



COMMUNITY NEWS

Publishers of North Buffalo Rocket, West Side Times & Riverside Times

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Memories

From the Buffalo Rocket archives



Back in the seventies, Sunshine's Supermarket occupied the corner of Hertel and Parkside. It is now Walgreens. Pictured in this photo taken in the 70's is Joe Sunshine in the middle, his two sons Mel and Seymore on the left, former Mayor Stanley Makowski, and at the time, Councilman Tony Masciello in the back. Joe Bortz is in the striped jacket and Paul Downing on the right.

Continued on page six.

Continued on page six.



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Local Weather

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Sabres Win Streak Reaches Ten

The Sabres hit the repeat button on their formula they have worked to perfection in putting together a nine game winning streak. Get outplayed with their goaltender holding the opposition at bay then score a timely goal and skate off the ice with another victory.

The San Jose Sharks were a formidable opponent Tuesday night at the Keybank Center. With the twin towers Erik Karlsson and Brent Burns on defense, the Sharks can always present a game controlling, Norris Trophy caliber, attacking defenseman on ice for the 60 minutes, sometimes both at the same time when needed.

Karlsson had been the NHL's dominant offensive defenseman for Ottawa, even rivaling Connor McDavid as the league's best player until his trade to San Jose this past summer. This game presented an interesting subplot as the Sabres Rasmus Dahlin would be competing against his Swedish countryman while apprenticing to be the heir to Karlsson as the games best defender.

In a cautiously played game, the Sabres held a 1-0 lead after two periods with the Sharks holding a 21-16 edge in shots and

a significant edge in play. The goal was scored by Rasmus Ristolainen who looked like Mario Lemieux as he rushed into the San Jose zone on his off wing pulling the puck between his legs before going around Burns like a hoop on a barrel before cutting



Jeff Skinner OT winner vs San Jose Sharks.

in on goalie Martin Jones and shooting the puck into the far top corner.

Early in the third period Nathan Beaulieu beat Jones off a feed by Even Rodriguez to become the second Sabres defenseman to score on the night giving Buffalo a 2-0 lead.

San Jose got on the scoreboard when captain Joe Pavelski scored with 8:31 remaining in the third period. Pavelski scored again on a power play with 3:18 remaining to tie the

score 2-2 sending the game to overtime. With momentum on their side as well as the twin towers patrolling the ice in the 3 on 3 OT format it looked like the win streak was in jeopardy.

But the Sabres found a way to win again when Dahlin carried the puck to the Sharks' net before Jones poked the puck off his stick. Jeff Skinner picked up the loose puck and went to his backhand and scored his 19th goal with 1:41 left. The goal was Skinner's 18th in his last 18 games, tying Patrick Leine of Winnipeg for the league lead. Skinner is the first Sabre to con-

tribute two winning goals during the win streak. Nine different players had scored the winning goal during the first nine games of the streak. Carter Hutton blocked 26 shots for the win.

The Sabres go on the road for three games beginning in Tampa Bay Thursday, Florida Friday and Nashville next Monday before facing the Toronto Maple Leafs in Buffalo on Tuesday, December 4th.

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Realty USA.....2427 Sheridan Drive
Scissors.....1497 Hertel Avenue
Shadow Lounge.....1504 Hertel Avenue
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Concerned Ecumenical Ministry.....286 Lafayette Avenue
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M&T Bank.....788 Tonawanda Street
Nickel City Bottle Return.....2209 Niagara Street
Northwest Buffalo Community Ctr.....155 Lawn Avenue
Riverside Cafe.....Tonawanda Street
Riverside Marketplace.....740 Tonawanda Street
Roland Cannizzaro Insurance Agency.....432 Amherst Street
Tops Market.....385 Amherst Street
West Hertel Liquor.....699 Hertel Avenue

WEST SIDE

Baptist Manor.....276 Linwood Avenue
Bavarian Nut Company.....822 Elmwood Avenue
Between Yesterday & Tomorrow.....88 Grant Street
Buffalo State College.....1300 Elmwood Avenue
Dibble Hardware.....262 W. Ferry Street
Buffalo Public Library.....Niagara at Porter
CWJ Lock & Key.....183 Forest Ave

