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Celebrating our nation's history across Erie County

Guest editorial by Deputy Erie County Executive Lisa Chimera

This month, our nation celebrated its 250th birthday, with events commemorating this historic milestone held across Erie County. Many of these celebrations were led in part by the Erie County Historical Commission, a group dedicated to preserving the rich history of our region.

The celebrations continue Sunday, Aug. 2, when we recognize one of the most important but least celebrated days in our nation's history, that in which 56 members of the Second Continental Congress began signing the Declaration of Independence.

"716 Celebrates: Stars, Stripes and Signers" is a free, family-friendly event featuring live entertainment, historical reenactors, family activities, military heritage, food, exhibits and more, all culminating in a major waterfront fireworks spectacular. I invite all to join us from

4-9:30 p.m. at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park for this great celebration. To learn more, visit [buffalonavalpark.org/event/716-celebrates](http://buffalonavalpark.org/event/716-celebrates).

Visit Buffalo is continuing to sponsor events across Erie County recognizing America 250. Check with your city, town or village to see what's happening near you, or go to [eriecounty250.com](http://eriecounty250.com).

This year is also a very special one for our region as we mark 125 years since Buffalo hosted the Pan-American Exposition. In 1901, Buffalo became the center of culture, design and innovation as crowds gathered to see great displays showcasing the new power of electricity, giving Buffalo its nickname, the "City of Light."

This historic anniversary will be recognized Saturday, Aug. 1, with a walking tour hosted by The Buffalo History Museum, the only structure from the exposition still standing. Walk

along the streets of Buffalo while learning about the grounds where over 8 million people from around the world enjoyed exhibits, shows and feats of design. Cost is \$20 per person and includes a souvenir map. To learn more and to register, visit [buffalohistory.org/event/pan-american-walking-tour-3/](http://buffalohistory.org/event/pan-american-walking-tour-3/).

Year-round, there is much to explore and learn about our region's rich history.

Forest Lawn Cemetery is the final resting place for notable figures, including veterans from the Revolutionary War, President Millard Fillmore, groundbreaking politician Shirley Chisholm, and many more historic Americans. The cemetery is open to the public daily. Docent-led walking tours are also available on select dates for \$20. Or jump on the Famous Sunday in the Cemetery Trolley Tour for \$30. For more information, visit [forest-lawn.com](http://forest-lawn.com).

Erie County also plays home

to many historic books and artifacts. You can experience the nearly 500,000 unique materials in a behind-the-scenes look at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library's special collections department at the Central Branch Library on the fourth Saturday of each month. Registration is suggested but not required. To learn more, visit [buffalolib.org/whats-happening](http://buffalolib.org/whats-happening).

Lastly, I remind everyone to save the date for "Doors Open Buffalo," presented by Explore Buffalo. This annual choose-your-own-adventure event will take place Saturday, Sept. 26. Get excited about our region's architectural and historical significance. More details coming soon!

I wish everyone a great rest of their summer, one that we will surely remember for many years to come!

'Lilly effect' seen in Lewiston

What is the "Lilly effect" you might ask? For over 10 years now, residents from the Town of Lewiston have complained during the rainy season that sanitary and/or storm sewer water was backing up into their basements and yards, especially residents from the Morgan Farm and Dutton Drive neighborhoods.

Well, for over 10 years now, Supervisor Broderick did nothing to address this problem. Then, in 2025, businessman Ed Lilly chose to challenge Supervisor Broderick

and ran to replace the five-term incumbent.

"Low Tax" Lilly focused his campaign then and now on Broderick's liberal tax-and-spend policies, specifically calling out the need for real infrastructure improvements within the town. Lilly has targeted Broderick's wasteful spending ventures such as building pavilions and pickleball courts, as well as purchasing a campground from the Boy Scouts.

Today, a year later, we see town employees doing an excellent job

installing and replacing sanitary sewer lines in the Dutton Drive/Morgan Farm neighborhoods. They are addressing the issues raised by Ed Lilly.

Just think what may happen when "Low Tax" Lilly is elected town supervisor on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. Last year, Lilly beat Broderick in the Republican primary, but then lost to him in the general election. Now, in 2026, Broderick holds the Conservative Party line.

Wake up Lewiston: Broderick is as much a tax-and-spend liberal

as AOC and Bernie Sanders. So, if you believe in term limits and are Democrat, Independent, Conservative or Republican, you can vote out the five-term incumbent, Steve Broderick on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026!

For more of the "Lilly effect," vote "Low Tax" Lilly on Nov. 3.

Thank you in advance, for your consideration of this important manner.

Harold S. Hopkins

Kudos to Gary Hall

Reading the article about Gary Hall brought me back to my youth. First met Gary in high school; I was in 12th grade, he was in ninth or 10th. He pledged for our HS fraternity. I was his big brother. Forward a few years later while I was volunteering at the Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club, we reconnected.

Gary was a major contributor in the Biddy Basketball League and was a member of the club's board of directors. Gary has always been a supporter of youth programs. When he built his gym in the village, he opened it up to the village's Recreation Department, allowing the kids to practice tennis and soccer. He has always been a champion for children.

Thank you, Gary!

Vince Canosa



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# Tribune/Sentinel

Founded February 14, 1987

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©2026 Niagara Frontier Publications  
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This newspaper is published weekly.

**Display Ads Deadline: Friday 5 p.m.**

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