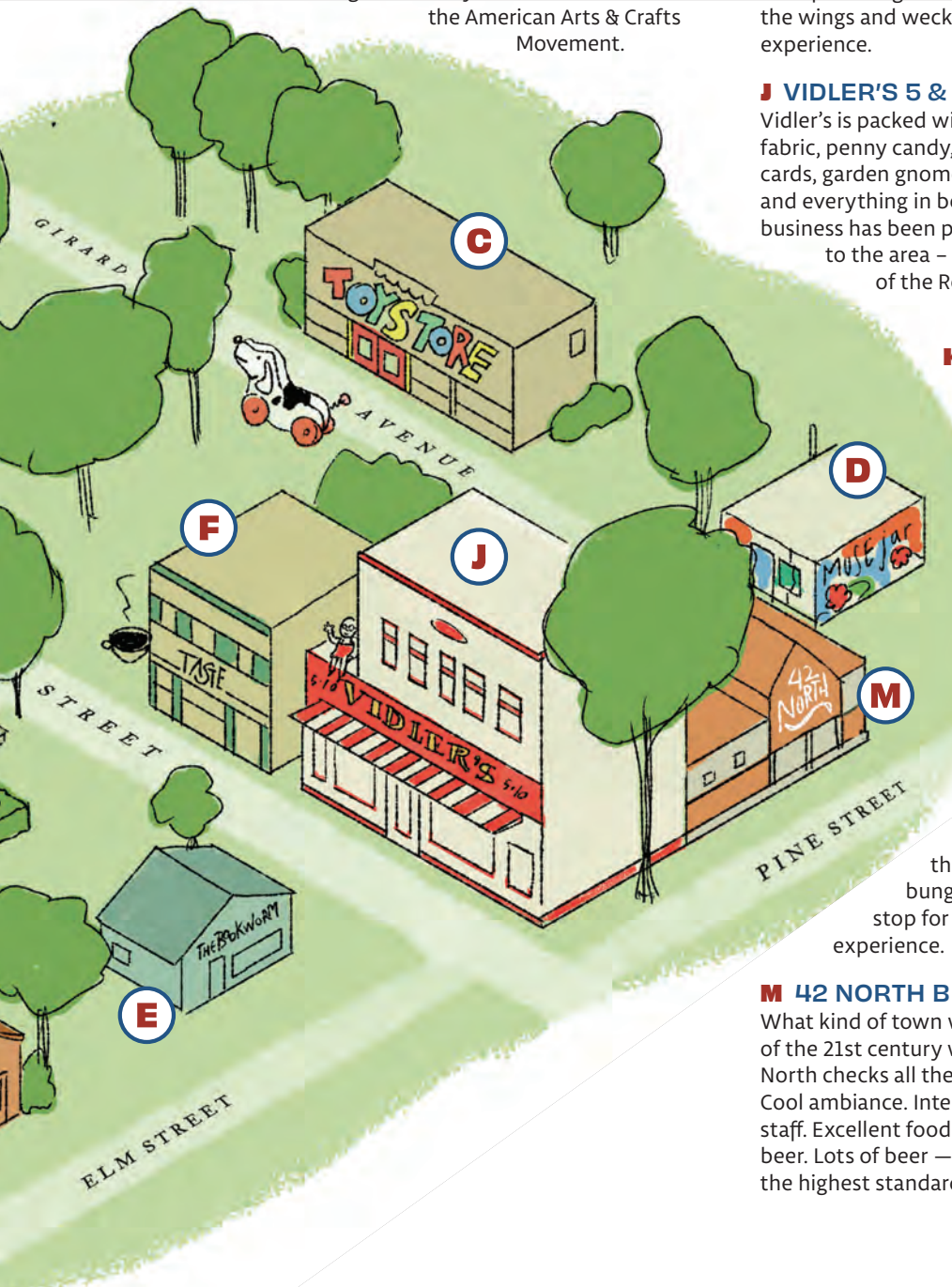
Elbert Hubbard is best remembered as the founder of the Roycroft community of artisans; the man who brought the ideals of the American Arts & Crafts Movement to a small town outside of Buffalo and put it on the map. This charming little Arts & Crafts bungalow on Oakwood Avenue is a must-see stop for pilgrims who want the complete Roycroft experience.

