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► Buffalo-area mayors to NYS: Increase state funding for cities & villages

► Reinvented Ringling Bros. circus visits Buffalo

► Totally Buffalo totally joining Lewiston's Center Street business district



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'Hometown Heroes' banner program returns

•The Town of Lewiston "Hometown Heroes" banner program returns for 2024. Applications are available for those who would like to recognize a military family member or friend. Applications are available at Town Hall or on the town website, www.townoflewiston.us, under the department drop down - "Town Clerk." Applications are being accepted until March 31, at a cost of \$200.

TOWN CLERK'S CORNER



Donna R. Garfinkel

•The Niagara County Department of Health, in cooperation with the Niagara County Veterinary Society, will sponsor a free rabies immunization clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 13,

at the Town of Hartland salt shed. Registration can be found at www.niagaracounty.com/health.

Additional dates have been set and are available on the town website under the department drop-down - "Dog Control."

•Back in January, Western New York was hit with another "perfect storm." The Town of Lewiston received 1.5 inches of rain on top of the already frozen ground. The town's Water Pollution Control Center received dozens of calls from residents for flooded properties and basements.

Many issues arise on private property resulting in basements to backup after the collection system is fully charged and can lead to flooding. These include broken or disconnected vent stacks, an improper sump pump discharge, floor drains, gutter downspout discharge, and improper basement

bathroom construction.

The town wants to be proactive in protecting homeowners' personal property and would like to offer home evaluations and code compliance inspections. This can help to educate homeowners, and also protect their home from sewer backup in the future. For more information, contact the Town of Lewiston Sewer Department at 716-754-8291.

•Love fresh fruits and veggies? Every Wednesday, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., a FeedMore WNY farm market sets up in the parking lot of the Lewiston Senior Center at 4361 Lower River Road. Stop by for fresh, healthy, affordable and locally grown produce.

•Home projects are "being built"! Residents are reminded that a building permit is required for the construction of a shed, fence, installation of a pool, and many

other projects. Permits are available through the town's Building and Zoning Department. Call the office to make sure your project is in compliance, at 716-754-8213, ext. 227, 243 or 245.

•The Town of Lewiston is accepting applications for those interested in serving on the Lewiston Historic Preservation Commission. Applications are available at Town Hall or the town website listed above.

•Lewiston snowbirds are reminded the U.S. Postal Service will not forward your water bill. To avoid receiving your water bill late, or the possibility of not receiving it at all, the Water Department requests anyone returning to Lewiston to contact it to change the bill back to your home address. For more information, call 716-754-8213, ext. 235 or 236.

Hochul: Expanded 'Move Over Law' to include all stopped vehicles on highways

Drivers must slow down or move over to avoid a crash with any disabled or stopped vehicle

▼ 'Move Over Law' protects drivers, pedestrians, highway workers, emergency responders

Gov. Kathy Hochul reminded drivers that New York's "Move Over Law" will soon be expanded to include all vehicles, which, her team said, "will improve highway safety for everyone."

Starting March 27, drivers will be required to take precautions, including slowing down and moving over, to avoid a crash with all vehicles stopped along the roadway.

"The safety of all New Yorkers is my top priority, especially those pulled over to the side of the road," Hochul said. "If you see that you are approaching a disabled vehicle, slow down and move over as best you can to give them some space."

Hochul's team said, "From 2016-20, 37 individuals were killed outside disabled vehicles in New York. Nationally, nearly 300 drivers are struck and killed roadside every year. The 'Move Over Law' was enacted to prevent those tragedies and make New York's roadways safer for all.

"The law first became effective in 2010 to prevent collisions with emergency vehicles that were

stopped on the roadway. The law has been expanded several times to also cover hazard vehicles, highway worker vehicles, and tow trucks. In 2023, Gov. Hochul signed a bill to further strengthen the law by including this protection for all vehicles stopped on the roadway."

Under the law, when a driver is approaching a vehicle stopped along either shoulder of the road, they should:

- ▼ Change into a lane not immediately adjacent to the vehicle; or
▼ Slow down to a reasonable speed if unable to safely make a lane change.

Also today, the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) is launching a public awareness campaign using radio, social media and other out-of-home elements to remind people they will need to "Slow Down, Move Over" as best they can when they come upon someone stopped on the side of the road or in a driving lane.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, all 50 states have "Move Over" laws to protect law enforcement officers and other first responders, yet one-third of Americans are not

aware of these laws.

DMV Commissioner and Chair of the GTSC Mark J.F. Schroeder said, "The expansion of the 'Move Over Law' is another example of New York state's commitment to making this state a safe place to live, work and travel. You never know when you may need to pull over, but when you do, we want to make sure you can do so without putting yourself or others in harm's way. Each of us is responsible for doing our part to prevent tragedies on our roadways, so please follow the law. Slow down and move over when you see another vehicle stopped."

Thruway Authority Acting Executive Director Frank G. Hoare, Esq., said, "Strengthening the 'Move Over Law' by expanding the protection to all vehicles that are stopped on the side of the road will help save lives. The law is meant to protect motorists, emergency responders, thruway personnel and others assisting disabled vehicles. When you see any vehicle pulled over, slow down and safely move over. We thank our partners at New York State Police Troop T for their work patrolling the thruway and keeping motorists safe."

Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez said, "The expansion of New York's 'Move Over Law' to include disabled and stopped vehicles in the roadway is critical to achieving the goal of eliminating fatalities on the roadways. With 37 individuals killed outside of disabled vehicles on New York's roadways from 2016-20, Gov. Hochul's actions to expand the 'Move Over Law' will fundamentally save lives by putting safety first."

New York State Police Acting Superintendent Steven G. James said, "The New York State Police remains committed to keeping our roadways safe - for those who travel them, and for those who work on them. By expanding the 'Move Over Law' and vigorously enforcing its provisions, we will be able to further improve safety for all who utilize our roads throughout the state."

New York State Sen. Lea Webb said, "By requiring that drivers use due care, reduce speed, and change lanes when approaching vehicles stopped along our roadways, we can decrease the number of fatalities and serious injuries that occur."

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