

US Border Patrol to hold information session on illegal crossings

Numerous reports of suspicious activity surface in lower river areas

BY TERRY DUFFY

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Responding to increased local concerns stemming from a spike in illegal border activity in the lower Niagara River, officials from the Niagara Falls Station of U.S. Customs and Border Protection have announced plans to hold an informational meeting. The session, which is open to the public, will take place at 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at Porter Town Hall, 3265 Creek Road.

Over past months, area law enforcement has been made aware of several instances of illegal activity by residents in the Youngstown neighborhoods alongside the lower river, particularly in the Youngstown Estates area. Reports of discarded rafts found on the shore and complaints of suspicious individuals and activity in the Lewiston and Youngstown areas have become more common since last fall, according to the Lewiston Police, Niagara County Sheriff's Office and Border Patrol agents.

"We're working with Border Patrol; obviously there's a problem," said Lewiston Police Chief Frank Previte, who advised Lewiston Town Board members last month. "They've identified the problem and we've had numerous instances where we've assisted them with people coming over on rafts, and we've ended up getting in chases in the village (and elsewhere). We had



one on Christmas Day, as well.

"We are working with them; we're trying to coordinate them. It is an ongoing problem. We are aware of it."

According to a Jan. 4 post on the Lewiston Police online app, "Last night (Jan. 3) at approximately 10:30 p.m., 4 individuals were attempting to cross the river in a raft near Youngstown from Canada into the United States. The information was out on the radio and Officer Battista of the Lewiston Police Department observed an out of state vehicle in the area and initiated a traffic stop. She identified a single occupant in the vehicle at the time of the stop.

"After tracking the subjects from the raft, they were observed loading into the vehicle that Officer Battista had stopped earlier in the night. A second vehicle stop was initiated, and a total of 5 people were identified inside. One of the subjects ran and was taken into custody. All 5 individuals were arrested by the Border Patrol and the case is pending.

"Officer Battista was working a special detail in coordination with the U.S. Border Patrol to address this very issue in our area."

Just this week, yet another report of suspicious activity came to the attention of LPD. As per a

U.S. Border Patrol, Buffalo Sector, at 1-800-331-0353."

Responding to local concerns, officials from the Town of Porter and Village of Youngstown reached out this week to Border Patrol officials who agreed to visit next Thursday and further discuss the issue with the community.

"What we're trying to do with this meeting is to get some information out to those that live in the Youngstown-Porter area," said Brady Waikel, commander of the Niagara Falls Station, U.S. Customs and Border Protection. "This is a town hall that is actually being hosted by the Town of Porter and Village

of Youngstown. I was asked to come to speak to the residents there.

"I hope to have some more information that day and talk to the public to allay some of the anxiety that we're seeing up there. A lot of the folks are seeing us and the local PDs, and seeing some of the activity. They're a little nervous."

Waikel said one purpose of the session would be to open it up to questions from residents.

"Our public affairs folks are going to be there," he said. "After the town hall, if you have specific questions, we're going to have some folks available to answer those."

Waikel said area law enforcement, including Lewiston Police, Niagara County sheriffs and the New York State Police, have been invited to attend, as is Canada Border Patrol Services.

He noted the Porter information session is the only planned event he is aware of in the Border Patrol's Buffalo area sector.

In the meantime, Waikel and local law enforcement encourage residents to remain vigilant of any suspicious activity – and do not hesitate to contact police. For more information, residents may call the U.S. Border Patrol Buffalo Sector citizen tip line at 1-800-331-0353, the NCSO non-emergency number at 716-438-3393, or 911 in an emergency.

PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY BREAKTHROUGH

My feet feel like they're on fire." "Each step feels I'm walking through wet paint." "I live in constant fear that I'll fall." "I can't sleep, my hands and feet tingle all night."

What do all these people have in common? They all suffer from peripheral neuropathy. It is estimated that this disease affects more than 20 million people in the US, and this figure may be significantly higher as it is often misdiagnosed because of the wide array of symptoms.

Stacey of Stacey Austin Acupuncture in Lockport shares this belief. "I've been treating neuropathy, in all of its various forms, for over a decade and often patients come to me because of the awful symptoms they are suffering with. They heard from a friend who is a patient, or read one of our testimonials and say to themselves 'I feel the same thing'."

Marlene of Lockport testified to this, "I remember my husband driving me to my consultation and I saw a woman running in our neighborhood. I was so envious, I just kept thinking 'I would give anything just to walk again'. My primary care doctor told me my troubles with pain and balance were just apart of old age and gave me a prescription. I was so depressed."

Fortunately, Marlene would eventually hear about Stacey from a friend who had similar symptoms and how she offers a real solution at her clinic. "I just knew I had to see her. She was my last hope."

Those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy often face a very grim reality; Western medicine declares

that there is no solution while most alternative therapies carry large price tags and offer little to no resolve. Which is why Stacey and her staff pride themselves on being 'the last resort with the best results.'

Peripheral neuropathy is the result of damage to the nerves and this damage is commonly caused by a lack of blood flow in the hands and feet, which results in a lack of nutrients; the nerves then begin to degenerate and die which causes pain ranging from discomfort to debilitating. Neuropathy is a degenerative condition, so once those nerves begin to deteriorate, they will continue to do so until they are completely expired, leaving those suffering with crippling balance issues. "In this case, the absence of pain is not necessarily a good thing," shares Stacey. "This usually indicates that your nerves are badly damaged."

So how exactly is Stacey able to reverse the effects of this degenerative disease? "Acupuncture has been used to increase blood flow for thousands of years which helps to get the necessary nutrients to the affected nerves. But the real magic happens when I integrate ATP BioResonance Therapy™. This is technology originally developed by NASA to expedite recovering and healing."

I just can't say enough about Stacey and her team," Marlene shares. "My husband goes to the canal to

walk almost every day. I always stayed home because of the pain and discomfort. Yesterday I was able to walk the canal with him! I am truly living life these days."

According to Marlene's test results, she has seen a 74% improvement in pain and functionality, over the course of 5 months, which is on par with the majority of our patients," shares Stacey. "But more important than those test results, is the joy she's expressed being here and hearing about all the amazing things she's able to do because she feels great!"

By seamlessly blending the ancient science of acupuncture with modern medical solutions Stacey has achieved a 90% success rate in reversing the effects of neuropathy. She starts each patient with an initial consultation during which a sensory exam is performed. Then an individual treatment plan will be recommended that is tailored to you and your specific health issues and goals.

There are options! There is hope! Call us today at (716) 628-3802 to schedule an initial consultation!



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