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Lewiston Garden Club installs officers

The 2024-25 Lewiston Garden Club officers were installed by Melissa Marcus, director of the Eight District Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, on March 25 at the Griffon Gastropub.

Officers include President Sharon Low, 1st Vice President Judy DiCamillo, 2nd vice presidents Sue and Walter Latka, 3rd Vice President Barbara Landree, Corresponding Secretary Donna Larson, Recording Secretary Elizabeth Campbell and Treasurer Doreen Albee.

The Garden Club's next meeting will be 5 p.m. April 22 at Messiah Lutheran Church. There will be a potluck supper along with a presentation and a business meeting. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

Other upcoming events for the club include the perennial plant sale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 18 on the grounds of the Red Brick Municipal Building at 145 N. Fourth St.; and the 18th annual GardenFest, scheduled for June 15-16.

More information is available at lewistongardenfest.com. (Photo by Robert Albee)



April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

AAA shares tips to keep drivers focused on the road – especially during the eclipse

By AAA of Western and Central New York

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, and AAA Western and Central New York is reminding drivers of the dangers of distractions behind the wheel. Distracted driving is deadly, claiming 3,308 lives in 2022, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In 2022, distracted driving contributed to 8% of all the lives lost to crashes on U.S. roadways, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).

AAA believes that no distraction is worth risking a life. Focused drivers save lives and prevent injuries. NHTSA reports that nearly 290,000 people were injured in traffic crashes involving distracted drivers in 2022. AAA urges all drivers to pay attention and focus on the road during National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and all

year long.

“Every April, AAA tries to raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving with educational messaging. This year, with the eclipse taking place on April 8, the message is even more urgent,” said Elizabeth Carey, director of public relations at AAA Western and Central New York. “Drivers should not attempt to view the eclipse while driving, nor should they try to take video or photos behind the wheel. It’s important to prepare and have a plan in place for safe eclipse viewing.”

AAA suggests planning ahead to find a place to park and observe the eclipse. The only safe way to look directly at the un-eclipsed or partially eclipsed sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses” or hand-held solar viewers. Do not drive with eclipse glasses on. Drivers should also keep their

headlights turned on.

Find more eclipse safety tips here: <https://info.westerncentralny.aaa.com/news-room/total-solar-eclipse-becomes-tourism-sensation>.

While most people realize distracted driving is a danger, they continue to use their phones behind the wheel. According to AT&T, more than 95% of those surveyed consider smartphone distracted driving to be dangerous, but 9 in 10 people admit to doing it anyway. The research also shows that 7 in 10 drivers say their smartphone has become essential for getting around.

AAA encourages drivers to learn how to use Driving Focus features on smartphones, which are designed to prevent incoming calls and texts while a vehicle is in motion. This technology can save lives. After all, driving 55 miles per hour, taking your eyes

off the road for five seconds, is like traveling the length of a football field blindfolded.

Distractions include more than texting. Anything that diverts attention from driving – eating and drinking, adjusting the navigation, picking your next podcast, talking to other passengers, or talking or texting on the phone – can result in a fatal injury.

All drivers should focus on the road and avoid distractions, not just this month, but every day, to protect themselves and others. Among people who died in crashes reported to involve a distracted driver, 40% of the deaths were the distracted drivers themselves, 16% were their passengers, 26% were people in other vehicles, and 18% were people outside of vehicles (pedestrians, cyclists, etc.), according to NHTSA.

National Grid reminds customers to call 811 before digging

National Grid Press Release

April is designated as National Safe Digging Month, and National Grid urges anyone planning on digging to call 811 to prevent damage to underground utilities.

Whether you're planting a tree or shrub or installing a deck or pool, every job requires a call to 811 to know what's below before digging. National Grid remains

committed to keeping the public safe by emphasizing the importance of calling 811 to avoid damages or service outages in your local community.

This year, 74% of U.S. homeowners plan to dig on their property. Of those who are planning projects, more than 49.3 million Americans will put themselves and their communities at risk by

not contacting 811 before digging. Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in serious injury or death, inconvenient service disruptions, and costly fines and repairs. Hitting underground gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines while digging can have a major impact on communities and busi-

nesses. Making a free request before digging online at <http://www.811beforeyoudig.com/> or by calling 811 will help everyone who digs maintain essential utility service for their communities.

“Safe digging plays a critical role in ensuring the safety of our employees, the public, and local communities that we proudly

SEE CALL, continued on Page 5

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

Founded February 14, 1987

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©2024 Niagara Frontier Publications

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The **Tribune** is published weekly.

Display Ads Deadline: MONDAY 5 PM

New York State Press Association, Niagara County Builders Association, Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, Wheatfield Business Association Inc., Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, The Niagara USA Chamber.



NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS

