

# ments B campus Bevilacqua

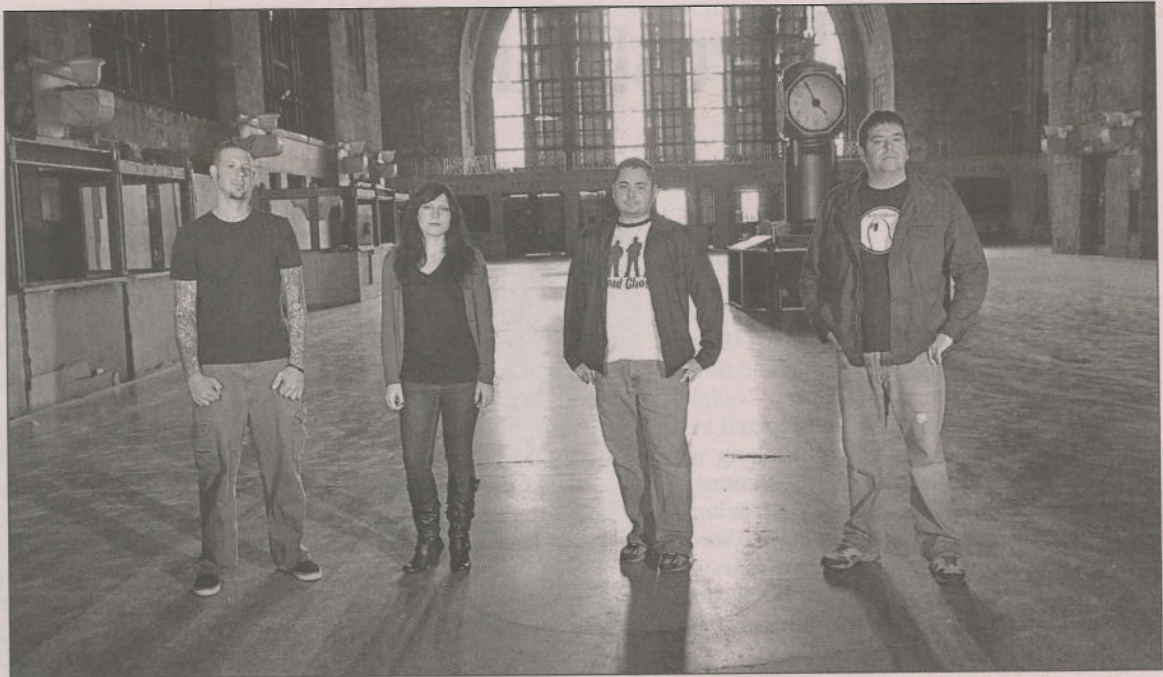
development costs  
the project could  
approach \$20 million.  
liminary plans call for  
four-story buildings  
and a 90-room hotel.

occupying between 1,000 and  
0 square feet. The apartments  
have hardwood floors, marble  
granite countertops and a  
number of amenities.

Bevilacqua said he is negotiat-  
ing with a national chain to bring  
a 100-room hotel to the property.  
The entire complex is being  
designed in a town square motif,  
similar to those seen in South  
Dartmouth, Ind., near the University of  
Indiana, and in Reston, Va.  
The buildings will feature an  
American design, along with  
brick-like street pavers, landscap-  
ing and benches.

This works because we are a  
meter project to UB," Bevilac-  
qua said. "This is being designed  
as an attractive place to live, work  
and shop."

The Sweet Home project comes  
from Bevilacqua Development  
and this year welcomed the  
Commons on North French, a  
mixed-use complex, to its portfo-  
lio of suburban real estate hold-  
ings. The Commons on North  
French, located at North French  
and Transit roads, features a mix of  
retail, first-floor retail tenants and  
dozen upscale apartments. The  
apartments are all leased, most  
on two- and three-year con-  
tracts, and 18,000 square feet of  
retail space has also been leased.  
Bevilacqua said approximately  
100,000 square feet of retail space is  
available.



Beyond Ghosts LLC offers paranormal investigations and "ghost tours" at such landmarks as the Central Terminal downtown, led by (left to right) Brandon Bristow, technical manager; Chrissy Lis, investigator; and co-founders Ryan Willard and John Crocitto.

## 'Who ya gonna call?'

### Beyond Ghosts arranges expeditions into paranormal

BY TRACEY DRURY

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Anyone who has ever spent the night at Old Fort Niagara or on a ship at the Buffalo & Erie County Naval Park with a Scout group can tell you those old facilities can be pretty creepy when the sun goes down.

A Buffalo small business is helping those non-profits and others take advantage of that creepiness with late-night ghost hunts designed as fundraising opportunities.

Beyond Ghosts LLC has worked with several area sites to set up paranormal investigations, with a large portion of proceeds staying with the non-profit. Ryan Willard, one of three co-founders of the group, says historic sites offer a great location while giving the nonprofit an opportunity to earn revenue in a nontraditional way.

"It's a unique way to raise money that's low impact for them, with no setup or tear-down expenses," he says. "People want to get into these buildings."

Willard, who is also special events coordinator at the Central Terminal, formed the limited liability company with three friends in summer 2010 after running several ghost hunts and paranormal investigations beginning in February 2009. Other sites have included the Van Horn Mansion in Newfane and the Eagle House Restaurant in Williamsville, which combines dinner with a tour and lecture.

"It was a way for the Central Terminal to raise money when they really had no public funding," he says. "It also gives people an opportunity to get in there legally, safely and in a way that they can make additional profit."

The Naval Park netted about \$800 from a ghost hunt earlier this year, helping to augment its major sources of revenue, says Col. Patrick Cunningham, U.S. Army retired and executive director of the naval park.

John Branning, park superintendent, says the ships handle up to 20 paranormal investigations per year, most of them with small groups coming in for a four-hour rental for a \$250 donation. The charity events with Beyond Ghosts bring in even more, while helping raise awareness about the park. Though some have questioned whether the events exploit a National Historic Landmark, Branning says he welcomes anything that helps raise awareness and creates additional exposure.

Three events remain before Halloween. Tickets for the Oct. 21 event at Old Fort Niagara are \$50 apiece and include a historic tour and a short lecture based on claims of paranormal activity. The weekend of Oct. 28-29, the Beyond Ghosts team will split up to participate in events at the Central Terminal, with options including a \$20 candlelight tour, \$50 for group ghost hunts and \$100 for a private paranormal investigation at the downtown Buffalo site; and back at the Naval Park.

ware North expect minimal impact from NBA dispute