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Niagara County government is here for you: Wydysh shares helpful ways to interact

After a short hiatus, I am very happy to be back with my usual monthly column. I want to extend a long-overdue thank you to the team at Niagara Frontier Publications for providing me with this opportunity to write about the different issues going on in Niagara County government.

I am now entering my fifth year as chairman of the Niagara County Legislature, which is a true testament to how time flies. We had to address some significant challenges during this time (which is probably a gross understatement for a worldwide pandemic), but I believe we continue to head in the right direction. I will have more to say on that after delivering my State of the County Address at

our Feb. 20 meeting.

One hallmark of the last few years, of which I am particularly proud, is our efforts to make county government more accessible and transparent to residents. I want to take this opportunity to remind people of the different ways they can interact with county government.

First, if you are looking for anything related to Niagara County, I highly recommend beginning at niagaracounty.com. Our website is truly a clearinghouse for all information related to county government. First and foremost, there is a directory of all elected officials in Niagara County – federal, state and local – plus contact information for all county departments. If you need to get in touch with someone, this is the place to go. Beyond that, you can do things like make an appointment with the Department of Motor Vehicles, reserve a picnic shelter, begin the pistol permit application process, sign your pet up for a rabies clinic,

apply for county employment, and much, much more.

The county website is also a great place to go for the latest news on county government. All of our press releases are archived here, as are agendas, minutes and video recordings of each meeting. You can also find public hearing notices and a calendar of any upcoming events.

Our legislative meetings are open to the public. People cannot only attend, they also have an opportunity to speak before the legislature during two public speaking times. The first is for those who are speaking on any item on the agenda, which occurs before the legislature begins to vote. The second is for any issue "for the good of the county," and occurs at the meeting's end.

If you are not able to attend our meetings, they are broadcast live by Lockport Community Television (LCTV) on cable on LCTV Channel 1303 and livestreamed at lctv.net. If you want to go back and

watch a meeting at a later date, you can do so in the LCTV on-demand library, again at LCTV.net.

The county also runs several social media accounts. We have a very-active Niagara County Facebook page where we post something about county government pretty much every day – events, issues, civil service information. So, if you're on Facebook, I encourage you to follow us. We are also active on Instagram and LinkedIn, which we use mostly to promote job opportunities with the county.

Last, for those among us who still prefer to simply pick up the phone, I remind you that the main information line for the county is 716-439-7000, which can help you get to any department.

Should anyone choose to call that number, the voice providing you with your menu options is indeed mine. I'll admit it was a little strange recording the menu, but in county government, we all pitch in wherever we can.



Becky Wydysh
Chairwoman

'Walk With Me' visiting artists exhibition at Lew-Port

Submitted by Lewiston-Porter High School

Upper-level art students at Lewiston-Porter High School had the opportunity to work directly with four professional local artists this winter. Ceramic artist Junko McGee, Matthew SaGurney and Rob Lynch of Solo Roths, as well as artist and curator Dana Murray Tyrrell provided Lew-Port students with an inside perspective of their professional art-making practices through multiple artist workshops.

Art students were then able to make their own artworks in response to the concepts presented by each professional artist. An exhibition featuring these student works alongside professional artworks of each artist will be curated by the Lew-Port Gallery Project students.

Ceramic artist McGee (<https://www.buffaloearthart.com/>), a recently retired Buffalo Public School art teacher, demonstrated a variety of hand-building and wheel-throwing



Artist Dana Murray Tyrrell works with student Azzy Stalvey.

techniques for students. Ceramic students were in awe of her comfort and the ease with which she executed her complex pieces.

Artists Matthew SaGurney and Rob Lynch work together as the Solo Roths ([\[thesoloro.com/\]\(https://thesoloro.com/\)\) to create large-scale, improvisational paintings. This dynamic duo painted live in the high school atrium for all of our art students, and discussed their unique and highly creative art-making process. Lew-Port](https://thesoloro-</p>
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printmaking students created artworks that were directly influenced by the Solo Roths' use of printing, repetitive mark making, and collage.

Artist and curator Tyrrell (<https://danatyrrell.com/>) visited on multiple occasions to share his insights as a curator as well as an artist. Lew-Port's Gallery Project course, which focuses on curation and exhibition programming of the school's gallery space, received feedback from Tyrrell on their own ideas and layout for a collaborative exhibition hosted at the school. Upper-level art students were able to try out some of Tyrrell's experimental art-making techniques in an artist workshop he led.

Join us from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, in the LEVEL Art Gallery at Lewiston-Porter High School to experience the culmination of these thought-provoking artist workshops in the exhibition "Walk With Me."

• Find more photos online at www.wnypapers.com.

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