M 42 NORTH BREWING COMPANY 25 Pine St.

What kind of town would East Aurora be in the third decade of the 21st century without its own brewery? Not to worry. 42 North checks all the boxes for the contemporary beer lover. Cool ambiance. Interesting origin story. Friendly owner and staff. Excellent food courtesy of Fat Bob’s Smokehouse. And beer. Lots of beer – IPAs, lagers, ales – all brewed on-site to the highest standards.

H SCHOOLHOUSE GALLERY 1054 Olean Rd.

What was once a one-room schoolhouse circa 1850 is now a gallery dedicated to the work of Roycroft Renaissance artisans – contemporary makers whose work is inspired by the Roycrofters of a century ago. Any stop here should also include a visit to the studio at the rear of the property of furniture maker Thomas Pafk, where the sweet scent of freshly cut wood is in the air and sawdust underfoot.



MAP ARTWORK BY PETE REILING



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The Treehouse Café: A Blueberry Wonderland

By Kate Scaduto

Nestled just 22 miles south of Buffalo in the hamlet of West Falls, the Blueberry Treehouse Farm awaits – a spring-through-fall café in the forest with live music, local beer and good food, a forested playground, thousands of blueberry bushes, and a rentable house 20 feet high into the trees.

This farm, located at 1897 Davis Road, with 11 different varieties of blueberries on two acres, is a berry pickers mecca during the July and August harvest. Most of the time, from spring to fall, it is an outdoor refuge, ripe for exploring.

The couple who bought the farm almost eight years ago have gradually expanded around the original blueberry fields. Rico and Jyl Rivera, who also own Buffalo Treehouse, a luxury building company, started with “Pine Island,” a play space with its own treehouse-style castle. When families started posting pictures on Facebook of their kids playing there, the place became a

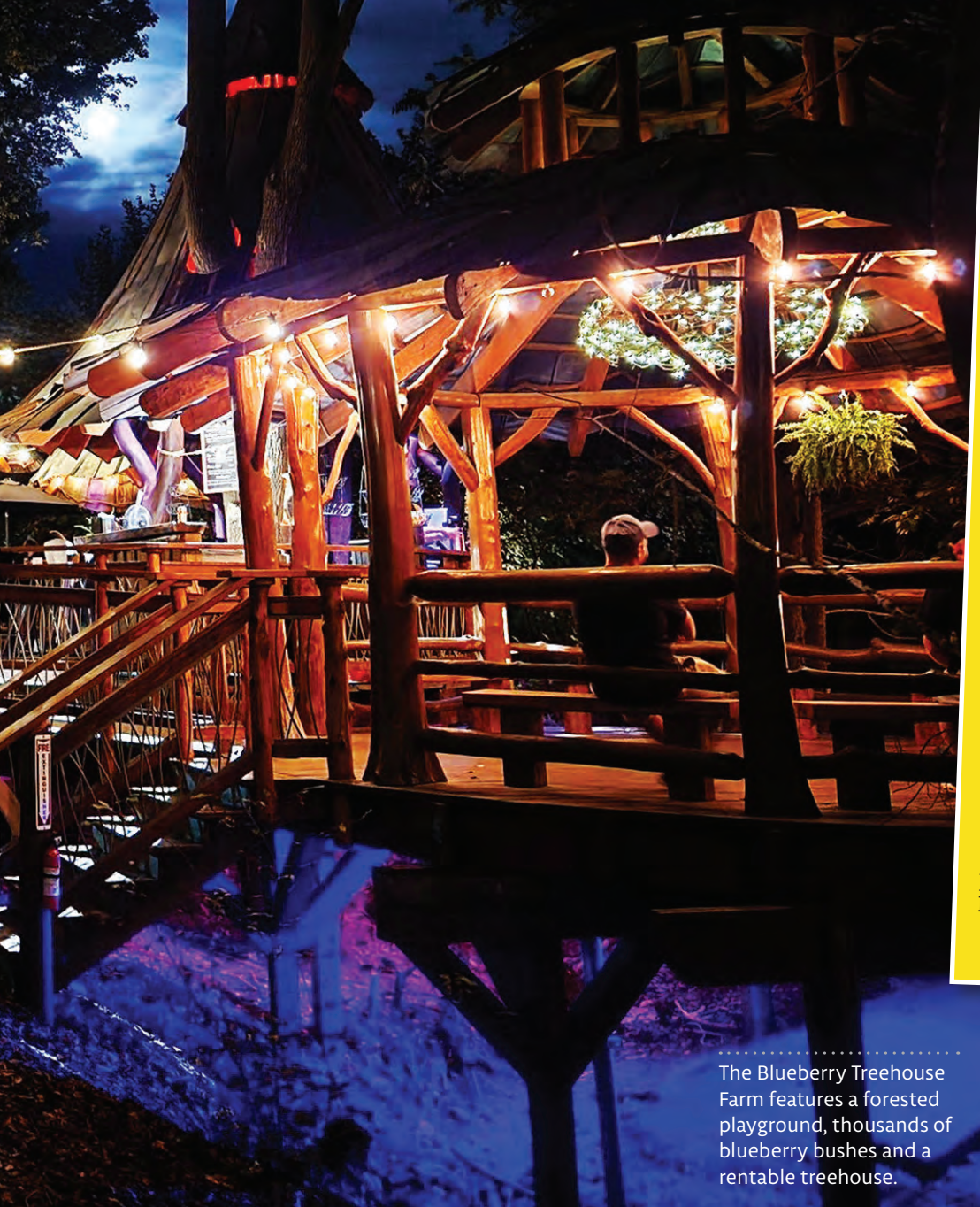
sensation and the Rivera’s plan to expand developed.

