

THE DOWNTOWNER

Vol. 2, Issue 1

Buffalo, New York

January 2007



HAPPY NEW YEAR



BUFFALO!!

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Year in
Review**

**Johnson Park -
West Village
Better Than Ever**

**More
Downtown
Living Options**

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Message from the Editor

by Dianne McQuillen

WELCOME TO:

First Night, Buffalo rings out the old year and rings in the new, just as we have every year since 1988. Young, old, families, couples were all represented; 5,000 in all. This shouldn't surprise anyone. Events downtown draw crowds; crowds downtown should draw more events. We like being downtown, we like to gather here and we like to celebrate here. Downtown is truly the heart of the city.

And that is why all of Buffalo is excitedly awaiting news on downtown development. 2006 was the Year of Promise – 2007 is the Year of Fulfillment. We will see waterfront development continue to progress, the Erie Canal in all her glory, the Naval Museum, cars returning to Main Street and more and more businesses moving downtown to service its thousands of new residents, and so much more.

The Staff at The Downtowner looks forward to sharing with you each exciting development as it unfolds. Please note, in this edition we have a couple of guest writers, sharing their perspective, some off-downtown, but all relevant to living, working and playing downtown. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our writers; you are The Downtowner.

And let us also take this time, to thank you, our readers, for your support and encouragement through our first six months, your enthusiasm keeps us going. And to our advertisers, the backbone of the paper, we affirm our commitment to you: to contribute to the building of the community that supports the businesses that serve you. As we go from business to business, meeting more and more people, we are struck by the wonderful business community that is downtown Buffalo.

Over and over we meet truly quality conscious, service oriented and simply put – nice people. As the Downtown Shopper reminds us: If you want more services/shops downtown, support the ones we already have.

And finally, we the Staff at the Downtowner, wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to ringing in many more New Years with you.

Dianne McQuillen Paul McQuillen Steve Ansell Jill Benker-Beck
Giovanni Centurione Jessica Keltz Nancy Siegel Bryan James Whitley

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GET IN SHAPE!



January is traditionally the month for getting back in shape after all of the 'winning and dining' of the holidays. Whether you are highly motivated to shed those extra egg-nog pounds or you cringe when thinking about losing that extra Christmas-cookie fat, there are many options for you in downtown Buffalo. Come on..get off that couch and Get in Shape! Your bathing suit will thank you!!

Body Blocks Fitness 496 Pearl Street 847-2639
www.bodyblocksfitness.com Metro station: Theater

3 floors of state of the art strength and conditioning training in a beautifully restored building; free weights, strength and conditioning machines, cardio room (with flat-screen TVs), locker rooms and showers, Gravity 4 classes (a 45 minute full-body workout-one of only 5 facilities in NYS), yoga classes, massage therapy and relaxation room, chiropractic, nutritional and dietary supplements, custom protein shakes, Vito's wrap sandwiches, Fitness apparel (Under Armor). Body Blocks specializes in personal training and service.

Buffalo Athletic Club 69 Delaware Avenue 845-6660
www.thebuffaloathleticclub.com Metro station: Lafayette

Known as the BAC, the Buffalo Athletic Club has several locations including this club which serves downtown workers and residents. The largest of the downtown clubs, the BAC has large spaces for cardio exercise, a weight room with free and machine weights, a pool, basketball and squash courts, ab-work and stretching room, and a room for classes. The BAC offers a variety of classes including spinning (one of the most popular classes), Pilates, yoga, ab strengthening, Cardio-kick, and others. Members may use their membership at other BAC locations.

Downtown Fitness and Massage 256 Delaware Avenue 854-2052
<http://www.downtownfitness-massage.com> Metro station: Theater

Open by appointment only, this business offers personalized service in their fully equipped facility or in your home or office. Certified trainers offer one on one training in either half-hour or one hour sessions. Massage therapy is also available.

Curves for Women Ellicott Square Building 332-3585
www.curves.com Metro station: Church

Curves is for women only and features 30 minute circuit training that works all muscles and the cardio system. Membership can be purchased by the month or on a yearly basis.

Personal Best Fitness 847 Washington Street 842-1999

Operating in Buffalo since 1999, Personal Best offers one-on-one training and motivation, alternative medicine, and massage. Open by appointment only.

The Olympia Health Club 300 Pearl Street 847-6000
Metro station: Fountain Plaza

The Olympia Health Club is located in the Olympic tower behind the Hyatt Hotel. Open to both men and women, the club offers a weight room, cardio floor, a pool, whirlpool, separate men's and women's steam and sauna rooms, a shake bar, and lockers are included. Classes are offered by certified personal trainers. A unique feature of this club is the boxing program which includes boxing rings, instruction, and training.