The Grapevine

Join the Burchfield Penney, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, for their Annual Holiday Gift & Art Sale More than 50 WNY artists are part of this very special three-day event. Friday, November 30th, 12-8 pm, Saturday, December 1st, 10 am - 5 pm, Sunday, December 2nd, 11 am - 4 pm. The event is free. RSVP on Facebook and invite your friends at www.Facebook.com/BurchfieldPenney



Buffalo Seminary Holiday Bazaar will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar on December 8th from 10 am until 3 pm, at 205 Bidwell Parkway. The holiday market is a long-standing, family-friendly holiday shopping tradition. Find perfect gifts of jewelry, photography, art, fashion, bath & beauty, and housewares, a basket raffle and door prizes. Proceeds benefit the Buffalo Seminary Scholarship Fund.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo's, 695 Elmwood Avenue at West Ferry, 10th Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Show to be held Saturday, December 8th, from 10 am to 4 pm, free admission. A Holiday shopping tradition that offers a wide selection of unique and eclectic handcrafted items and collectibles in one of Buffalo's historic church halls, a church of English Country Gothic design, a stunning example of early 20th Century Arts and Crafts aesthetic. For further information on the show, email uu-craftshow@gmail.com.



Polka music fans are asked to bring winter, holiday, and personal items to benefit St. Luke's Mission of Mercy to the annual Christmas Sing-Along, hosted by Buffalo's Special Delivery Band. St. Luke's Mission of Mercy is an independent Mission in the Roman Catholic Tradition in the

inner city of Buffalo, New York. It does not receive money from the government or the Diocese. Its ministry depends on donations to continue its service to the community. Items needed by St. Luke's include:

WINTER NEEDS: Medications: Pain relievers, cold and allergy medications, cough drops, etc. for both children and adults. (Please, no prescription drugs).

EVERYDAY NEEDS: Clean and gently-used clothing, shoes and boots, linens, toys; candy; baby diapers; wipes and formula (Enfamil is preferred); toilet paper; paper towels; tissues and small-size personal hygiene products.

CODE BLUE NEEDS: Men's sweatshirts, t-shirts, socks, blankets, and sheets.

DONATIONS. Checks (no cash, please) made out to "ST. LUKE'S MISSION OF MERCY" with "HOL-

IDAY FOOD BASKETS" in the reference line.

This year's Christmas Sing-Along will be held Saturday, December 15 at Pott's Banquet Hall, 41 S. Rossler Ave., Cheektowaga, from 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm. Doors will open at

6:00 pm. For table reservations, call Ted at 688-9101. To help St. Luke's Mission directly with a monetary donation, send check or money order to St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, P.O. Box 448, Buffalo, NY 14215

ADOPT A PET
This Week's Featured Friend:
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Susie is a beautiful young tabby with a gorgeous white bib. This young lady is sweet and friendly and is looking for a home of her own. Susie is residing at Petsmart on Elmwood waiting for her furrever. She's our longest stay kitty and has grown to adulthood during her wait. She is not great with cats, but may get along if she has her "own space." However, definitely no dogs as she is really scared by them. She is a very smart girl & listens to directions when given. She loves to snuggle next to her human. She has a reduced adoption fee since she really needs to find her favorite peep. She's been very patient while waiting so I hope you find it in your heart to take a chance on her. She is super playful since she is young and has been bored just sitting in a cage. She has a lot of energy and calories to burn. Come visit her at Petsmart on Elmwood Avenue in the Tops Plaza.
Pet ID 39141210

[See the video on our Facebook page!](#)