The place the couple would eventually call the Blueberry Treehouse Farm began to take shape. The Treehouse Café and bar, with wood-oven baked pizza and live local acoustic music, came next.

The café’s bar and seating areas have views of the blueberry fields on one side and, on the other, there’s a forest with enormous trees.

The newly opened Treehouse Airbnb, with sweeping views of the fields and the twinkling cafe lights, has rooms on two floors and sleeping space for four.

“It’s just magical having the treehouses among the nature here,” said Jyl Rivera, who manages daily operations. “It’s been unreal to see the transformation that the farm has undergone ... We’ve created a space where kids can hang out with their parents, listen to music, enjoy nature and spend time together.”



Also in West Falls

Just down the road from the Blueberry Treehouse Farm, you'll find the West Falls Center for the Arts. This warm and inviting space hosts concerts, music clinics and other events that highlight local talent and encourage creative exploration. The center, located at 1863 Davis Road, started 14 years ago as a piano school. As students became well known for their skill, interest in the center spread. Weekend concerts helped transform the space into a regional destination for entertainment. Along with concerts, the center offers music lessons for veterans, a "Music Memories Café" program for people with dementia, a "Kids Music Jam" performance and master classes. **Info: westfallsartcenter.org**

— Kate Scaduto

The Blueberry Treehouse Farm features a forested playground, thousands of blueberry bushes and a rentable treehouse.

PHOTO BY RICCO RIVERA

The Details

The Blueberry Treehouse Farm is open from late spring to the end of October. During the u-pick blueberry season, early-July to mid-August, the farm is open Wednesday to Sunday. The small admission fee during berry season includes a free popsicle, a pop, or \$5 off a beer at the Treehouse Café. On Thursday nights in summer, the farm holds its "Blueberry Jams" Americana music concert series.

Picking blueberries by the pound: The farm's 2,000 organically grown berry bushes allow for a longer growing season. "The great thing about having different varieties is that they ripen at different times," said Jyl Rivera. Pick as you explore. When you've had enough, weigh your paper bag and pay \$3.50 a pound.

The Treehouse Café: Adjacent to the fields of blueberry bushes, it features local beer, blueberry snacks, blueberry-

themed drinks, made-to-order paninis, freshly baked pizzas, charcuterie boards, desserts from artisan bakeries and edible flower garnishes from a nearby farm. "The list goes on," said Jyl Rivera. "We support so many local businesses." Above the bar, a treehouse-style second floor with great farm views can be rented for gatherings. During the spring and fall, the cafe has live music and is open Friday-Sunday, with no admission charge.