Working For Downtown News...

by Jill Benker-Beck

Working For Downtown is in the process of developing its winter calendar of events. The Forum Committee is hoping to attract speakers from the government community and investment/development community to speak about the progress and the future development of Downtown.

On January 3rd, Jake Schneider, architect and developer, will discuss his plans for the former Seneca Paper Building during the monthly Brown Bag luncheon. His project, the Warehouse Lofts will be completed in 2007. Last month's luncheon featured Eva Hassett, Executive Vice President of Savarino Companies. The attendees were pleased to hear that the companies' residential plans for the Cobblestone District include the development of condominiums. Throughout this year's series on Downtown residential development, it has been noted that all of the new units have been for lease only. The advent of owner occupied lofts is definitely a milestone...four years ago it would have been considered a folly!

Thursday in the City continues to attract business people and residents to its weekly Business and Social Happy Hour at the Century Grill, 320 Pearl Street. Plan to stop by and enjoy featured wine specials and finger foods. Each week the crowd changes presenting new opportunities to meet interesting people.

A few years ago, Working For Downtown scheduled a Holiday party in December (when most groups plan to celebrate the season) and lo and behold, it snowed hard enough to cause a cancellation of the event. It was rescheduled for a weekday night in January and a tradition was born! This year's "After the Hustle and Bustle of the Holidays Rush Party" is planned for January 29th at the Chocolate Bar on Chippewa Street. Members both old and new are invited to attend – guests are welcome- information regarding reservations can be found on our website: www.workingfordowntown.org.

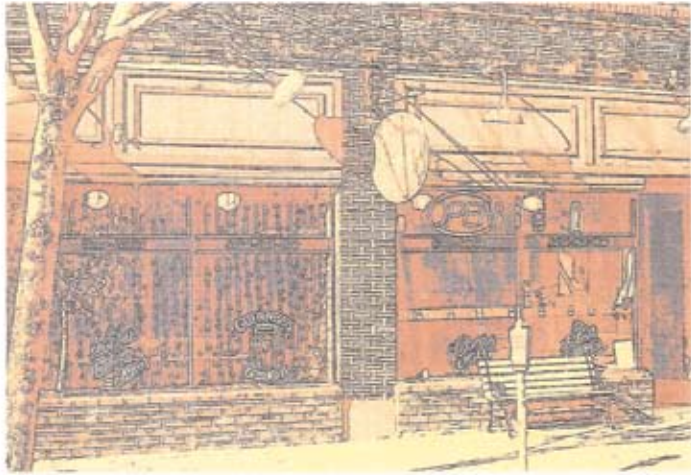
If you happen to visit the DL&W terminal and notice that the stone benches are covered by heavy duty plastic...don't despair, they are just being protected from the heavy salt deposits that drift down from the skyway. The Bricks for Buffalo project winterizes this park-like area annually to protect the commemorative benches and bricks from damage. The unveiling of newly engraved bricks and the cleanup of the area will take place in late Spring.

On The Cover: New Year's at the Electric Tower
Cover Photo Courtesy of Bob Adamski

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VIEW FROM CITY HALL

by Mayor Bryon W. Brown



2006 Development Year in Review

Downtown Buffalo is experiencing a development boom not seen in decades. From BlueCross/BlueShield of Western New York's new regional headquarters, to the New Era World Headquarters (including an attached retail store), Downtown Buffalo is again experiencing investment, development and the infusion of new jobs. Add to that the explosion of housing, with the focus on the Main Street corridor, and we have a recipe for the rebirth of Downtown Buffalo as a 24/7 live, work and recreate environment.

During the first year of my administration, we have experienced \$3 billion in economic development activity throughout the City, with a significant portion of that activity occurring throughout the downtown core of Buffalo, an area outlined and documented in the award-winning Queen City Hub Plan. The plan presents the vision and key priorities for implementation of all aspects of development - particularly housing and economic development activities - and the plan protects the history of Buffalo while identifying strategic investment opportunities.

Downtown Buffalo is the fastest growing residential area in the Region. Long dormant buildings and properties are now the focus of residential redevelopment. The former Statler Hotel has a new owner, who has unveiled an exciting \$80 million residential and commercial development plan for the building. The AM&A's building also has a new owner who has a workable plan and financing to make its redevelopment a reality and we have a significant commitment of \$50 million from the Community Preservation Corporation to rebuild the 500 block of Main Street. That comes in addition to the new residential units opened this year, such as the IS Lofts and the Granite Works.