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King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Woodsy home
6 Buddy
9 Lawyers' org.
12 Russian pan-cakes
13 "— -la-la!"
14 CSA soldier
15 Big name in porcelain
16 Expression of regret
18 Find
20 Flightless flock
21 E.T.'s transport
23 Previous night
24 Wherewithal
25 Tatters
27 Robin Hood's missile
29 Tiers
31 Big river
35 Helicopter part
37 Bygone times
38 Go around the world?
41 Wager
43 Table scrap
44 Gaucho's weapon
45 Antenna
47 Green field?
49 Amorphous masses
52 Reggae-like music
53 Tiny

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						13			14	
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44				45			46			
47				48			49		50	51
52				53			54			
55				56			57			

DOWN
1 "NCIS" ailer
2 Jungfrau, for one
3 High school science course
4 — -European
5 Family girl
6 Straw hat
7 Lasso

8 Discoverer's cry
9 Scent
10 Started
11 Big canyon
17 Maneuvering room
19 Sailor's "Halt!"
21 Cyber-address
22 Air safety org.
24 Mid-May honoree
26 Soap opera, e.g.
28 Harder to find
30 Deteriorate
32 Fauna study

33 Bobby of hockey
34 Trawler need
36 Followed orders
38 Not just chubby
39 Ice cubes, slangily
40 Swell
42 Snug
45 Census data
46 Winged
48 Fly-by-night?
50 Clear the tables
51 Collection

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Northwest Buffalo Beat

by Joe Bortz

Rats In The Cellar

The demographics of the City of Buffalo have changed dramatically since the early fifties. That was when I was a gas meter reader for the then Iroquois Gas Company. I have been in many homes in most of the city. North Buffalo, South Buffalo, East side and West side. Not actually in the homes but in the basements. Used to call them cellars. Yes, as a young lad one of my first full time jobs was working for the gas company reading meters. Good job and good pay, if you were willing to take the ups and downs, literally.

The gas meters were and still are in the basements of most homes. Every month the meters had to be read to see the usage for each consumer. Hence

the bill is issued. It is the beginning of what must be accomplished, no matter what, for the company to continue to exist. Important job. It was as well organized as one could expect giving the circumstances. Having to go into every basement or wherever the meter was located. Please remember now this was the early 50's. Basements were cellars and not what they are now. Many were entered by slanted outside trap doors. A dark, cob web, damp place where some people housed their dog or in too many cases the place where rats festered. In the years I worked there I saw most everything.

At the gas company, you began your day by getting a leather covered book. The 'book' opened

from the bottom and contained pages with the address of every house in a neighborhood. We received bus tokens to get to your route. Hundreds of meters had to be read every day. There were good books and bad books. Good books were easy, and you finished early, bad books were long, dirty, and even dangerous. The supervisor being aware of this would alternate the good with the bad. Seldom did you get two bad books in a row. Good books had lots of doubles, two meters every house and close together. Apartments with as many as ten meters in a row. Bad books had single homes and hard to get to. Like a trap door in the kitchen to get to the basement. Those usually had rats.

Getting back to the demographics we knew who was were. The West side was mostly Italian American, South Buffalo was Irish, East side was Polish and German American. North Buffalo was mostly Jewish. That was the way it was. William street and the connecting streets off of it was the Afro-Ameri-

can community. You kind of knew what to expect. Certain neighborhoods had bad dogs for protection. Ran into too many of them and bit too many times. Even worst than that were the basements loaded with rats. Turn on the basement light and see dozens of the little creatures scurrying for cover. Those basements I often refused to enter. I saw some rats as big as small dogs. No thank you. Dog bites hurt but I could handle that. Rat bites, not acceptable. We carried long three battery flashlights. To see with in the dark, and to use as a club if necessary.

Like many basements, they flood. Water in the basement was somewhat common. Water up to the trap door was like an indoor swimming pool. One basement that had flooded and receded left the stairs rotten. I stepped onto the rotted stairs and immediately ended up in the damp basement as they collapsed under my weight. With no stairs left I had to crawl up out and go off to the hospital for tetanus shots. Rusty nails.