The Treehouse Airbnb: Anchored to maple and cherry trees, this rentable, two-story abode has a secluded second floor bedroom. A stay at this place, open year-round, can make you feel one with the trees.

Pine Island playground: If you're bringing the kids, they'll have a hard time leaving. This forested play space is surrounded by pine trees. It comes complete with a treehouse castle, a log pyramid for climbing and a mini zip-line. **BUF**

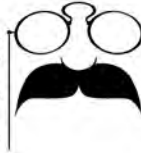


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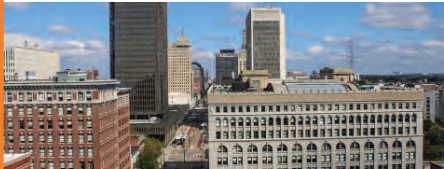
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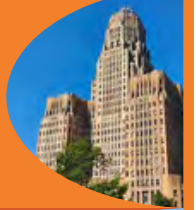
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“Long Live the Silos!”

SILO CITY ADDS TO THE ENCHANTMENT OF BUFFALO

By Ed Healy



Duende has become one of the coolest places to hear live music in Buffalo.

PHOTO BY JUST BUFFALO LITERARY CENTER - PAT CRAY

It's the question many visitors and even some longtime locals frequently ask, "What exactly is Silo City?"

There's no easy 25-words-or-less answer. Even the poets who have been coming here for ten years to read their work at the Silo City Reading Series search for the right words to describe where they have been and what they've experienced.



The Silo City Reading Series features poets, musicians and artists from around the world.

PHOTO BY JUST BUFFALO LITERARY CENTER - PAT CRAY

Poet Richie Hoffman called the silos “sublime and ghostly and beautiful.” Bianca Stone said the setting was “somewhere both ancient and futuristic.” Catherine Wagner felt like she was “listening to a community reimagining itself. Long live the Silos!”

Without exception, these visitors are moved. They are inspired. They know they have experienced something out of the ordinary.

Here are the basics. Silo City is a 27-acre parcel along the Buffalo River in the city’s Old First Ward that’s home to one of the largest concentrations of grain elevators in the world. Once the epicenter of Buffalo’s flour milling industry, the silos have, in recent years, been the site of a civic experiment in what architects like to call “adaptive reuse.”

“For my father’s generation, Silo City was a symbol of failure and bad decisions, but young people are in awe of its magnificence—their new eyes see its potential,” Rick

Smith, owner of the property since 2006, told Metropolis Magazine.

Smith is willing, eager actually, to “see what the site wants to be,” he says. It’s that philosophy that has welcomed entrepreneurs of every kind to the site. Festivals have been held here. Light artists have used the silo walls for their projections. Students from the University at Buffalo’s School of Architecture have erected sculptures on the site. Two of Explore Buffalo’s more popular tours are held here: Silo City Vertical and Silo City Ground. Torn Space Theatre produces an outdoor play every August. The Reading Series, produced in collaboration with Just Buffalo Literary Center, brings the best poets from around the world here. A full-time horticulturist has been removing invasive plants and replacing them with native species. And Smith has opened a bar and restaurant called Duende in the former American Malting Company offices that has morphed

into one of Buffalo’s coolest places to hear live music.

The next phase of Silo City’s redevelopment will see the former American Mill & Warehouse Building

converted into 168 apartments, complete with a fitness center, a co-working space, exhibition space and outdoor public common areas. Silo City will soon look a lot more like an actual city with several hundred residents living on site. It’s the latest act of alchemy set in motion by site steward Smith, the third-generation CEO and president of Rigidized Metals Corporation, a manufacturer of engineered metal surfaces located next door.

“Silo City is a gift,” Buffalo poet Lillian-Yvonne Bertram said after reading in the Silos. “It adds to the enchantment of my hometown.” **BUF**



Rick Smith, the visionary entrepreneur overseeing the regeneration of Silo City.

PHOTO BY RANDY DUCHAINE



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WELCOME to Banditland

By Charlie Fashana



Forward Dhane Smith of Buffalo's National Lacrosse League championship winning Bandits.