For too long, Buffalo was seen as a shadow of its former self. Now, we are seeing industrial warehouses transformed into trendy lofts, an empty brownfield hosting a beautiful building, and the nondescript Federal Reserve building redone as a magnificent glass and metal structure. Yes, the landscape of Downtown Buffalo is changing. But, we are also preserving our history, as outlined in the Queen City Hub plan. The BlueCross/BlueShield of Western New York project protected the historic façade of the former Buffalo Gasworks, the Guaranty Building has been restored to its original glory, the Granite Works, in the 800 block of Main Street restored burned out buildings to their original look, and the 1970's stucco façade at the Courtyard Mall property at 460 Main Street is now gone and the developers are returning the original red brick.

Fashion Department

by Giovanni Centurione



With winter already here and the weather getting colder, we Buffalonians know what it is like to stay warm. One downtown retailer to take advantage of for winter clothing is Tent City, also known as the Washington Surplus Store, located at 674 Main Street, in the Theatre District. Tent City carries a wide variety of clothing for the entire family with sports and outerwear, leather jackets and winter coats, work

clothes, shoes, boots and camping gear. Looking for top names? Tent City carries them all - Timberland, Nike, Carhartt, Columbia and more.

Tent City has been a mainstay in Downtown Buffalo. Originally located at 29 Seneca Street (now Dunn Tire Park), it relocated to 730 Main Street and has been at its current location, 674 Main Street, since 1977.

The Kushner and Maxick family has owned and operated Tent City downtown for 70 years, through the good times as well as the bad times. And, as Neil Maxick says "We don't plan on leaving downtown anytime soon, we've been here almost 70 years now."

So support a downtown businesses like Tent City and leave with something warm and stylish.

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674 Main St. - 716-853-1515
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Gayborhood Watch

by Bryan James Whitley

The ball has dropped, the streets are still littered with the signs of another year's revelry, resolutions have been made and a few probably already broken. What is it about New Year's that makes us so willing to resolve the things about ourselves that we have all year long to work on, but don't? It's hope, community, and maybe a little bit of the alcohol. For the LGBT communities of western New York, downtown Buffalo speaks to all three of these.

As the second largest city in the State of New York and one of the largest New Year's Eve celebrations in the US, downtown Buffalonians stampede into the New Year January 31 of each passing year. The celebration grows each year bringing more people into our community for at least one night that will make them want to return more throughout the coming year. As the gayborhood grows and changes, bringing in new businesses and new housing, nightlife, and residents from all over the world, so do we grow as a community.

I hope this New Year finds all of our readers healthy and happy, still full of resolve to making downtown Buffalo one of the most successful, revitalized urban communities in America, if not the world. We are fast on our way towards this goal and with continued hope, community, and a little bit of alcohol, we'll make it. Happy New Year!

HORIZON REALTY

- the new kid on the block

There is a new kid in town in the building management game. Horizon Realty, a California based real estate investment partnership, entered the Buffalo market early last year making a big splash in so doing.

Horizon purchased 22 properties in the Downtown, Allentown, and Elmwood Village areas and has refurbished or is refurbishing almost all. The total purchase price for their portfolio was \$11.6 million. Their holdings include 388 apartments and one commercial building which serves as its local headquarters.

But the crown jewel in their portfolio is 49 Johnson Park. This was at one time a prominent location built in the late 1800's. It was built on the property of Dr. Ebenezer Johnson, Buffalo's first mayor. This "magnificent home" was completed in 1834 in the midst of Buffalo's heyday. This building and others were built on the Johnson estate. Johnson's Cottage, as it was known, was a 24 room "Palladian Villa" situated on 30 acres of prime Buffalo real estate. However, the fortunes of Buffalo and Dr. Johnson hit hard times simultaneously and Dr. Johnson sold all of his property and moved away from Buffalo. But he left behind the legacy of Johnson's Cottage and Johnson Park.

During the 1850's the estate was sold and the property parceled off into Johnson Park, Johnson Place and Rumsey Place. A home at 49 Johnson Park, built in 1895 was converted into a hotel in time for the Pan American Exposition in 1901. Thereafter, the once proud building at 49 Johnson Park and others in the neighborhood fell on hard times



49 Johnson Park Exterior



Interior (Apartment of Kerriann Chambers)

Horizon Realty's purchase of 49 Johnson last year signaled a new beginning to a tarnished remnant of an gilded age gone by. But the change of hands itself was not going to undo all the past misery that decades of neglect had caused to this and other properties that Horizon had purchased.

Two days after Horizon Realty closed on the purchase of 49 Johnson Park, the building was raided by SWAT teams, gaining entry by busting down the apartment buildings' front door and

the doors to seven inner apartments. Mike Hananel, Horizon's COO recalls "I pulled up and found many of our tenants in the hallway in handcuffs. It was a rude awakening and I realized at that moment that we had a huge challenge and a lot of work in front of us to clean up this building."

But before the work could begin drug users broke into an apartment and started a fire in one of the units. To put out the fire the firefighters had to knock down 9 doors and knock out 11 windows. Horizon has now instituted a zero tolerance policy in its buildings against trespassers, loiterers or any others who may be engaged in illegal or illicit activity.

But Horizon was committed to the project. So they went to work. They cleared out 80% of the tenants; painted the interior hallways and added gold leaf trim, they installed new carpets in the hallways and new mail boxes. The marble in the entrance way was cleaned and repaired, a new chandelier was placed over the stairway. Inside the apartments were also rehabbed. New paint and carpeting, new fixtures and working gas fireplaces are in place in each of the 33 units.

The exterior of the building was freshly painted, they removed the moss and vines that were growing up the side of the building and cleaned and cleared the brush and trash that had accumulated after years and years of neglect. 49 Johnson Park is once again a jewel in Buffalo's crown and Horizon Realty has demonstrated that it too is a part of the City of Good Neighbors.

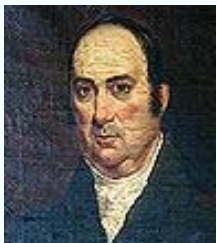
Johnson Park and Elmwood Village are once again bright, vibrant and living reminders of Buffalo's glamorous past. Hananel rightly boasts that they have filled 49 Johnson Park with "fantastic tenants who are working professionals, college students, teachers and college professors, medical residents and others."

And Hananel says "We're proud to be a part of the revitalization effort going on all around downtown Buffalo. Horizon's list of properties includes 49 Johnson; 519 and 520, Virginia, 228 Summer; 197 North 201, 209, 217, 257 Elmwood, 416 - 424 Jersey, 2435 Delaware, 945 W. Ferry and an office complex at 257 Elmwood.

EBENEZER JOHNSON

Physician-Politician-Philanthroper

by Paul McQuillen



Ebenezer Johnson



The Johnson Cottage

Ebenezer Johnson (1786-1849) was the first Mayor of Buffalo when the city was incorporated in 1832. He declined a second term, but served again in 1834 as Buffalo's third mayor. During the War of 1812, Doctor Johnson accepted an appointment as assistant surgeon to the New York State Volunteers. After the war, Johnson returned to Buffalo and established a drug store and was also active in real estate, construction and ultimately business and banking. By 1832, Johnson was among the wealthiest Buffalonians.

Dr. Johnson purchased 100 acres of land north of the city, bounded by Delaware Avenue, Chippewa, Tracy, Carolina Streets and Whitney Place. There he built a magnificent home on Delaware Avenue. The Johnson Cottage, as it was called, occupied 30 acres of prime Buffalo real estate with an artificial lake and wild animals roamed free about his property.

Johnson speculated heavily in land in Buffalo in the early 1830's. But when the bottom fell out of the market beginning around 1833 he was forced to begin selling his investments. In 1834 a portion of the Johnson estate became the site of the Philander Hodge House, which was to become the Buffalo Club from 1870 to 1887. In 1917 it was demolished and the Delaware Court was built at the corner of Delaware and Chippewa.

By 1836 the market had bottomed out and Johnson lost most, if not all, of his fortune, and in 1837 he was forced to sell his estate. Johnson left Buffalo and traveled to Tennessee where he died on September 23, 1849.

A few years after Johnson sold his estate and left Buffalo, the grounds were divided into Johnson Park and Johnson Place, and the lake became part of Rumsey Park. The Johnson Cottage served as the first home of the Buffalo Female Academy (1851) which became the Buffalo Seminary (1889). The Rumsey family sold Rumsey Park around 1914. By 1915, Rumsey Lake was filled in and subdivided, making it possible to extend Elmwood Avenue from Virginia Street into downtown.

Johnson had served 2 terms as mayor and had previously been Surrogate of Niagara County, which included the Village of Buffalo from 1815 to 1821; Erie County Surrogate, after it separated from Niagara County, from 1828 to 1832; charter member of the Erie County Medical Society; and Buffalo Village Trustee from 1822 to 1825.

But, Ebenezer Johnson's legacy to the City of Buffalo is Johnson Park and Elmwood Avenue. A once proud, distinguished and vibrant property on the outskirts of Downtown Buffalo, is once again returned to its elegance and prominence.

FREE ICE SKATING AT ROTARY RINK

by Giovanni Centurione



It's that time of year again, time to get your skates and head on over to Rotary Rink at Fountain Plaza to enjoy Downtown's only Free Ice Skating Rink. Open daily except Mondays, this is the perfect place to come to on your lunch break, after work or weekend getaway.

Experience a cool place to skate surrounded by beautiful Buffalo buildings such as Key

Center Towers, Bank of American and M&T Center. Snacks are available at the new and improved concession stand during operations, with such goodies as pizza, hot dogs, nachos, cookies, candies, coffee, tea, cappuccino, soda's, fruit drinks and more.

Looking for a fun and unique place to host your upcoming party or special event? Book today as group rates and party packages are available.

Don't have a pair of skates? No problem, rentals are available for \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

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JOHNSON PARK AND THE WEST VILLAGE

by Marilyn Rodgers

Deeded to the City of Buffalo in 1837 by its first mayor, Ebenezer Johnson, Johnson Park is the first established park in Buffalo, NY. Ebenezer saw many other sites in cities he visited and wanted the same type of Green Space for a gathering point of leisure and information. It is with his 170 year-old vision in mind that the residents of the West Village, particularly the Board of the West Village Renaissance Group (WVRG), intend to make this historic Green a great public space.

Forgotten by many for a few decades, Johnson Park has recently experienced a surge of attention. One little known fact is that the green space was included in Frederick Law Olmsted's 1868 Redesign Plan for the parks and parkways of Buffalo. To this day, this recognition has been widely disregarded,



except for the residents of the West Village. Originally, the parkland was the site of an artificial lake, a deer park, and an orchard directly behind Mayor Johnson's Cottage. The Green, along with the surrounding streets that make up this triple-designated historic district (city, state, and National) is lined with pre-Civil War Homes and tremendous architecture. This area is now under the watchful eye of the WVRG and many historians to assure the integrity and original purpose of Buffalo's most continually resided-in neighborhood.

The WVRG has partnered with Councilmember Brian C. Davis for a complete reseeding of the Green in 2007. Additional plans will be disclosed as further funding is identified. The expectation is to incorporate students from elementary to high school to university level in further

redevelopment that will include a jogging ring around the 1.1-acre oval and additional garden space for locals and tourists to view and enjoy. The most tremendous goal, however, is to add a conservatory that would allow a warm spot during harsh winter months, a place for starting new plants in the spring, and an education center for students of all ages learning about conservation, botany, history, and engineering.

The WVRG invites our new neighbors in the surrounding Downtown area to use this spot as theirs. With the influx of loft development, Johnson Park can be the destination that our first mayor dreamed of - a peaceful green space that provides an area for relaxation and informational meetings. However, none of this will be possible without strong partnership between residents, government, and businesses. It is the goal of the WVRG to assure these partnerships are created and maintained so Mayor Johnson's vision is redeveloped for future generations either living here or stopping by to learn the history and heritage that he left in our capable hands.

For more information on Johnson Park and the West Village, go to: www.westvillage-buffalo.com.

IN AND AROUND MY DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

by Jill Benker-Beck

Happy New Year!

Thanks for reading this, my debut column, about my experiences as a downtown resident...the good...the bad -- and the ugly. I purchased my home just south of Chippewa less than two years ago and to date, the good far out weighs the bad (though ugly definitely exists in spite of sincere efforts to counter it.)

The ultimate bad and horrifically ugly occurred at 9:07 P.M. on December 5th. Shots rang out and within a few short minutes, two B District police officers were shot in the line of duty. I was on my way home at the time and soon came upon what looked like a scene out of CSI. There were flashing lights and various T.V. reporters doing live feeds. From my position on Elmwood, it appeared that the trouble was directly behind my home. I felt a moment of panic and prayed that my home and my daughter were safe.

The police allowed me to proceed though they didn't tell me what was going on. When I got to my house, I was relieved to see that my daughter was ok. I thanked God that whatever was going on didn't impact me or my family.

I called a neighbor and learned the horrible news about the cold blooded shootings of Officer Patti Perete and Carl Andolino. I felt deep sorrow and then, a sense of guilt. I quickly realized that I'd been wrong: what happened DID have an impact on me, and my family.

I recognized that I'd been taking for granted the services provided by the men and women of B District. Yes, I know my tax dollars pay for police protection and that those who choose to become officers are aware of the dangers. I haven't I always agreed with the PBA, but that in no way diminishes my sincere respect and admiration for the men and women in law enforcement who protect my downtown neighborhood.

One week later, at approximately the same time, hundreds of people gathered to pay tribute to Officers Andolino and Perete. Pleas were made for change - and an end to the senseless violence. Community members raised their voices in support for the officers who protect our streets, our neighborhoods and our homes. Speeches were made and songs were sung, and I walked through the crowd that included police officers from throughout the area as well as firefighters who protect our homes and rescue us. I gave thanks for all of them.

