

Former Town of Porter Supervisor Mert Wiepert passes

Merton K. Wiepert, longtime councilman and supervisor for the Town of Porter, co-owner of Wiepert's Service Station, and devoted family man, peacefully entered into eternal rest after a lengthy illness on Sept. 16, 2024. He was 85 years old.

He leaves behind a legacy of hard work, honesty, compassion, and a life built on love for his family and community.

Mert, as he was affectionately known, served the residents of the Town of Porter for many decades, playing a pivotal role in shaping the growth and development of the town, while also running the beloved service station that became a cornerstone of the local community.

As the co-owner of Wiepert's Service Station for several years with his brother, Gerald, Merton earned a reputation for his honesty, hard work, and friendly demeanor. Customers knew they could rely on him not just for expert service, but also for a friendly conversation in his green swivel chair. His business was more than just a place for vehicle repairs – it was also a gathering



spot for the community, where Mert's dedication to helping others was as evident as it was in his public service.

Above all else, Mert was a devoted family man who cherished his role as a husband, father to three girls, and a grandfather. His love and dedication to his family were constants in life, and he took great pride in passing down the values of integrity, hard work, and kindness to the next generations.

Throughout his tenure as councilman and later supervisor for the Town of Porter, Merton was known for his unwavering integrity, compassion, and tireless advocacy on behalf of his community. His leadership extended beyond just fulfilling the duties of his office. He was a trusted adviser, a neighbor to all, and a steadfast advocate for the values that made the Town of Porter a special place to live.

Born in Niagara County, and raised in the Town of Porter, Merton was deeply rooted in his town's history and culture. His love for the area was evident in everything he did, from managing the town's affairs with efficiency and care, to supporting local initiatives that enriched the lives of its residents. He worked tirelessly to ensure that the town's best interests were always at the forefront of his decision-making, including standing up against big business when necessary to protect the community's health and character. His leadership and efforts, including securing Porter-on-the-Lake Town Park, helped shape the town he deeply loved.

Merton is remembered not only for his public service and his business, but also for his kindness, humility, and the personal connections he made with so many of the people he served. His ability to listen, understand, and address the concerns of his community made him a beloved figurehead in the Town of Porter. His presence at town meetings, community events, and local gatherings will be deeply missed.

Merton was born Feb. 7, 1939 in Sanborn, the son of the late Louis and Mabel (Hecht) Wiepert. He graduated from Wilson High School in 1956. Merton married Gloria (Rzepecki) Wiepert, who predeceased him on Aug. 24, 2007. He is survived by his three daughters: Lynne Clark, Kelly Lauber and Dr. Susan (David Koepcke) Wiepert. He is also survived by a brother, Carl (Nancy) Wiepert, as well as multiple grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Merton was predeceased by five brothers: Donald Wiepert, Louis "Bob" (late Bee and Ruth) Wiepert, Gerald (late Beverly) Wiepert, Lloyd (late Joyce) Wie-

ert, and Harold (late Ellen) Wiepert.

His loss will be felt by many, but his contributions to the Town of Porter, his work at Wiepert's Service Station, and the love he showed his family will endure as a lasting tribute to his remarkable life.

There will be no prior visitation. Arrangements entrusted to the Hardison Funeral Homes. Funeral services will be held privately by the family. Interment will be in North Ridge Cemetery, Lockport.

We ask that you please make time to connect with and cherish your own loved ones to honor Mert. He most loved quality time spent with his friends and family, and with his passing we hold onto those beautiful memories.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to Niagara Hospice at www.niagarahospice.org or Schoellkopf Health Center at www.nfmmc.org. His family will always be grateful for the wonderful care both of these facilities provided to him.

Please share condolences at www.hardisonfuneralhomes.com.

Field & Fork Network launches Double Up Food Bucks NY at Save-A-Lot in Niagara Falls

SNAP match program makes fresh food more accessible & affordable for local communities while benefitting farmers

Press Release

Field & Fork Network, a leading nonprofit focused on strengthening New York's food system, is pleased to announce the launch of its Double Up Food Bucks NY program at Save-A-Lot located at 2429 Military Road, Niagara Falls.