PHOTOS BY BILL WIPPERT

If You Go

KeyBank Center
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Tickets start at
about \$30 and can be
purchased online at
bandits.com

When you think of Buffalo sports teams — and their fans — you likely picture the famed Bills Mafia, the legion of Sabres fans, and possibly the loyal followers of those Buffalo Baseball Bisons. It's true we live and die by our "major sports" teams here, but the Buffalo Bandits fly raucously under that radar.

The Bandits, winners of the 2023 National Lacrosse League

championship, play on the turf over the ice rink the Sabres skate on: The downtown KeyBank Center at 1 Seymour H Knox III Plaza. The indoor season starts in December and goes through the end of April with playoffs until Memorial Day. Tickets start at about \$30 and can be purchased online at bandits.com.

Lacrosse, you say? My novice assessment of the sport has it as a cross between

hockey and basketball in terms of rules, but in terms of fun and entertainment value, I'd put it as better than attending an NHL, NFL and NBA game combined.

Add to this a history of winning and success. Yep, the Bandits hold league records and multiple championships. Throw in an occasional on-field skirmish, and a few cold ones and you've got a recipe for a great night out.

I'm a bit ashamed to admit, despite living here my whole life — and being a past season ticket holder of the Bills, Sabres and Bisons — until recently, I had never been to a Bandits game.

I was missing out all these years. Don't do the same. Go to a game. Go nuts. Go Bandits! **BUF**

Bandits fans are die-hard,
and they show it.



PHOTO BY MEGAN HAVEN

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they show it. They also have their own set of chants
and taunts for the opponents.

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**"B! O! X! B! O! X!
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To the box, box, box! Wooooo!"**

— Charlie Fashana

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Myo Thant Zaw, co-owner of Bamboo Ridge, serving spicy Vietnamese noodles at the West Side Bazaar.



PHOTOS BY SHARON CANTILLON

Incubating Buffalo's Global Food Scene

West Side Bazaar Brings People Together from Near and Far

By Michelle Kearns

After Donna Rose finished her Burmese curry rice, with its delicate balance of flavors, she took in the crowd at the new West Side Bazaar. This building, a renovated Prohibition-era factory at 1432 Niagara St. where illegal alcohol was secretly barreled, is now a business incubator and word is out about it. Here eight restaurant kitchens serve food from around the world. Find the starchily good fufu and spinach of the Congo, crispy, light falafel of Egypt and Burma's cool, salty pickled tea leaf salad.

Rose came with her wife from Niagara Falls, Ontario, because she saw a news story about the Bazaar's 2023 opening. This place is a reminder, and an embodiment, of why she loved making the trip to Buffalo:

The city is, she said, multicultural and welcoming.

"I want to come back so I can experience more," Rose said. "This isn't just a one-time stop."

As she spoke, people sat at tables upstairs and down. There were parents and little kids and a group of young women in headscarves. Men and women of all ages ate bowls of rice, noodles and soup. Teens strolled by sipping bubble tea. Puerto Rican musicians readied to play drum and guitar on a small stage.

New stainless-steel stoves and kitchens gleamed from behind the cash registers. "I'm really impressed with the layout," said Rose. "It feels like home cooking with the technology to make it efficient. In my opinion, food is love. It's how different people express their love. I feel honored that I can experience a piece of someone else's culture."

The nonprofit project, sponsored by the Westminster Economic Development Initiative, serves clients with low incomes. The West Side Bazaar first opened on Grant Street in 2011, a part of Buffalo where Italian immigrants once lived. Now it's home to people from all over the world, just as the city is.

When a 2022 fire destroyed the last location, a planned expansion was a year away. In the interim, the Downtown Bazaar opened at 617 Main St. It is a Theatre District highlight, serving breakfast tacos, lunches, dinners and favorites like seasoned Sudanese beef, Burmese papaya salad and savory Ethiopian pancakes with steamed vegetables.

The new \$12 million, two-story, 18,000 square foot West Side Bazaar on Niagara Street holds 18 more businesses, including eight restaurants, a cookie baker and a food-centric bookstore, Read It & Eat.

The way the Bazaars' global food scene has

become part of the city's identity has surprised its founders.

"They thought it would be a place where people went to grab their food and run," said Carolyn Welch, WEDI's executive director. "It immediately became a cultural hot spot in the city of Buffalo, a comfortable place for people to get to know each other and get to know the different cultures that make up our community. I think that is, honestly, one of my favorite parts."