Having seen first hand the pain and sorrow in their expressions, I realized that all too often the simple "thank you" is left unsaid. Let's resolve to make this the year we remember to thank those who protect and serve. All of us want the quality of our neighborhoods to improve. Together we can succeed - and replace events like last month's vigil with celebrations of our community's courage.

DOWNTOWN LIVING OPTIONS KEEP GROWING IN BUFFALO

By Jessica Keltz

The end of 2006 in downtown Buffalo saw the unveiling of four top-of-the-line units in the Pierce Building and a flurry of announcements that new apartment buildings will come online in 2007.

In the Pierce Building, located right on Main Street in the Theatre District, each of the \$2,500/month units feature ceiling-high windows overlooking Shea's Performing Arts Center. "When the marquee is lit up it's just magical," said Carolyn Murray, director of business development for developers The Plaza Group.


In addition to 50-inch plasma televisions, 1,800 square feet of space and "more closet space than you can imagine," in Murray's words, the units feature wet bars, hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, in-unit laundry, televised security, 2 bedrooms and one and a half bathrooms. Murray describes the style as "kind of a loft with elegance" - although duct-work is exposed, the units have a softer touch than many high-end downtown lofts with classic woodwork, ornate ceiling fans and off-white kitchen cabinets. For more information on the Pierce Building, call 874-4880.

Eran Epstein, head of E Square Capital and developer of the pioneering Holling Place Apartments on Washington Street, says work has begun on his latest downtown development, which will give residents the opportunity to own their living space. The project, located at 504 Washington Street across the street from Holling Place, will feature three duplex townhouses. Each townhouse will have a 3,500-square-foot "owner's unit" with two bedrooms and an office and a 1,500-square-foot rental unit with one bedroom and an office. In addition, the sale price of \$300,000 plus will include a two-car garage. Epstein says he hopes to offer the first unit for sale in February or March. For more information, E Square Capital can be reached at 884-8213.

Signature Development, the company that brought Buffalo the IS Lofts, Ellicott Lofts and Oak School Apartments, is also hard at work on a new downtown project, this time on Pearl Street. Rocco Termini of Signature said that the Webb building, located at 92 Pearl, is slated to become 32 loft apartments and a two-story day care center. He expects to rent out the first units in August. Termini said most of the units will have two bedrooms and span about 1,100 square feet, with a few one-bedroom units in the mix. Rents will run about \$1,075 per month.


To keep in the loop about development news downtown, sign up for the weekly Buffalo Place E-Report. Email or call Jessica Keltz at the address and phone number below to get connected.

Jessica Keltz works as Downtown Living Coordinator for Buffalo Place, Inc. For more



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HORIZON REALTY

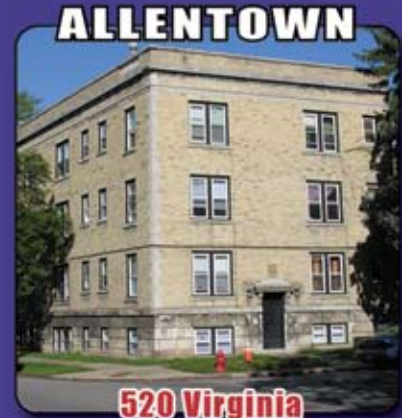
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Landmark Series

by Paul McQuillen

BUFFALO'S MILLARD FILLMORE BECOMES PRESIDENT

Sworn in as 13th President upon Death of Zachary Taylor



Millard Fillmore was born in a cabin in the Finger Lakes on January 7, 1800 and rose to become the 13th President of the United States. Along the way, Fillmore built a lucrative law practice in Buffalo, served in the New York State Assembly and the United States Congress. Fillmore was also the first Comptroller of New York State and Vice President of the United States.

Fillmore came to Buffalo in 1830 at the age of 30 with his wife Abigail and their two children. He opened a law office and soon rose to become one of the more prominent attorneys in the city. While practicing law, Fillmore became active in local politics and was elected to the NYS Assembly in 1828 and to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1832. He was elected again in 1836 and served three more terms (he did not run in 1834). He was elected NYS Comptroller in 1847, but at the Whig Convention in 1848 he was nominated to run as Vice-President with Mexican War hero Zachary Taylor.



Grave of Millard Fillmore at Forest Lawn

Taylor and Fillmore won a close election and took office on March 4, 1849, during the period when the issue of slavery was threatening to tear the nation apart. The Presidency of Zachary Taylor was a short one, he died suddenly on July 9, 1850 and Millard Fillmore was sworn in as President the next day.

