

Unity Playground: Accomplishment celebrated

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idea to the town. The Town Board lined up Parkitects, a Buffalo-based playground design and build company, to install the playground.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Doktor said, “Not even a chilly, November rainy, wet day” could stand in the way of celebrating the accomplishment of uniting residents in a common purpose.

“It is an inclusive playground, and what that means is there are elements of this playground that are designed to accommodate children of all abilities. It’s a place for everybody to come together and really just have fun.”

Doktor pointed to some special features, including an extra-wide ramp that can easily fit both a wheelchair going up and a wheelchair coming down; a tandem swing; the blue and yellow of the playground equipment, which are Wheatfield town colors; and turf that has a special supportive feel from its thick, low-impact quality.

In his thank you’s, Doktor praised: Ranalli, who he said has



Unity Inclusive Playground at Fairmount Park had its grand-opening Nov. 4 in Wheatfield.

been at the center of the project; MacSwan, whose dedicated support, Doktor said, contributed greatly to its success; the town Highway Department, which did

prep work for the site, keeping the project within budget; council members Gil Doucet and Randy Retzlaff, who were in attendance; Niagara County Legislator Jesse

Gooch; and Newman, who he described as having relevant expertise, with more than 20 years’ experience working with children with disabilities.

“Cary is a worker!” Doktor said. Newman said after the grand-opening, “I think it’s very exciting. You know, when I approached the town, they could have told me, ‘No,’ but they saw the need for an inclusive playground, and I really appreciate them. I think the community should know that these people – the Town Board – are rooting for the community.”

She explained, “This is needed and it’s just the beginning. We’re hoping to get an accessible pavilion and pickleball courts – so it’s just a start to make sure we include kids with disabilities. I love seeing the kids finally play on it.”

“Please, take a walk and check out the playground,” MacSwan said after the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Bilson’s son, Bryce, 2-and-a-half, who has cerebral palsy, was eager to get out and play.

In choosing the name “Unity” for the playground, “I wanted something that felt like he belonged,” Bilson said of her son. “Everyone is one.”

IN THE NEWS



CSEA donates to Tuscarora Nation Elementary School

CSEA Unit 7650 recently hosted a back-to-school drive to collect and distribute free school supplies to families in need. During the months of July and August, union members collected items including backpacks, tissue, pencil pouches, crayons, colored pencils, pens, pencils, folders, paper, notebooks and binders for Tuscarora Nation Elementary School students.

A press release noted, “With inflation continuing to dominate headlines, school supply drives can help defray some of the cost for families. Students from Tuscarora Nation Elementary School received much-appreciated donated items.”

CSEA Unit 7650 represents more than 600 union members from 32 different Niagara County departments. Pictured is President Terry Cirillo with elementary teacher Alexandra Printup. (Submitted)

Edward Town presents ‘Frozen, Jr.’

Playing at Niagara Wheatfield High School

Edward Town Middle School’s production of “Frozen, Jr.” is playing at Niagara Wheatfield Senior High School at 7 p.m. Dec. 1-2

and at 2 p.m. Dec. 3. The cast of approximately 50 students is directed by Ken Fick and Andrea Letcher.

“This musical offers the opportunity to have several lead roles and spotlight a number of our talented students,” Fick said. “‘Frozen Jr.’ is sure to be a fun and entertaining evening for the entire family.”

Tickets are \$7 and available online at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/77216>. For more, email jscime@nwcsd.org.

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