

Niagara County celebrates 'Donate Life Month'

Submitted by the Public Information Office

Niagara County Clerk Joseph A. Jastrzemski, joined by New York State Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles Mark Schroeder and other local dignitaries, celebrated April as "Donate Life Month" at a press event Thursday at the North Tonawanda DMV.

Throughout the month, those who have saved lives through the gift of a donation are honored and efforts are made to encourage more people to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

The highlight of the event was recognizing local residents Tim Synor and Paulette Welker, both of whom received heart transplants just over 10 years ago. Tim and Paulette told their personal journeys and how appreciative they



were to the two people who had made the decision to become organ donors that saved their lives.

"There are more than 10,000

women, men and children in New York state waiting for lifesaving organ transplants, and every 10 minutes another person is added

Paulette Welker and Tim Synor, left, cut the cake celebrating more than 10 years as recipients of heart transplants. They were joined by NYS DMV Commissioner Mark Schroeder, County Clerk Joe Jastrzemski, North Tonawanda Mayor Austin Tylec, Niagara County Legislator Rich Andres, New York State Assemblyman Angelo Morinello and North Tonawanda Alderman Joe Marranca.

to the national transplant waiting list," Jastrzemski said. "The fact is that one organ, eye and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance 75 more. Tim and Paulette are with us today because people cared enough to become donors."

Schroeder said 85% of those who sign up to be donors in New York state do so through the DMV. He thanked the Niagara County DMV staff for its continued efforts to

raise awareness. The commissioner also lauded Niagara County residents for their high level of participation.

"Niagara County has more than 112,000 residents signed up for the donor registry, which is 66% of all those eligible," Schroeder said. "The state of Colorado leads all states in the country in donor enrollment at 66%, so Niagara County rivals Colorado in participation."

Jastrzemski said residents can sign up to be organ donors by visiting the state registry at <https://donatelife.ny.gov/> or at any of the county's three Department of Motor Vehicles offices in Lockport, Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda. Jastrzemski said the DMV offices are all decorated to promote Donate Life month.

Lewiston board updated on reassessments

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

Lewiston Town Board members heard more on upcoming reassessment plans with the Town of Porter, at the board's work session last week.

Town Assessor Linda E. Johnson said GAR Appraisal, the town's designated real estate appraisal and analysis firm it contracted with Porter, would be handling commercial properties first before moving on to residential reviews.

The reassessments would cover said properties in both the Town and Village of Lewiston. Town Board members approved a \$485,000 contract that evening with GAR, with funding to come from the town's "A" fund that covers town/village accounts.

Johnson said GAR would be working with the town in a PR effort for the commercial and residential properties throughout the process, which is expected to be complete by 2026.

"There will be public relations with the public, the real estate agents, with the taxpayers, to explain how this is going to go about," she said.

Johnson noted this would entail various surveys throughout the process with a final reassessment

update expected to be completed in 2026. Further information on this process as it develops will be posted on the town website, www.townoflewiston.us, under the assessor's office link.

In other news from the session:

- The town said it would be taking no action on Local Law No. 1 for 2024, the short-term rentals law.

"(Councilwoman) Sarah (Waechter) and I have been working with our attorney, Mr. (Al) Bax (on this matter) said Councilman John Jacoby said. "And we're not going to take any action tonight."

Jacoby said that, when the board held its public meeting, it took a lot of input it needs to further its review. "Every time you incorporate something new, it drags over and affects something else. We're working on this diligently."

In a related matter, the board approved Local Law No. 2 by a unanimous vote, providing for a six-month moratorium on solar installations in the town.

- The town approved a supplemental agreement covering a 30-year period with the Army Corps of Engineers for future work at the Niagara Falls Storage Site on Pletcher Road.

"We were contacted by the De-

partment of the Army that our supplemental agreement had expired on Dec. 1," Supervisor Steve Broderick said. "We attended a meeting (with the Army Corps) this past week on the cleanup. It is a good thing to get rid of that area down there and what's in it."

Broderick said the town's approval of the agreement merely allows the Army Corps continued access to the property to do its work.

Bax said, "This particular document extends their ability to service and subservice, testing (at the site). It's really kind of an adden-

dum; it doesn't necessarily modify the rights.

"Right now, what (the Army Corps is) saying is their ability to continue the testing has expired, and they just want something in writing to authorize it on their property, and also the vicinity property that belongs to the town."

On a question from a resident, Bax said the municipality may consider a transfer of the town's vicinity property, formerly a water plant facility, back to the federal government to allow for any needed future work to be done at there by the Army Corps.

LOOK FOR OUR

Spring HOME IMPROVEMENT DESIGN & DECORATING

IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER

Great deals from your favorite local places!

Call today if you want to be included!
716-773-7676

LEWISTON DANCE CENTER

SUMMER CLASSES

SESSION #1: MON & WED IN JUNE
(4 WEEKS - STARTING JUNE 3RD)

SESSION #2: MON & WED IN JULY
(3 WEEKS - STARTING JULY 8TH)

SUMMER DANCE CAMPS

LEAPS & TURNS: AUG. 5TH-9TH

ACRO: AUG. 12TH-16TH

STRENGTH & STRETCH: AUG. 19TH-23RD

Partial sessions available! Scan to register

contact@lewistondance.com - lewistondance.com

Dirty Windows?

WINDOW & GUTTER CLEANING

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
LOCALLY OWNED
EST 1975

\$25 OFF YOUR 1ST SERVICE

(716)773-7580 kleenwindows.com

OLD FORT NIAGARA ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

- Keeps the Fort open to the public
- Preserves original 18th century buildings
- Provides engaging educational programs & special events
- Keeps History Alive

Make a Donation
SEE DETAILS ON WEBSITE
www.oldfortniagara.org
716-745-7611

AERIAL IMAGING

• Events • Bridal • Aerial
FAA part 107 licensed
Insured

Kevin & Dawn Cobello
716-799-3838 or 716-471-6860
kdactionphoto@roadrunner.com
kdactionphotoaerialimaging.zenfoliosite.com

SAVE THE DATE

10 Mile Garage Sale 2024

Friday, June 7 • Saturday, June 8
Sunday, June 9

Town of Lewiston - Village of Lewiston - Ransomville
Town of Porter - Sanborn - Youngstown

CHECK OUR WEBSITE WNPAPERS.COM AND
WATCH OUR PAPERS FOR DETAILS

NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS
wnypapers.com

Since 1944