There were some good things about the job. We liked the Polish section as they would offer us cookies and treats. Nice people. On the West side the basements had sauce boiling on the stove. What a great aroma. The basements were decorated with curtains on the windows and usually a big table for large gatherings. Occasionally we would be offered some home-made wine. That is what they pretty much drank. You could see the wine making equipment stored neatly in a corner. Clean basements but still cellars, not like the ones you see today. You would see so many different things as you went into so many homes. In the summer some people did not both-

er to put clothes on to answer the door. No problem unless they had other motives. I was a strapping six-foot young teenager and extremely shy. These stops I put down as "outs".

Outs were places for one reason or another you were unable to attain entrance. No one home, bad dog, rats, or just not accessible. So, we would put in the book they were out. Did not have to give a reason just "out". Too many outs were frowned upon, so you made every effort to make sure the meter was read. Sometimes we could read them through the window. That was nice. After the book was done, before returning you were supposed to go back and try to read all your "Outs".

One of the perks of the job was the good books. I was good and fast so could sometimes finish a book about noon. That left me with a free afternoon. In the summer I would pick up my girlfriend and head to Windmill Quarry across the bridge in Canada for a quick swim. Get back in plenty of time to return and turn in my book. Supervisor would ask why my hair was wet. "Sweat". It's hot out there.

My work ethics were so good they gave me a company truck to drive and try to read the more difficult "outs". Meters had to be read. I was also given the task of checking on the crew of meter readers. At nineteen I was a head honcho. Glad I did not last as if I did, I probably would not be writing this column today. Life would have turned out to be so different. I have no complaints.

Do you have a birthday greeting you would like to see here? Birthdays, anniversaries, interesting pictures, short stories or even a 500 word column of interest to your neighbors. Send them to me and I will see what I can do. Nothing political or controversial. Send to Jbortze@aol.com.

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BR



Seniors Are Targets

Americans receive tens of billions of robocalls each year-- that's billions with a "B." And, you can make book on the fact that too many of them are not from telemarketers but from telescammers targeting senior citizens, says the Association of Mature American Citizens.

"Technology is making it easier to place automated phone calls and while many legitimate companies use them to sell products and services, criminals are having a lucrative field day using computer generated calls to swindle innocent citizens," according to AMAC president Dan Weber.

The Federal Communications Commission says that the number one consumer complaint it consistently receives is for unwanted automated calls. In fact, during the first half of 2018, the number of robocalls increased by at least 50%.

Ethan Garr, an executive at TelTech, a company that makes one of the many call blocker apps on the market, says that robocalls are cheap. He says it costs just a penny a minute. And, the technology news Web site, Futurism reports that some phone carriers actually kick back micro-payments to telemarketers, and scammer.

Although such payments amount to just a fraction of a penny a call, it adds up considering the fact that the callers are making billions of calls a month. The Robocall Index, which keeps track of automated call frequency, says that more than 5 billion such calls were made in the U.S. just last month, more than double the number of calls made in the same period in 2017.

As for the scam calls, just last month police in Pennsylvania arrested a man in connection with a telescam leveled at senior

citizens. He was charged with swindling elderly in various parts of the country out of some \$400,000. What he allegedly did was to call seniors and tell them that a grandson was in trouble and needed cash immediately.

And then there was the Publishers Clearing House scammer who called a 90-year-old woman in New York earlier this month and conned her out of \$20,000 by claiming she had won a PCH prize.

"Both of these scams are fairly common," says Weber. "But, oftentimes the crooks get creative. For example, the IRS says some of them have found ways to alter their caller IDs to make it look as though the Internal Revenue Service is on the line. They'll then threaten stiff penalties if the victims fail to pay money that they allegedly owe."

The problem has gotten so bad that the Federal Trade Commission has created a scam alert that can help consumers avoid fraud, including telephone fraud. It also provides what some might call a "hit parade" of the latest cons.

Automated telephone calls may be annoying, but the statistics show that most of them are legitimate sales calls. However, NBC News recently reported that as many as 40% of robocalls in the U.S. are from scammers. That means telescammers are targeting more than 10 billion potential victims a year.

