

Lewiston-Porter Academy of Business and Finance sets meet-and-greet fundraiser

The Lew-Port Academy of Business and Finance invites residents to check out its "Creating Pathways to the Future" meet-and-greet/fundraiser on Thursday evening, Aug. 3, at the Youngstown Yacht Club.

Presented by the Academy of Business and Finance's board of advisers, the affair will provide visitors the opportunity to learn more about this "school within a school" program and meet its student members. Also included is a barbecue dinner starting 6:30 p.m. at the YYC, with a cash bar provided. Lewiston-Porter administration officials, business sponsors of the event, and parents of student

members are also expected to attend.

The cost per ticket for visitors is \$20 presale or \$25 at the door.

For more information on presale tickets, contact director Brian Hall at bhall@lew-port.com or Nicole Krawczyk at nkrawczyk@lew-port.com.

Sponsors for the 2023 The "Creating Pathways" event include Swoogier Construction; Swimming with the Fishes; Dena and Jack Armstrong; Mike Oliver; Jeff Stravino; Key-Bank; Lower Niagara Moose Lodge No. 584; UBS; and Mark Cerrone Inc.

(Photo by Terry Duffy)



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Alzheimer's Association program on recognizing, understanding dementia

The Western New York Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will offer a free education program on recognizing and understanding Alzheimer's disease and dementia from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1, at the Lewiston Public Library, 305 S. Eighth St.

"The program will help participants learn about the differences between Alzheimer's and normal aging, and what to do if you suspect dementia in yourself or a loved one," said Andrea Koch, director of education and training for the WNY Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. "With new treatments available for early-stage Alzheimer's, it is more important than ever to be evaluated by a health care professional if Alzheimer's is suspected."

The program will also cover the difference between Alzheimer's and other dementias, risk factors, stages of the disease, and Alzheimer's Association resources for care and support. Individuals can register online at bit.ly/Lew-PLAug23 or by calling 800-272-3900.

To learn more about Alzheimer's disease or other dementias, call 800-272-3900 or visit alz.org.

Higgins & Stefanik urge US Customs & Border Protection to address northern border staffing shortages

Congress members Brian Higgins and Elise Stefanik, who serve as co-chairs of the Northern Border Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives, are calling on U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to address staffing shortages at the northern border, which they said are causing excessive delays and deterring cross-border travel.

In a letter to the CBP commissioner, the members wrote, "Inspection booths at Northern Border Ports of Entry are woefully understaffed. At the Peace

Bridge in Buffalo, New York, the second-busiest U.S.-Canada border crossing, we have received reports of only two out of 12 regular inspection lanes being open. The lack of staff and open lanes has led to hour-plus delays during morning commute hours. At the border crossing between Champlain, New York and St. Bernard de Lacolle, Quebec, wait times have tripled on average, and some days, waits can be over two hours long. Traffic has only reached 85 percent of pre-pandemic levels yet our booths are still understaffed. Long waits dissuade travelers from crossing the border, stifle economic activity, and cause undue harm to our border communities."

Higgins' team said, "CBP officers stationed at the northern border are being placed on temporary assignments at the southern border. Assignments are currently impacting 34 CBP officers from the Port of Buffalo. Deployments, which last 60 days, began in April of 2022. On Aug. 20, 2023, another 33 CBP officers from Buffalo are scheduled to be sent to the southern border."

"Beyond impairing travel between the United States and Canada, these frequent reassignments are contributing to low morale among officers. Additionally, it impacts the agency's ability to recruit new officers, placing the burden of additional overtime on existing officers. This issue is not unique to New York. CBP's workload staffing model demonstrates a shortage of at least 1,800 CBP officers nationwide."

"Efficient travel across the border is critical for local economies along the northern border in New York state, as well as the United States as a whole. Canada is largest international inbound market to the United States, with nearly 21 million visitors spending \$20.8 billion annually."

"In addition to staffing shortages, NEXUS backlogs continue to create unreasonable wait times for interview appointments, which often exceed a year. While the Trusted Traveler program is intended to expedite border crossings by prescreening travelers, the CBP website currently lists application processing times as 12-14 months. In response,

earlier this year Higgins introduced the Make NEXUS Work Act, which would allow for virtual NEXUS interviews, easing and accelerating the application process.

Higgins' Western New York district represents four northern border crossings, including the Peace Bridge, which is the second-busiest along the 5,525-mile border. Stefanik's Northern New York district represents the crossing between Champlain and St. Bernard de Lacolle, Quebec.

Memorial Medical Center appoints Latuga as interim director of pharmacy

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center on Friday announced the appointment of Dr. Thomas Latuga as the interim director of pharmacy.

A press release stated, "Dr. Latuga, who has been a valuable member of the NFMCC team since 2010 as a pharmacist, will now lead the pharmacy team in providing exceptional pharmaceutical care, reinforcing NFMCC's commitment to delivering outstanding health care services."

"In addition to his position at NFMCC, Dr. Latuga served as a clinical assistant professor at D'Youville College, where he contributed to the education and mentorship of future pharmacists. Dr. Latuga also gained valuable experience as a clinical pharmacist with Catholic Health."

Latuga obtained his doctor of pharmacy degree in 2010 from the University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Wheatfield Seniors seeks new members

The Wheatfield Seniors group seeks new members.

It stated, "Please join us in a walking club, exercise classes, ceramics as well as companionship with much more."

For more information, contact Arlene at 716-731-4835.

Events take place at 2790 Church Road, North Tonawanda.