

Chamber of Commerce: Serving as a board of directors member

The Chamber of Commerce is governed by a volunteer board of directors, composed of businesses and organizations of the Chamber. We also have elected leaders serve as ex-officio, non-voting members. Lately, our board has been busy! They have been actively meeting monthly since August of last year working on leadership structure, strategic planning, financial responsibility regarding creating a budget that will move our region forward, and a new logo and name.

Board members support the work of the Chamber and provide mission-based leadership and strategic governance. While day-to-day operations are led by the Chamber's president (me), the board and president relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the board is both critical and expected. Governance and

policymaking are the responsibility of the board. They control the Chamber's property, are responsible for our financial outlook, and determine our program direction.

Since the beginning of the year, we have featured a board member on our website, social media and in our member newsletter. We have a broad representation of members from real estate and retail to service-based businesses. Many of our board members also serve on other boards. They are true community leaders, and we are appreciative of all they have done to move our Chamber into a new direction.

Board terms are three years, and members can serve up to two consecutive terms. We will be accepting letters of interest starting in June, with the interview process starting in Septem-

ber. Our new board members are generally voted upon in November for a term commencing in January.

Specific board member responsibilities include:

- ✓ Leadership, governance and oversight.

- ✓ Attending regular monthly meetings and special/called

- meetings of the board and committees on which the member serves.

- ✓ Serving as a trusted adviser to board member colleagues and to the CEO, as she/he develops and implements the Chamber's strategic plan and its associated tasks.

- ✓ Reviewing outcomes and metrics created by the Chamber

for evaluating its impact, and regularly measuring its performance and effectiveness using those metrics.

- ✓ Reviewing the agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.

- ✓ Approving the Chamber's annual budget, financial reports, and material business decisions.

- ✓ Helping ensure that the Chamber meets its legal and fiduciary responsibilities as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization.

- ✓ Assisting the board chair and president / CEO in identifying and recruiting other potential board members.

- ✓ Serving on committees or task forces and taking on special assignments as needed.

- ✓ Representing the Chamber to stakeholders and acting as an ambassador for the organization in accordance with the Cham-

ber's mission, vision and values.

- ✓ Assisting the Chamber's membership growth by identifying and communicating to the CEO and staff potential new Chamber members.

- ✓ Supporting the programs and activities of the Chamber through attendance.

- ✓ Freely offering ideas and suggestions to position the Chamber to achieve its mission and vision.

- ✓ Periodically reviewing the NRRCC mission, vision and values for its relevance, effectiveness and accuracy, given the state of the community, business climate and trends.

If you are interested in growing business and community as a board of director, contact the Chamber office and we will be happy to let you know more. Visit www.NiagaraRiverRegion.com or call 716-754-9500.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Jennifer Pauly
President

Town Clerk's Corner

• The Town of Lewiston announced a free paint drop-off event would be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 15, in the Dwyer Ice Arena parking lot at Niagara University. This event is sponsored by Niagara County, GreenSheen and Niagara University. Preregistration is required at <https://rb.gy/lr3a>. For more information, visit www.rethinkyourwaste.com.

• The Niagara County Department of Health, in cooperation with the Niagara County Veterinary Society, will sponsor a free rabies immunization clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 15, at the Town of Somerset Highway Garage, 8684 Haight Road, Barker. Registration can be found at www.niagaracounty.com/health.

• The town announced residential brush pick-ups have begun and will continue throughout the spring and summer. Crews work on a regular rotation throughout the town, which takes approximately four to five weeks to complete. The Highway Department

does not pick up rocks, stumps, lawn clippings, twigs, vines, building materials, rubbish, etc.

Residents are advised there may be delays at times due to the weather, paving season and events beyond the control of highway crews. Residents are asked not to contact the Highway Department, as it does not schedule pickups.

Town residents also have the option of bringing their brush to the town Highway Department garage, located at 1445 Swann Road. Drop-off times are between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays.

• Town of Lewiston residential trash collection takes place on Mondays. Scheduled 2023 Monday holidays with service interruption include Memorial Day, May 29; Labor Day, Sept.

Donna R.
Garfinkel

4; and Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Here, trash pickups will occur on Tuesdays.

• Lewiston Town Board work sessions are held on the second Monday of each month with regular Town Board meetings on the fourth Monday. Both sessions take place at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room and are open to the public.

• Dog owners are reminded the Town of Lewiston, including the village, has a leash law in effect. For the safety of residents and other pets, dog owners are asked to please adhere to this ordinance.

Dog owners are also reminded the ordinance requires they clean up after their pets. Please remove and dispose of all dog wastes properly. In addition, all dogs age 4 months and older, need to be licensed. For more information, contact the Town Clerk's Office at 716-754-8213.

• The town Water Department reminds seasonal residents that the U.S. Post Office does not forward your water bill. To avoid re-

ceiving your bill late or not at all, the Water Department requests that residents contact them to update their mailing address as needed. For more information, call 716-754-8213, ext. 235 or 236.

• Residents are advised the town maintains four service vehicles with the Town of Lewiston

seal on the side. These vehicles are used by the town Building Department, assessor's office, ordinance office and Town Hall maintenance. Residents who have any questions of concerns are asked to contact Town Hall at 716-754-8213.

Niagara County declares April 'Donate Life Month'

Submitted by the Niagara County Public Information Office

The Niagara County Legislature passed a proclamation declaring April "Donate Life Month," as part of the annual nationwide campaign. Throughout the month, those who have saved lives through the gift of a donation are honored, and others are encouraged to consider registering as organ, eye and tissue donors.

"There are more than 10,000 women, men and children in New York state waiting for lifesaving organ transplants, and every 10 minutes another person is added to the national transplant waiting list," Niagara County Legislator Randy Bradt said. "Every April, the nation puts a spotlight on this need, as we ask more members of the public to please consider registering to be a donor."

According to County Clerk Joe Jastrzemski, residents can sign up to be organ donors by visiting the state registry at <https://donatelife.ny.gov/>, or at any of the county's three Department of



Motor Vehicles offices (Lockport, Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda). Jastrzemski said the DMV offices are all decorated to promote Donate Life month.

"The fact is that one organ, eye and tissue donor can save eight lives and enhance 75 more," Jastrzemski said. "That's why I became an organ donor years ago and, over the last eight years, we have seen a tremendous uptick of residents join the registry — where today, more than 51% of all licensed drivers in Niagara

County are signed up. If you are not, please know it's never been easier to register, and your decision could have a lasting impact for generations."

Pictured is the North Tonawanda DMV office decorated for Donate Life Month. From left: Karen Roy, Jaime Fitzpatrick, Julia Dunn, Laura Carter, Denise Dobmeier, Jastrzemski, Bradt, Tyler Gooch, Niagara County Legislator Jesse Gooch, Matthew Parish, Maria Bradt and Debbie Nunnari. (Submitted)

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