Fillmore assumed office during a time of extreme national division over the question of slavery. Fillmore supported and enforced the Compromise of 1850, which included the admission of California as a free state, banning slavery in the District of Columbia and the enactment of the Fugitive Slave Law. But, because of his support for the Compromise

he lost the support of Northern Whigs. Ultimately, Fillmore was denied the Presidential nomination of the Whig party for re-election in 1852. Four years later he was received the nomination for President of the Know-Nothing (American) party. He was defeated by the election of James Buchanan and left the White House on March 4, 1853. He returned to his law practice in Buffalo where his wife Abigail died later that year.

Fillmore is mostly remembered for his support of Compromise of 1850, federal aid to build railroads and for the (Commodore) Perry Treaty which led the way to the opening of trade with Japan. But Fillmore left his legacy in Buffalo in other ways as well. He was the first chancellor of the University of Buffalo, serving from 1846 until his death. He was also a founder of Buffalo General Hospital and a founder and the first president of the Buffalo Historical Society.

Fillmore remarried in 1858 and he and his second wife, Caroline purchased a home in what is now Niagara Square. The Fillmores lived in that home until the former President's death on March 8, 1874. The home was thereafter converted into the Fillmore Hotel. It was renovated in 1901 for the Pan American Exposition and renamed the Castle Inn. The Castle Inn was demolished in 1919 to make way for the Hotel Statler (now Statler Towers).

Famous guests of the Fillmore Hotel included John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln and Commodore Perry.

Fillmore died in Buffalo on March 7, 1874. He and his wife Abigail are buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Below is a listing of the markers or monuments, their location and significance.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Millard Fillmore Statue | Outside Buffalo City Hall | Dedicated by NYS to an "Illustrious Citizen of Buffalo" |
| 2. Millard Fillmore Home | YWCA - Franklin Street | Fillmore Home 1831 - 1858 |
| 3. Millard Fillmore House | Niagara Square Area - Statler Towers | Fillmore Home 1858 - 1874 |
| 4. Millard Fillmore's Grave | Forest Lawn Cemetery | Gravesite of President and Mrs. (Abigail) Fillmore |

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Angry Tuna pictured



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- FUTSUSHU SAKE
- ZIPANG (SPARKLING)
- NIGORI SAKE
- ★ SHADOW OF KATANO
- PREMIUM SAKE
- STAR FILLED SKY
- DREAM
- HORIN
- KAKUREI
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ple grain of rice is amazing. Our favorite was a Nigori; "Shadow of Katano." Unfiltered, it was cold and smooth with a grainy texture and hints of vanilla. The highlight of our meal was the "Toro" fatted tuna on the Sashimi Platter. Polled Comments: "An amazing place for intimate mouthwatering pleasures...I look forward to this every week." "It was my first time eating sushi and I was a little scared, but I'll be back...It was great."



SPORTS

by Ben Matlock

SEASONS CHANGE PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

As the seasons change in Buffalo, so too, do they change in sports. Fall becomes winter, we usher out 2006 and welcome 2007. As we usher out the Bills; the Sabres are half way through their season and the Bandits begin. Fall ends, winter begins and so does 2007. Seasons change, the years change and life goes on. Sports imitate life; promise challenges us all.

The Bills conclude a mediocre season, and as with our four seasons, theirs offers promise for the future. The Sabres continue on their torrid quest for the Holy Grail (Stanley Cup) building off of the promise of their last season (Conference finals). And so too with the Bandits, as they begin a new season buoyed by the success of last season (Championship finals) and the promise of the new year. Life goes on and sports endure and offer the promise of the future.

SABRES' SHORTS

The Sabres continued their torrid pace through the holidays and remain atop the Eastern Conference standings with 29 wins and 61 points. They are second in the NHL in points behind the Anaheim Ducks (62), who have played 2 more games than the Sabres. The Sabres are currently riding a four game winning streak after a victory on New Year's Day.

In voting for the NHL All-Star teams the Sabres' Goaltender Ryan Miller and defenseman Brian Campbell are number one in voting at their respective positions. Forwards Daniel Briere and Maxim Afinogenov are third and fourth respectively. Official results will be released shortly.

BANDITS' BITS

The Buffalo Bandits open the home portion of their 2006-2007 season with a game against the New York Titans on January 12th at 7:30pm at the HSBC Arena. This season's Bandits are out to avenge their Championship loss. Buffalo lost to Portland in their season opener 11-10 in overtime. The Bandits John Tavares scored two goals to move him to within 46 goals of becoming the leagues' all-time leading goal scorer.

DOWNTOWNER SPORTS NOTES

If you missed for Christmas, don't forget to pick up Rick Jenneret's DVD "Top Shelf", highlights of some of the Sabres best play and Jenneret's best calls.