The Double Up Food Bucks program increases food access by connecting New York farmers, grocers and residents who use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The program helps SNAP shoppers purchase more local fresh fruits and vegetables through a dollar-for-dollar match, up to \$5 a day, with an emphasis on New York-grown produce.

According to a recent 2023 report from the state Department of Health, the self-reported food insecurity rate among adults in Niagara County was 18.7%. This is higher compared to another recent report from the office of the state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, where the average annual percentage of state households

self-reporting sometimes or often without enough to eat was 11.6% in 2023.

With Niagara County reporting higher food insecurity levels than the state average, increasing food access and affordability programs such as Double Up Food Bucks NY will help families stretch their dollar further and bring home more healthy and nutritious foods.

"Food insecurity in New York is higher than it was during the pandemic due to inflation, record-high food costs, and the elimination of many pandemic-era support programs. Double Up Food Bucks helps those using SNAP benefits to stretch their food budget and afford more fresh, nutritious food for themselves and their families," said Joshua McGuire, Double Up Food Bucks NY program director. "Through this new coupon solution, shoppers will match their purchases \$1 for \$1 and can spend these savings on future purchases."

How it works

- When customers buy fresh produce using their SNAP card, they will automatically receive a \$1 for \$1 match on their purchase, up to \$5 dollars per day.

- Coupons will print directly on the receipt and can be redeemed for fresh fruits and vegetables.

- Coupons may be saved over multiple purchases to use on future transactions.

"I'm honored to be offering Double Up Food Bucks to my customers," said Suzanne Schmitz, owner of the Niagara Falls Save-A-Lot. "Fresh produce is one of the things my team and I pride ourselves on offering to the community. So, to be able to offer customers the opportunity to get twice as many fresh fruits and vegetables is a great thing all around."

Save-A-Lot is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. To learn more, visit https://savealot.com/stores/21666?utm_campaign=gmb&utm_medium=organic&utm_source=google.

Field & Fork Network is a leading nonprofit focused on strengthening New York state's food system. Its mission is to connect communities to innovative solutions that foster a sustainable and equitable food system. To learn more about its initiatives or to support its work, visit www.fieldandforknetwork.com, or on Facebook and Instagram (@fieldandforknetwork).

Double Up Food Bucks is a nationwide nutrition incentive model, administered by Field & Fork Network, servicing millions of low-income SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) users with a dollar-for-dollar match to increase affordability and access to fresh healthy foods at farmers markets, CSAs, farm stands, mobile markets, and grocery stores.

Visit www.doubleupnys.com.

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Chiropractor



Find the cause of health problems

One of the great discoveries in health care in the 19th and 20th centuries was the principles that D.D. Palmer found, which ultimately became the philosophy, science and art of chiropractic. In 1910, he wrote: "The determining causes of disease are traumatism, poison, and auto-suggestion. ...it is a fact, that wrong living is the cause of disease, therefore right living is the best means of restoring health."

Traumas misalign the body structure, especially the spine causing interference in the body's energy and communication system resulting in dysfunction and dis-ease. Negative thoughts have long been known to contribute to ill health. Poisons in our food, water, air and environment interfere with our body's normal functions. Bodies also require proper rest, sleep and exercise.

The reason why people of all ages get sick, stay sick and die prematurely, is because they have not begun to address the cause of their health problems. The key is to understand that the symptoms are not the cause. Through chiropractic spinal analysis and Nutrition Response TestingSM, our practice focuses on finding the causes of ill health, handling those and allowing the body to heal itself.

Rose Chiropractic, P.C. is located at 435 Ridge St., Lewiston. To regain your health, call (716)754-9039.

LEWISTON GARDEN CLUB TO MEET

The next meeting of the Lewiston Garden Club will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Sept., 23, at the Lewiston Public Library. There will be a business meeting followed by a presentation by Lyn Chimera on native plants. Chimera is from East Aurora and is an author of electronic and printed media.

Guests are welcome to attend to learn more about how to support pollinators in their gardens by using native plants.

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