The Bazaars incubate new businesses so they can launch,

grow and move out. So far more than 40 alumni have including 007 Chinese Food at 87 Lake St. in Hamburg and Puerto Rican Kiosko Latino at 142 French Road in Cheektowaga. Businesses range from online purveyors of macrame art, batik clothing and ice cream cookie cakes to a tax preparation office.

For Mike Diletti, the new Bazaar was a golden opportunity. He could finally do as he imagined and start a pizzeria using a fermented dough that leads to soft, chewy crusts – without thousands of dollars.

The flexible set up was a bonus. His Orso Nero Pizza (Italian for black bear) started with a simple lineup – pizza gnocchi and sauce. "We're going to grow the menu," Diletti said. "We're going to take anything we want and run with it."

At the fall 2023 opening, people were reveling in the experience. Diletti's pizza sold out. At the bar,

people drank wine and shared samples, many of them made by Burmese immigrants cooking in the style of countries, like Thailand and Malaysia, where they lived after leaving home. Others made their own versions of cuisine they learned working at Korean and Japanese restaurants.

Tom Daniels came with his wife and young son, who liked the warm, spicy Korean kimchi rice with a fried egg and the soup with tofu and cabbage. "For the price and the quality, this is the best meal in town. It's a true community meeting spot," Daniels said. "We're going to be coming back a lot to try them all out." **BUF**



Eight restaurant kitchens serve food from around the world at the West Side Bazaar.



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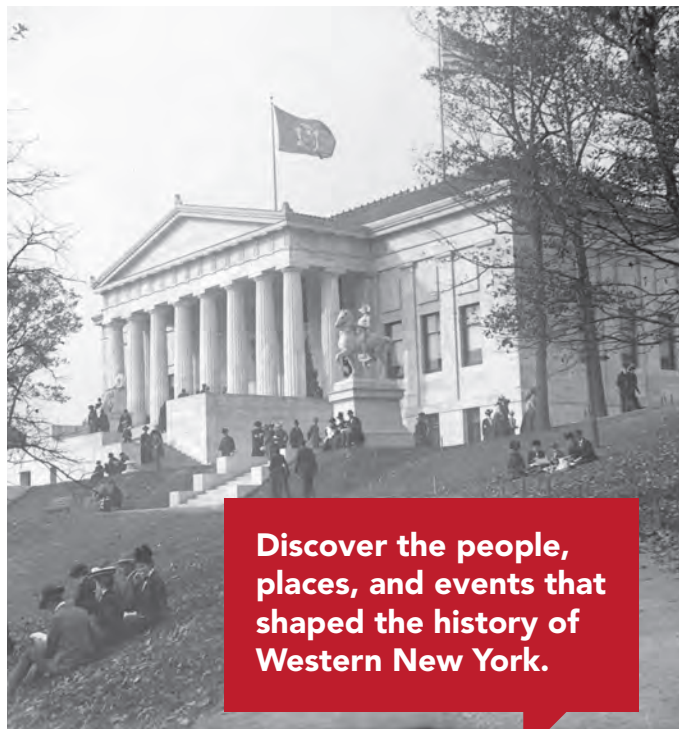
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PHOTO BY JOE CASCIO

Canalside is the hub of family-friendly fun in Buffalo with a children's museum, historic carousel, waterbikes, kayaks and a sand-filled play area.

BRING THE KIDS

There's Plenty of Family Friendly Fun in Buffalo

By Karen Fashana

"I'm boooooored."

For most parents, nothing makes you cringe more than hearing those dreadful words come out of your kid's mouth. Turns out, the cure for this common kid complaint is a visit to Buffalo, chock-full of kid-tested and kid-approved activities. Whether you call Buffalo home or it's your next checkmark on the family travel bucket list, here's a list of 11 attractions sure to keep the kiddies happy, engaged and boredom-free.

1. Buffalo Museum of Science

1020 Humboldt Pkwy., Buffalo
Blur the line between learning and fun as your lil' future scientist explores Buffalo's favorite museum dedicated to science.

2. Explore & More - The Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Children's Museum

130 Main St., Buffalo
Every day is a play date at Explore & More. Introduce your child to the magic of imaginative play and hands-on discovery at our downtown museum.

3. Buffalo Heritage Carousel

44 Prime St., Buffalo
Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2024, this waterfront carousel was meticulously restored and is now ready for riders, young and old. At only \$1 per ride, pick your favorite pony to go round and round, over and over.



PHOTO BY DREW BROWN

ABOVE: Children learn about the Erie Canal, how locks work and how electricity is produced at Explore & More's "Moving Water" exhibit.

BELOW: The Buffalo Heritage Carousel is a fully restored, solar-powered 1924 carousel featuring a menagerie of colorful creatures that's only \$1 to ride.



PHOTO BY MECCAY PHOTOGRAPHY

4. Buffalo Zoo

300 Parkside Ave., Buffalo
See the sloths, peep at the polar bears, and view the vampire bats at the wildest place in town. Plus, the weather is always warm inside the balmy Rainforest Falls exhibit, modeled on Venezuela's Amazon basin, with waterfalls, tropical plants and species like howler monkeys, piranhas and anteaters.

5. Canalside

44 Prime St., Buffalo
This activity-filled park alongside the restored western terminus of the Erie Canal features a sand play area near Clinton's Dish, just steps away from the boardwalk and Buffalo River views. See how many types of waterborne vehicles your kids can spot - from water bikes, stand up paddleboards and kayaks to naval vessels at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park.

6. Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens

2655 South Park Ave., Buffalo
While the weather outside can change in a snap, the temperature inside the Botanical Gardens is always toasty. Your little botanist will have a field day seeing and smelling the beautiful flora under the dome.

7. Tift Nature Preserve

1200 Fuhrmann Blvd., Buffalo
Get to know Mother Nature and the wildlife that call

Buffalo home including deer, beaver, and endless species of birds. Tift Nature Preserve is where the wild things are, right in the Buffalo city limits.

8. Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village

3755 Tonawanda Creek Rd., Amherst

It's always the 19th century at the Heritage Village. Take a step back to a simpler time and let your kiddos see how the world worked before smartphones and Sesame Street.

9. RiverWorks

359 Ganson St., Buffalo

The kids will LOVE this one-of-a-kind adventure and entertainment complex along Buffalo's waterfront. Try out the ropes course and mini zip line before grabbing a seat on the Buffal-"O" Ferris wheel for an incredible view of the city.

10. Buffalo AKG Art Museum

1285 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo

The AKG is the first fine art museum to partner with the LEGO Foundation on the creation of a dedicated area for play. This free, interactive space is perfect for kids 5 and up.

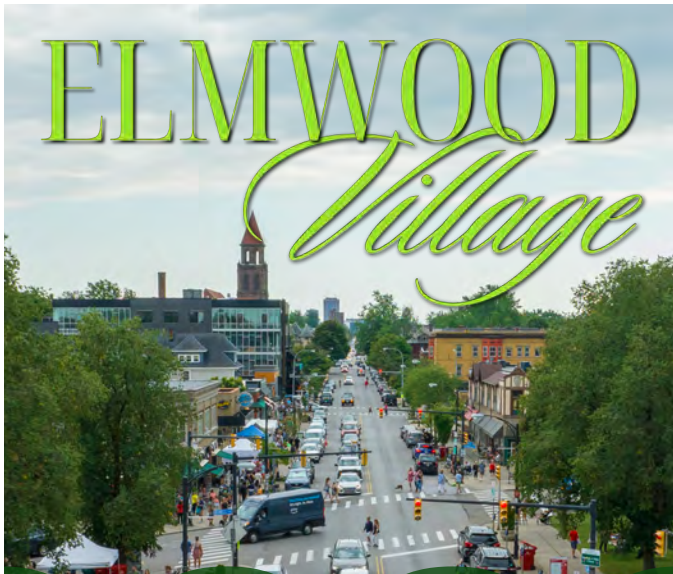
11. Buffalo History Museum

1 Museum Court, Buffalo

Your pint size sports fan will get a kick out of the museum's "Icons" exhibit, which introduces kids to some of the most unbelievable moments in Buffalo sports history. See game-worn jerseys, test your vertical leap skills, and relive game-winning moments with their interactive digital displays.

I'm bored? Not in Buffalo.

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