The world famous Harlem Globetrotters will visit Buffalo on Friday, February 9th. Game time is 7:00pm at the HSBC Arena.

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DOWNTOWN HAPPENINGS

Buffalo Tours

January 2nd
**"Downtown Buffalo
 – Best Designed City"**
 Market Arcade Film & Arts Centre



January 9th
**"Downtown Buffalo
 – Three 19th Century
 Presidents"**
 Market Arcade Film & Arts Centre



January 16th
**"Downtown Buffalo
 – Chicago Meets Buffalo"**
 Market Arcade Film & Arts Centre



January 23rd
**"Downtown Buffalo
 – Underground Railroad"**
 Market Arcade Film & Arts Centre



January 30th
**"Downtown Buffalo
 – Underground Buffalo"**
 Market Arcade Film & Arts Centre



January 5th & 6th
Brides' World
 Buffalo Niagara Convention Center
 5th – 5:30pm – 8:30pm; 6th – 10:30am – 4:00pm



Jan 5th - 28th
The Syringa Tree
 Studio Arena Theatre
 710 Main Street
 January 12th – February 11th
 The Birthday Party
 Irish Classical Theatre, Andrews Theatre
 625 Main Street
 Thursday thru Saturday 7:30pm
 Matinees – Sat. 3:00pm; Sun. 2:00pm
 Tickets \$35 - \$40



Jan. 20th 8 PM
Supernova Rockstar Live
 Shea's Performing Arts Center
 646 Main Street
 January 23rd – 8:00pm
 Artemis Quartet, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
 Kleinhans Music Hall
 838-2383, www.bflochambermusic.org
 \$20.00 General/\$10.00 Student



Jan. 21st - 2 PM
Silent Film Festival
 Shea's Performing Art Center
 646 Main Street
 Films to be announced
 Free Family Entertainment



January 24th – 28th
**Disney on Ice – Mickey &
 Minnie's Magical Journey**
 HSBC Arena
 (888) 223-6000, www.hsbcarena.com
 www.tickets.com, \$13.00 - \$45.00



Jan. 27th - 8 PM
**A Night of Improv
 Comedy Shea's Smith
 Theatre**
 660 Main Street



January 27th – 8:00pm
Buffalo Legends
 Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
 Kleinhans Music Hall
 885-5000
 www.bpo.org



January 28th – 2:30pm
**Mozart's Birthday
 Celebration**
 Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
 Kleinhans Music Hall
 885-5000
 www.bpo.org



January 29th
**"After the Hustle and Bustle
 of the Holidays Rush
 Party"**
 The Chocolate Bar
 Chippewa Street
 www.WorkingforDowntown.com



January 31st – February 4th
**Sesame Street Live
 – Super Grover**
 Shea's Performing Arts Center
 646 Main Street
 www.sheas.org
 \$10.00 - \$27.00



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 TheDowntowner@TheBuffaloDowntowner.com

ONGOING EVENTS

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 CENTURY GRILL**
 Business and Social Happy Hour
 320 Pearl Street
 Every Thursday through April, 2007 – 5:00pm to
 8:00pm

WFD Weekly Bash
 Call: 881-5670 or e-mail: Newscast169@Yahoo.
 com

BROWN BAG LUNCH
 ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
 January 3, 2007 – Noon
 Luncheon theme "Buffalo Now"
 Guest – Jake Schneider – "Warehouse Lofts"
 – Former Seneca Paper Bldg
 www.WorkingforDowntown.org

BUFFALO FILM SEMINAR
 MARKET ARCADE FILMS AND ARTS
 CENTRE
 Every Tuesday
 http://www.BuffaloFilmSeminars.com

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE
 BUFFALO ARCHITECTURE CENTER
 Market Arcade
 Presented by the Landmark Society of the Niagara
 Frontier
 12:00noon to 1:00pm
 Free – Open to the Public

CONCERTS
 ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
 128 Pearl Street
 Fridays 12:30pm
 Free – Open to the Public

CHORAL EVENING PRAYER
 ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
 128 Pearl Street
 Tues., Weds., Thurs., 5:45pm
 Free – Open to the Public
 www.MusicatSt.Pauls.org

CITY HALL TOURS
 CITY HALL LOBBY
 Weekdays - Noon to 1:00pm
 Free – Open to the Public

DOWNTOWN WALKING
 LANDMARK SOCIETY TOURS
 Market Arcade
 617 Main Street
 Tuesdays, 1:15pm to 3:15pm
 /www.buffalotours.com
 \$10.00

SHEA'S HISTORIC TOURS
 646 MAIN STREET
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 No tour if 1:00pm Show
 847-1410 ext. 184

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