"It doesn't mean that all robocalling is bad. Such calls can serve useful purposes such as when they alert you to a life-threatening storm that may be approaching. Or when they alert you to potentially fraudulent use of a credit card, remind you of an upcoming appointment with your doctor or let you know that your prescription is ready for pick up at your local pharmacy," says Weber.

Senior TRIVIA

Below are early pictures of 10 Buffalo broadcasters. We are not going to give the names to make it a little more difficult. The answers will be in next week's Rocket OR find them on our Facebook page.



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Differences: 1. Phone is missing. 2. Towel is shorter. 3. Blender is missing. 4. Beads are missing. 5. Apron is different. 6. Pan is missing.

The Blotter

Felonies

From "D" District

North Buffalo

November 21, 2018
Vorhees Ave. - Complainant reports unknown person(s) damaged the south side of his house with unknown objects.

November 21, 2018
Hertel Ave. - Dispatch call regarding a possible DWI. When officers arrived on scene the vehicle was parked on the street, protruding into traffic lane. Defendant tried to drive off before officers stopped him. Defendant failed all

field sobriety tests.

November 23, 2018
Wellington Rd. - Complainant reports unknown person(s) gained entry into the residence by unknown means. Nothing missing at this time, will take inventory and report back.

West Side

November 21, 2018
Breckenridge St. - Complainant reports unknown person(s) did break his rear window to gain ac-

cess to his vehicle. Once inside, several tools were taken, without permission.

Riverside

November 21, 2018
Elmwood Ave. - Complainant reports that while inside a store someone scratched a nasty message in the side of his car that was parked in the lot. Store might have video of it.

November 23, 2018
Germain St. - Complainant reports while arguing with the known suspect he displayed a black pistol causing the complaint to fear for her life and the life of her two children, who were with her.

Package Theft Safety

We're entering the biggest shopping season of the year. The Buffalo Police Department reminds you as you're making on-line purchases over the next few weeks, follow these tips to avoid becoming the victim of package theft.

1. Sign up for delivery

alerts so you know when your delivery is scheduled - and when the package has been delivered.

2. If you're not able to be home when a package will be delivered, ask a trusted neighbor to hold it for you.

3. If possible, require a signature for all deliver-

ies.

4. Consider shipping packages to your place of work or use the ship to store option.

5. Be a good neighbor! If you see a package on your neighbor's doorstep, reach out and ask if they would like you to hold it until they are home.

O Tannenbaum!

From page one.

"Hertel is thriving, and this is just another reason to visit the neighborhood and support the unique businesses you can only find on Hertel. I am honored to help make this happen for the second year in a row," said Council Member Feroletto. "We want to show Western New York that North Buffalo is the place to spend a day with family - to shop, eat, and enjoy all it has to offer".

Also happening that evening is the Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration at Rotary Rink at Fountain Plaza. This annual event marks the official opening of the free ice-skating season in Downtown Buffalo. The event begins at 5:00 pm with free ice-skating. At 6:00 pm, Buffalo Place and Five Star Bank representatives, as well as local

elected officials, countdown the lighting of the tree and fireworks display over Fountain Plaza.

"We look forward to carrying on the tradition of free ice-skating in the heart of Downtown Buffalo with Presenting Sponsor Five Star Bank," said Michael T. Schmand, Executive Director of Buffalo Place, Inc. "In cooperation with Rotary Club of Buffalo and the City of Buffalo, Buffalo Place has managed the operation of this outdoor ice-skating rink for 20 years. Renovations to Fountain Plaza, and the completion of the Cars Sharing Main Street project in this block, continue to provide residents and visitors with an enjoyable and affordable outdoor winter activity."

Distinguished guest speakers at the event will include Byron W. Brown, Mayor of the City of Buffa-

lo and others. The guests will speak briefly and then lead a countdown to the official lighting of the tree followed by a fireworks display over Rotary Rink. Anthony J. Colucci III, President and Vice Chairman of Buffalo Place Inc., will serve as emcee for the evening.

Immediately following the fireworks and tree lighting, the fun will continue with visits with Santa, free trips on kiddie amusement rides, holiday gifts, and more. Duke's Donuts will be on-site with hot, freshly made doughnuts available for purchase. Ice-skating is free and ice-skate rental is available; \$2 for children and \$3 for adults. Guests are encouraged to bring their own ice-skates and avoid waiting in the ice-skate rental line. Santa will visit with children from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

HEAP Outreach Sessions

From page one.

tion, contact the HEAP Hotline at 858-7644 or visit: www.erie.gov/depts/socialservices/heap.asp and www.mybenefits.ny.gov.

Erie County HEAP and

Emergency Services department has re-located from 478 Main - 1st floor to 460 Main St, second floor, effective October 15, 2018. Clients are to report to this new HEAP location via the

Main Street entrance. For regular benefit assistance, customers can request an application be mailed to them by calling the application request line at 858-1969.

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Apartment For Rent: North Buffalo - Hartwell Rd. 2 bedroom plus den upper, off street parking, immaculate condition. new carpeting, hard wood floors, laundry hookups. \$980. no pets. 875-8890, leave contact info. 48

Apartment For Rent: Upper West Side - 3 bedroom, front & back porch, air conditioning, hardwood floors, full attic and basement, garage. Call 634-6330. 48

Elmwood Village - Charming 1,500 sq ft, woodwork galore, 2 bedrooms + den, parking, laundry. No pets or smoking. \$1,000 + security. 352-4633. 48

FOR SALE

AT&T Trimline Telephone, Mint Condition In Box, \$10.00. Call 836-1913 48

Black & Decker Electric Sander. Works good. \$15 or B.O. 860-3510. 48

Velour Recliner rocker, reclines to sleep. \$99. 313-3305. 48

Set of five chairs, antique white, shabby chic, sturdy. \$99. 662-6190 48

Black & White Beatle Cards 1964 - near mint condition. 6 cards \$25. 836-1913. 48

4 truck tires. \$99 875-6298. 48

Newer Ikea Poang chair, maple frame, brown upholstery. \$80. 876-1816. 48

Trivial Pursuit (Genius edition), near mint condition. \$10. 836-1913. 48

Lady Victoria 20 pc Crystal Barware Set. Mint condi-

FOR SALE

tion. \$25. 836-1913. 48

Queen wooden headboard \$25 or B.O. 860-3510. 48

Straight Reese Hitch, brand new with 2 inch ball. \$40 or B.O. 860-3510. 48

PS-4 Blue Ray, EA Madden NFL 18. \$5. 860-3510. 48

LOST CAT

LOST CAT - Black with yellow eyes, no collar, very friendly, Colvin between Linden and Hertel. Call Gabriela 716-541-4989. 48

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

C	A	B	I	N	B	R	O	A	B	A
B	L	I	N	I	O	O	H	R	E	B
S	P	O	D	E	A	P	O	L	O	G
U	F	O	E	V	E	M	E	A	N	S
R	A	G	S	A	R	R	O	W		
L	A	Y	E	R	S	A	M	A	Z	O
O	R	B	I	T	B	E	T	A	L	O
B	O	L	A	A	E	R	I	A	L	
E	C	O	L	O	G	Y	G	L	O	B
S	K	A	W	E	E	H	A	G	U	E
E	S	T	L	S	D	T	R	Y	S	T

Puzzle on page three

FREE CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE ITEMS UNDER \$99.00

If you have an item that you'd like to sell, you can run a FREE classified ad in the Buffalo Rocket if your item is priced less than \$99.

To advertise your item under \$99.00 for FREE, fill out the form below (your address will not be published) and mail it to:
Buffalo Rocket/Free Classified
PO Box 271, Buffalo, NY 14207

Buffalo Rocket FREE CLASSIFIED AD

- YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED -

Name: _____

Address (Street, Town or City & Zip Code): _____

Phone Number: _____

What do you want to sell? (title of item, like "Washing Machine") _____

Describe the item in a few words: _____

How much do you want for the item: \$ _____ or FREE (circle) or CALL (circle)

Phone Number where people interested in your item can reach you: _____

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