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Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA teaming with Town of Niagara to give back to community



Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA file photo

Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA, in partnership with the Town of Niagara, is donating \$50,000 to various charitable groups and organizations that benefit the residents of the Town of Niagara and neighboring communities.

This annual donation will be publicly awarded to various charitable recipients at the annual "Give Fashionably" event at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13. The presentation will be made at the mall (1900 Military Road), in front of Saks OFF 5th.

"We are proud to partner with the Town of Niagara to award these very deserving community groups," said John Doran, Fashion Outlets general manager.

For more than 20 years, the Town of Niagara and the Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls have partnered on this program. Since embarking on the partnership, they've donated over \$1 million locally.

"There are many vital community organizations that are in need of additional support," Town of Niagara Supervisor Sylvia Virtuoso said. "We're pleased to continue our partnership with the Fashion Outlets to help these organizations year after year."

There are more than 30 recipients of this year's program, including:

SEE FASHION, on Page 3

PARKWAY TALKS BEGIN AGAIN

Phase III scoping opens for Niagara Scenic Parkway

BY TERRY DUFFY

Editor-in-Chief

Consultant teams representing the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; the New York Power Authority; New York State Department of Transportation; and various local stakeholder groups provided insight Tuesday on the future of the Niagara Scenic Parkway in a well-attended public information session at DeVeaux Woods State Park.

Mark Mistretta, State Parks regional director, opened the phase III scoping discussions on the parkway by recalling the successes of its phase I and II improvements. Known earlier as the Robert Moses State Parkway, significant work was done on the roadway in 2006 from the north Grand Island bridges to Niagara Falls State Park. Phase II work began in 2013 and transformed the parkway from its expressway-type vehicular traffic setup to parkland and trails along Whirlpool Street to Findley Drive.

"This next phase – it's a little bit more involved; there's more roadway networks. A lot of people have been asking (about it). We don't know yet," Mistretta said as to the future parkway designs. "We have some concepts we developed, but we're really here to listen."

Tuesday's session was presented as "the first outreach" to gauge community interests, and Mistretta said state officials would hold future sessions over next 15-18 months as planning continues. "We'll see how that goes."

He said the scoping process coincides with a decking improvement process of three riverside traffic lanes over the NYPA power generating plant in Lewiston.

"The New York Power Authority is investing \$1 billion in their three bridges over the dam," he said. "The two projects are so intertwined, it's incumbent upon us come up with the best solutions, the best designs ... so it all works well together."

Mistretta said State Parks is operating under a continuing agreement with its stakeholders developed under phase II of this



Images courtesy of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Anticipated Project Schedule

Public Scoping Update

• January – August 2024

Public Workshop – Design Alternatives

• Spring / Early Summer 2024

Design Report / Environmental Assessment (12-18 months)

• August 2023 – August 2025

Final Design (12 – 18 months)

• Timing TBD

Construction (24 months)

• Timing TBD

project. These include Empire State Development, USA Niagara, the DOT and NYPA. "That is how a lot of this work is being done, and Parks is in the lead."

Paul Tronolone, vice president of planning and policy for Empire State Development, served as the

technical leader during phases I and II. He told attendees Tuesday that ESD, together with USA Niagara and NYPA, continue their work toward redefining the recreational elements of this ongoing project.

SEE STATE, continued on Page 2

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