

# Public asked to respond on LPD operations, needs for improvement; survey to remain active to Feb. 24

Continued from Page 1

the following premise:

“NYS Governor Cuomo Executive Order 203 requires each law enforcement agency in New York state to create a reform re-invention plan in a collaborative manner with the community. The plans need to be approved by the Lewiston Town Board and submitted to NYS by April 1, 2021. NYS is referring to this process as the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative.

“According to NYS Governor Cuomo’s office, ‘The purpose of the New York State Police reform and reinvention Collaborative is to foster trust, fairness and legitimacy within communities throughout our State and to ad-

dress any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color.’

“The Police Reform Committee is tasked with reaching out to the community to greater input on policing. As part of the community outreach efforts, a community survey has been created. Your participation in the survey will assist in shaping the plan.

“Please complete the survey by noon, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2021. The link is available here: <https://forms.gle/yhHwhYAJSevvxKVMA>.”

Clicking on the link, the survey opens, “Thank you for taking time to complete this ten question survey. Your participation will help the Lewiston Police Department (to) better serve the needs of the

communities we represent.”

On the survey, the user finds a simple series of questions, with information sought on the responder’s residency or employment in the LPD service area, as well as their age and sex.

It then queries the responder on their views on the LPD itself and specifically, the “areas in need of improvement” for Lewiston police. Presented in a scale rating format (from 1-5 and N/A) it asks the responder’s feelings of their personal safety at “Artpark Events” and “Lewiston Events.”

It follows, again on a 1-5 scale, with the question, “How confident are you that issues are properly handled by the Lewiston Police Department?”

Question No. 8 expands on this,

with community input sought on the responder’s views of the LPD with respect to the following: community policing; reducing racial disparities; building trust; community engagement; leadership and culture; police conduct/use of force; accountability of misconduct; citizen oversight; data, technology and transparency; recruiting a diverse workforce; training for the police department; and police officer wellness.

It closes with a question on “your overall satisfaction with the Lewiston Police Department and concludes with “How can the Lewiston Police Department help make your neighborhoods safer?”

Previte said he was pleased with the survey and appreciates the panel’s assistance in the effort.

“I’m excited to see it. It’s good for us to get feedback,” he said.

The chief credited Pauly with the survey’s creation, noting how she assisted LPD in the development of topical data and worked to create a user-friendly survey for the community.

“I’m happy to see it up and running; I look forward to seeing the results,” Previte said.

The River Region community is asked to review and complete the survey by Wednesday, Feb. 24. Previte said the community panel is expected to meet Thursday, Feb. 25, to determine its next steps.

“From there will be discussions with the panel on how we will continue” as the state’s reform mandate proceeds,” Previte said.

## Investigation into sledding hill fatality continues

GoFundMe page established for female victim

Police are continuing their investigations into an accident that occurred Saturday morning at Clyde L. Burmaster Park in the Town of Lewiston, which claimed the life of a 16-year-old female and injured a 3-year-old male.

According to the Niagara County Office and Lewiston Police, the accident on the sledding hill at the Lower Mountain Road park

occurred at 10:14 a.m. The children were riding on a tube that struck a tree at the bottom of a 125-foot-long sledding hill.

Members of the Pekin Volunteer Fire Co. and Tri Community Ambulance responded to the scene to render aid. The two youth were then transported by ambulance to John R. Oishei Children’s Hospital in Buffalo for

treatment.

Subsequent to her arrival at the hospital, the female was pronounced deceased due to her injuries. She was identified as Renee Hill, 16, of the Tuscarora Reservation. The unidentified male was treated and released.

Lewiston Police Chief Frank Previte said it appeared the two were travelling sideways down

the hill, which was described by onlookers as icy at the time of the accident. The female teen attempted the shield the male child and apparently struck her back on a tree trunk at the base of the hill.

The sledding hill at Clyde L. Burmaster Park remains closed at this time.

Theresa Hill created a GoFund-

Me page over the weekend to assist the female victim’s family with funeral expenses. As of Thursday, the campaign had raised almost \$29,000.

Those interested in assisting the girl’s family may visit the Renee Hill Funeral Expenses GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/renee-hill-funeral-expenses>.

## IN THE NEWS

### Higgins introduces legislation aimed at increasing access to lung cancer screening

Congressman Brian Higgins, D-NY-26, introduced legislation aimed at increasing access to lung cancer screening by providing grants that support the establishment and maintenance of new lung cancer screening registries.

Higgins, who serves a co-chair of the bipartisan congressional cancer caucus, said, “Lung cancer is an incredibly dangerous disease and remains the deadliest form of cancer in the United States. Cancer screening is an absolute priority when it comes to saving lives. Screening rates for lung cancer are incredibly low, and our new bill will help health

care providers, like Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, increase our communities’ access to lung cancer screening.”

