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best summer EVER

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Reassessment update project underway

Attention town and village residents - GAR Associates LLC is assisting the towns of Lewiston and Porter with the reassessment update project. The photo collection portion of the project has started. If you see a gray Toyota Rav-4 in your neighborhood, with Georgia plates and a roof-mounted camera, they are taking photos of your property.

TOWN CLERK'S CORNER



Donna R. Garfinkel

A joint public meeting of the

Village of Lewiston trustees and Town of Lewiston Town Board will occur at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 16, to discuss the proposed Lewiston Police contract. This meeting will be held in the village boardroom at the Red Brick Municipal building.

The Lewiston Town Board will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. Monday, July 22, on the adoption of a local law amending the zoning for its solar energy law. Said law is intended to modify and update the town's current zoning ordinances. A complete text of the law is on file at the office of the town clerk, and is available for review by any

interested persons during business hours.

The Town of Lewiston Senior Center, at 4361 Lower River Road, is open to serve the Niagara County Nutrition Lunch Program. The site offers this service from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. weekdays. The nutrition program is just one of many programs offered at the Senior Center. Stop by, call 716-754-2071, or check out the schedule on the website: lewiston-seniorcenter.com.

Need to dispose of unneeded or expired medication? The Town of Lewiston Police Department offers a safe disposal site. The of-

office is located at 4059 Creek Road (in front of the Lewiston-Porter School District campus) and is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. No liquids or needles are accepted.

Safely recycle your batteries at the Youngstown Free Library, 240 Lockport St.

The Town of Lewiston "drive-up" mailbox, located across from the main entrance to the Town Hall, is a convenient way to make payments of water bills and dog licenses. Place your paperwork/bill along with payment, in check form, in an envelope and deposit it the box.

STATE NEWS

Hochul updates New Yorkers on recent increase in COVID-19 activity

Hospitalizations have increased compared to same period last summer, but remain well below rates seen during same period in 2022

New Yorkers are reminded of latest COVID-19 guidance

Submitted by the Office of Gov. Kathy Hochul

Gov. Kathy Hochul on Saturday provided New Yorkers an update on COVID-19 as new variants contribute to increases in hospitalizations in parts of New York state and around the country. With social gatherings increasing during summer months, and high temperatures forcing people indoors, the governor reminds New Yorkers to get tested if they have symptoms, follow the usual precautions including current CDC guidance, stay current with COVID-19 vaccines, and seek appropriate treatments if necessary.

"While we are well below the figures seen during the pandemic, we are closely monitoring activity regarding the latest variants," Hochul said. "By following the guidance and taking simple precautions, New Yorkers can continue to enjoy a safe and healthy summer."

COVID-19 hospitalizations are currently well above the rates seen at this time last year, but well below the rates seen during the same period in 2022.

On July 3, 2024, the seven-

day average for newly reported COVID-19 hospital admissions statewide was 0.72 per 100,000 residents.

On July 3, 2023, the seven-day average for newly reported COVID-19 hospital admissions statewide was 0.31 per 100,000 residents.

On July 3, 2022, the seven-day average for newly reported COVID-19 hospital admissions statewide was 1.66 per 100,000 residents.

New York State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald said, "We are seeing an increase in admissions to hospitals, yet below prior year increases. As people move indoors to escape the heat, transmission does increase. This is a good opportunity to remind people to improve indoor ventilation whenever possible. Additionally, the standing order I signed last year is still in effect, so anyone who would like an updated vaccine can get one at their pharmacy."

Under Hochul's leadership, New York state continues to take strong actions to monitor and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. New York State Department of Health

continues to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 isolation guidance, which can be found online. At-home COVID-19 tests remain available at many local pharmacies statewide. New Yorkers can also find the current COVID-19 vaccine sites online.

The widespread availability of at-home testing has resulted in a significant decline in tests being sent to labs. Researchers at New York state's Wadsworth Lab now rely more on wastewater analysis for surveillance of circulating COVID-19 lineages. Federal and state wastewater surveillance indicates the growing presence of new variants both in New York and across the country, which are believed to be one of several potential causes of the current trends in COVID-19 cases and hospitalization rates, including increased travel and social mixing.

Individuals who have symptoms should test for COVID-19, and those who test positive should contact their health care provider about possible treatments, which have been shown to be effective at reducing the chances of serious outcomes. New Yorkers who

are immunocompromised, have lung or cardiovascular conditions, or other risk-factors, and those who are seniors, are especially encouraged to discuss COVID-19 treatments with a health care professional. Those who test positive should also avoid contact with others, including staying home from work, school, and social activities.

The COVID-19 vaccine remains one of best prevention steps and has been shown to reduce risk of serious illness. Anyone who has not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine or boosters is encouraged to do so. For more information on the latest CDC guidance on vaccines, visit its website at https://www.cdc.gov/.

Under the Affordable Care Act, most health insurance plans will cover the cost of COVID-19 vaccines, without the need for copays. Those who are uninsured, or whose insurance does not cover the updated vaccine, will have access to the shots free of charge through community health centers; local, tribal or territorial health departments; and pharmacies participating in the HHS' bridge access program.

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

Founded February 14, 1987

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The Tribune is published weekly.

Display Ads Deadline: MONDAY 5 PM

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NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS

