

**NEED TO READ**

**ONLINE**  
wnypapers.com



► Great Lakes Real Estate honors agents

► Tops Markets launches Children's Miracle Network campaign

► 'Rainbow City Pride' is all-day Pride event in Niagara Falls

► (Five For) Fighting the good fight: John Ondrasik teams with Ukrainian Orchestra to raise awareness

► Speaking at NU, NFL Executive Vice President Troy Vincent establishes The Vincent Commission

► 'Thursdays on the Water': NT concert lineup announced

► Grace Potter added to Artpark Amphitheater concert schedule



► Heart, love & Soul opens new community garden

In print and online, we are your No. 1 source for local news

Niagara Frontier Publications and [www.wnypapers.com](http://www.wnypapers.com)

# NYS: 'Free Fishing Weekend' June 24-25

New Yorkers encouraged to explore opportunities close to home during 'Free Freshwater Fishing Days'

Gov. Kathy Hochul encouraged New Yorkers to take advantage of the year's second "Free Fishing Weekend," on June 24-25, when New York state waives the requirement for a freshwater fishing license.

A press release stated, "Fishing is considered one of the most therapeutic outdoor activities, making it an ideal activity for all New Yorkers looking to get outside and enjoy the outdoors."

Hochul said, "As summer approaches, fishing New York's world-class waters is arguably one of the best ways to spend the weekend. New York's 'Free Fishing Days' give New Yorkers and visitors alike the opportunity to cast a line and enjoy the abundant natural beauty found in every corner of the Empire State."

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos said, "Seasoned anglers know New York offers some of the world's best fishing, and 'Free Fishing Days' are the perfect time to introduce these tremendous recreational opportunities to family, friends and visitors. New York continues to make it easier than ever for residents and visitors to come out and experience all our waters have to offer."

New York's "Free Fishing Days" program began in 1991 to give those who might not fish the chance to try the rewarding sport at no cost and learn about a new hobby. This no-cost opportunity also encourages people to support the management of the state's freshwater fisheries by purchasing a New York fishing license.

Additional "Free Fishing Days" in 2023 include: National Hunting and Fishing Day on Sept. 23, and Veterans Day on Nov. 11. During these designated "Free Fishing Days," residents and non-residents are permitted to



fish in freshwater for free without a fishing license.

The DEC and its partners also hold free fishing clinics throughout the year. In addition to learning about local fishing opportunities, participants are taught about the fish they can catch, how to cast a fishing rod, fishing safety, aquatic resource stewardship, and fishing regulations. Upcoming events include June 22 in Islip, June 24 in Orchard Park, June 29 in Manhattan, and July 5 in Queens. A full list of clinics can be found at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/27123.html#Events>. Additional events are added throughout the year.

"Free Fishing Day" participants are reminded that, although the requirement for a freshwater fishing license is

waived during "Free Fishing Days," all other fishing regulations remain in effect.

The press release stated, "For beginner anglers interested in getting started, the 'I FISH NY Beginners' Guide to Freshwater Fishing' provides information on everything from rigging up a fishing rod to identifying a catch and understanding fishing regulations. DEC's 'Places to Fish' webpages are a reliable source of information for those planning their next fishing trip."

Last year, DEC added a new feature to the official HuntFishNY app called "The Tackle Box." Fishing regulations, fishing access, and stocking information are all available in the app within a map-based interface from the convenience of a smart phone.

Other features include driving directions to state-operated fishing access sites and an offline feature that allows users to access information when cell coverage isn't available. The HuntFishNY app is available for download through Google Play or the App store. For more information, visit the DEC website.

The press release stated, "DEC's Bureau of Fisheries recognizes catches of big sportfish, including state records, through the Angler Achievement Awards Program. Anglers who catch a big fish this year are encouraged to advise DEC. Visit the DEC website for program rules, including minimum qualifying lengths and weights."

## Following boating accident in Lockport, Hochul proposes legislation providing State Parks with oversight authority

Current state law does not grant explicit regulatory authority to inspect a commercial boat operating within a cave for tourism

√ Proposed legislation follows tragic tour boat accident in Lockport, which killed one passenger and injured several others

Submitted by the Office of Gov. Kathy Hochul  
On June 12, a tour boat in the privately run commercial Lockport Caves capsized, killing one passenger and injuring several others. Following this tragic boat-

ing accident, Gov. Kathy Hochul will propose legislation granting the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation regulatory authority over commercial tourism boats operating in caves to prevent future tragedies.

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

regulates commercial boats, but does not have the legal authority to regulate the safety of boats operating on non-navigable waters such as in caves on private property. The governor's legislation will close this loophole.

"As we mourn the loss of life resulting from the boat crash in the Lockport Caves, my adminis-

tration is proposing legislation to prevent future tragedies," Hochul said. "The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has the tools to keep us safe, and this legislation will ensure they have the legal authority to use these to keep passengers safe on boats in caves."

### Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

Founded February 14, 1987

**PUBLISHER**

Skip Mazenauer  
GM/MANAGING EDITOR

Joshua Maloni

**EDITOR IN CHIEF/SENTINEL EDITOR**

Terrence P. Duffy

**WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR**

Joshua Maloni

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES**

Colleen Rebmann, Jeff Calarco

**ACCOUNTING/OFFICE MANAGER**

Kim Stacharczyk

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Jennifer Walowitz

**PRODUCTION MANAGER/**

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Wendy Juzwicki

**CLASSIFIED MANAGER**

Wendy Puffer

**CIRCULATION**

Kim Stacharczyk

**SENIOR REPORTERS**

Michael J. Billoni, Patrick J. Bradley,

Alice Gerard, Karen Keefe

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Timothy Chipp, Kevin and Dawn Cobello,

Michelle Blackley Glynn, Wayne Peters,

Elijah Robinson, Lauren Zaepfel

©2023 Niagara Frontier Publications

1859 Whitehaven Road  
Grand Island, N.Y. 14072

Phone 716-773-7676  
Fax 716-773-7190

**Editorial:**

Dispatch@wnypapers.com  
Sentinel@wnypapers.com

**Advertising:**

NFPDesign@wnypapers.com

**Classifieds:**

NFPClassifieds@wnypapers.com

**Circulation:**

NFPCirculation@wnypapers.com

**Legals:**

legalnotice@wnypapers.com

**Website:**

wnypapers.com

**Grand Island Publishing Corp.**

Newspaper is printed in the U.S.A. and all rights reserved. © 2023 by Grand Island Publishing Corp. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the publisher. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will be returned only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

All letters, news releases and photos received will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication or brochure and are subject to Grand Island Publishing Corp's. unrestricted right to edit, comment or reject.

All original artwork, layout and design remain sole property of Grand Island Publishing Corp. Reproduction in whole or part of any advertisement is strictly forbidden.

Grand Island Publishing Corp. will not be liable for errors appearing in advertisements beyond replacement of the space occupied by the error. The

publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement at his sole discretion. Notification must be made in writing within one week of publication. Verbal notifications will not be accepted.

Grand Island Publishing Corp. does not knowingly accept any kind of fraudulent advertising. We suggest you investigate thoroughly any advertisement before you reply.

Verbal cancellations will not be accepted. Written authorization to cancel a display or commercial classified ad must be received by Grand Island Publishing Corp. before deadline for insertion.

The Tribune is published weekly.

Display Ads Deadline: MONDAY 5 PM

New York State Press Association, Niagara County Builders Association, Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, Wheatfield Business Association Inc., Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, The Niagara USA Chamber.



NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS