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends all adults aged 55-80 who smoked at least one pack of cigarettes a day for at least 30 years or those who have quit smoking in the past 15 years receive an annual low-dose CT for lung cancer screening. But according to the National Cancer Institute, between 2010 and 2015, only 6% of all adults for whom screening is recommended underwent this simple procedure. Screening is key to catching lung cancer early when it can be curatively treated and save lives; a large national randomized controlled trial found that screening people at risk for lung cancer with a CT reduced the risk of dying

from lung cancer by 20% compared to a chest X-ray.

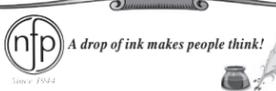
A press release said, “Cancer screening registries are databases that document the results of testing and are essential for health care professionals and researchers to understand lung cancer. Before a doctor can perform a lung cancer screening CT, the facility must have access to a lung cancer screening registry approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Currently, there is only one CMS-approved lung cancer screening registry.”

Higgins’ bill, the Lung Cancer Screening Registry and Quality Improvement Act (HR107), helps alleviate the bottleneck in screening access by providing \$2 million in grants annually for five years to assist with the creation and maintenance of a free lung can-

cer screening registry accessible to lung CT providers nationwide, eliminating one of the most significant barriers to lung cancer screening. Additionally, the bill would provide \$1 million annually for five years to encourage the development of quality measures, using registry data, in order to improve the quality of care and patient outcomes in the lung cancer screening space.

“I applaud Congressman Higgins for submitting a bill that

addresses a significant financial barrier to providing lung cancer screening to all eligible people. Lung cancer remains the deadliest cancer, killing more women and men than the other major cancers combined. Increasing access to lung cancer screening, especially in rural and underserved urban areas, will save tens of thousands of lives,” said Mary Reid, Ph.D., chief of cancer screening and survivorship at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.



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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

The Power Authority of the State of New York (Authority) will hold a public hearing as detailed below on a proposed form of Contract for the sale of hydropower to Trek, Inc., Sucro Real Estate NY LLC, Stavatti Aerospace Ltd., Mono-Systems, Inc., and Niagara Specialty Metals, Inc.

Copies of the proposed Contract forms may be inspected at the Authority’s office at the address below, or online at the Authority’s Web site, [www.nypa.gov](http://www.nypa.gov).

Those wishing to make oral statements at the hearing are asked to provide to the Authority, in writing, in advance of the hearing, their name(s) and the name of the organization or group they represent. Oral statements should be limited to five minutes. Speakers should also bring two hard copies of their oral statements to the hearing.

Hearing Date: March 10, 2021  
Hearing Times: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Hearing Location: 535 Washington Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room Buffalo, New York 14203

Written statements provided to the Authority by close of business on Thursday, March 11, 2021 will also become part of the record of the hearing. For further information, including the address of other Authority offices at which copies of the proposed Contract forms may be inspected, contact:

POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
Karen Delince, Corporate Secretary  
123 Main Street, White Plains, New York 10601  
(914) 390-8085 | [secretarys.office@nypa.gov](mailto:secretarys.office@nypa.gov)



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**May 19 & 20** - Thousand Islands/Boat Ride/Ron & Nancy Onesong  
**June 3-12** - Black Hills/Mt. Rushmore - South Dakota/Notre Dame  
**June 18 - NEW** - Lucy Tour - LucyDesi Museum/Nat. Comedy Ctr/Lunch  
**June 21-25** - Cape Cod/Martha’s Vineyard  
**July 6-9** - Mackinac Island/Frankenmuth/Casino  
**July 12 - NEW** - Dolly/Patsy/Loretta - Walters Family Theatre  
**July 14** - Grand River Luncheon Cruise/Blaz. Fiddles  
**July 21 - NEW** - Presley/Perkins/Cash/Lewis - Walters Family Theatre  
**Aug. 2 - NEW** - History of Country Music Show - Walters Ranch/Lunch  
**Aug. 31 - Sept. 1 - NEW** - Skaneateles Cruise-Belhurst Castle  
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**Sept. 14-16 - NEW** - Ohio Amish/2 shows/Antiquing/Flea Mkt  
**Sept. 28-Oct. 4** - Memphis/Graceland/Nashville/Grand Ole Opry  
**Oct. 14-23** - WXRL HAWAII CRUISE See details below  
**Nov. 8-1** - Lancaster, PA - Amish/Queen Esther & Christmas Show  
**Nov. 14 - 21 - NEW** - Caribbean Cruise  
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