

# Tribune/Sentinel: See you in 2023 – The year of ‘we’

Paper production, delivery to resume week of Jan. 2

Here’s to you for a great 2022!

It was a year where things mostly (sort of?) returned to normal – this decade’s version, anyway. We toppled another COVID curve; festivals and concerts returned in full force, and with great fanfare; local businesses were brilliant in beating back the supply chain monster; and milestones were met with magnificent merriment.

Great job, one and all!

2022 sure was a busy year for us here at Niagara Frontier Publications, as well, as we continued to expand and grow.

We hope to do and offer even more in 2023 – but “we” can only do it as part of a grander “we.” You see, without our valued readers, subscribers and advertisers, we couldn’t exist. We would be working in a vacuum – and not the good kind; more like the one where your cat’s hair tangles

up the rollers. Yuck. No one wants that.

So, with your help, “we” will continue to offer the hometown news you’ve come to expect, deserve, and want to see in your community conversations.

But first, our reporters, designers, ad reps, carriers and office staff are taking a much-needed holiday rest to recharge and get back to working for you.

Following this issue, our offices will be

closed Monday, Dec. 26, through Monday, Jan. 2.

You can look forward to a new issue of the Grand Island PennySaver on Jan. 4, the Island Dispatch on Jan. 6, and the Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel on Jan. 6.

Happy holidays from the staff at NFP.

We can’t wait to show you what we’ve got in store for the new year.

## AAA winter advice: Drivers should pack a winter emergency road kit

By AAA of Western and Central New York

Winter weather is in the forecast, and AAA has tips to keep everyone safe on the roads. About 46% of crashes involving bad weather take place in the winter, making this the worst time of year for driving in treacherous conditions.

AAA’s top three winter driving tips include slowing down, increasing space between yourself and other vehicles, and braking, then turning.

Additional important notes: If you go off the road, remain calm, and stay in your car with your seat belt on. If you are in an emergency situation, call 911. If you get stranded in your car, only exit the vehicle to clear the tailpipe of deep snow to ensure proper ventilation, then return to the car, put your seat belt on, and keep your window cracked open a bit until help arrives.

A Digital Roadside Request is the fastest way to request AAA service. Simply go to [www.AAA.com/RoadService](http://www.AAA.com/RoadService) or download the AAA mobile app. To place a phone call, dial 1-800-AAA-HELP.

Tips for driving in the snow:

✓ **Accelerate and decelerate slowly.** Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don’t try to get moving in a hurry. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.

✓ **Increase following distances.** The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to 10 seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.

✓ **Know your brakes.** Whether you have antilock brakes or not, the best way to stop is threshold braking. Keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.

✓ **Don’t power up hills.** Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads may only result in spinning your wheels. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill as slowly as possible.

✓ **Don’t stop going up a hill.** It’s difficult to move up a hill on an icy road. If possible, get your vehicle moving on a flat roadway first before taking on a hill.

✓ **If possible, stay home.** If you really don’t have to go out, don’t. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can.

### Winter Driving: What NOT to Do

• Don’t continue at the same speed you would be traveling in



clear, dry conditions.

✓ Rain, snow and ice can dramatically reduce your tire traction.

✓ Drivers should slow down to regain the traction that is lost due to the weather.

• Do not brake and turn at the same time or be rough with your steering/braking.

✓ Asking your vehicle to do two things at a time makes it more likely that your tires will lose traction.

✓ Brake first, then turn, then accelerate.

✓ If you’re not gentle with steering, acceleration and braking, your vehicle’s balance can be negatively affected, increasing the chance of experiencing a skid.

✓ Always steer, accelerate and brake smoothly.

✓ Slamming on the brakes can make the skid even worse.

✓ If skidding, continue to look and steer the vehicle in the direction you want to go.

• Don’t follow behind other vehicles as closely as you would when driving in clear, dry conditions

✓ Slick roads mean your vehicle cannot slow down as quickly.

✓ Increase following distances to a minimum of 5-6 seconds.

✓ Always keep open space to at

least one side of your vehicle, in case you need make an emergency lane change maneuver.

### What to Do if You Get Stuck

✓ Clear a path in front of your wheels for several feet by driving forward and backward or shoveling.

✓ With your wheels pointed straight to minimize rolling resistance, shift to “drive” (or second gear for manual transmissions) and apply gentle pressure to the accelerator, without spinning the wheels. If you let the wheels spin, you will only dig deeper into the snow.

✓ If you need more traction, use traction mats, kitty litter, or one of the abrasive materials that you included in your emergency winter driving kit. Do not let anyone

stand directly ahead or behind the drive wheels.

✓ If you are still stuck, rock your vehicle out of the rut by applying the accelerator slowly in low gear, releasing when you stop moving forward, and reapplying when you stop rolling backward. Repeat in rapid succession using minimum power to avoid spinning wheels.

✓ Try to avoid driving when visibility is poor. If you must drive, keep your speed low, use your low-beam headlights, and pull off to a safe spot if conditions worsen.

Emergency road kit – Carry an emergency kit equipped for winter weather. The kit should include:

✓ Mobile phone preprogrammed with rescue apps and important phone numbers, including emergency services and family members

✓ Car charger for the mobile phone

✓ Drinking water and nonperishable snacks for both human and pet passengers

✓ First-aid kit  
✓ Bag of abrasive material (sand, salt, cat litter) or traction mats

✓ Snow shovel

✓ Blankets and extra warm clothing (gloves, hats, scarves)

✓ Flashlight with extra batteries

✓ Winter window washer solvent

✓ Ice scraper with brush

✓ Cloths or roll of paper towels

✓ Jumper cables

✓ Warning devices (flares or triangles)

✓ Basic toolkit (screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench)

As upstate New York’s largest member services organization, AAA Western and Central New York provides more than 887,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1900, AAA has been a leading advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. Visit AAA at [www.AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com).

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