



New stores, safety procedures in works as Fashion Outlets looks forward to reopening

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

Interim Tribune Editor

Although initially thought to be included in Gov. Andrew Cuomo's phase four reopening plans, this week malls across the state learned they would have to remain closed for now. During the governor's press briefing on Wednesday, Cuomo said state health officials would continue to "study malls, movie theaters and gyms," as concerns rise that air conditioning systems could propel a resurgence of the coronavirus.

Thursday afternoon on LCTV, Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydsh said her Western New York regional "control room" reopening group is advocating for the opening of those particular venues.

Currently, there is no phase five of reopening planned. Instead, malls are locked in a holding pattern awaiting individual instructions and guidelines from the state as more data becomes available.

When questioned, representatives for the Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls in the Town of Niagara said they had no comment on the governor's decision



Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls (Image courtesy of the mall)

at this time.

However, while administration awaits the go-ahead from the state, plenty of developments are happening behind the Fashion Outlets' closed doors.

In fact, a few new stores are in the works, including:

- √ A new 9,748-square-foot Adidas store will be opening, located near Express Factory Store. Opening date to be determined.

- √ A new 2,700-square-foot Tory Burch store will be opening, located near COACH. Opening date to be determined.

- √ A newly remodeled Lindt SEE MALL, continued on Page 2

'NY Forward' provides details on phase 4

The "New York Forward" website has begun to detail the fourth phase of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's reopening plan. Western New York is expected to enter this stage on Tuesday, June 30.

Several cultural institutions can reopen to the public, and film crews can resume production. Places such as malls, gyms, bowling lanes and movie theaters remain closed for now. There's also no word on professional sports leagues and/or a return of fans.

Initially, the governor only announced four phases. As such, it was expected No. 4 would be the final stage of reopening. However, several arts and entertainment industries are not included, suggesting addendums will be forthcoming.

In a Wednesday press conference, Cuomo said, "On phase four, we have low-risk outdoor arts, low-risk indoor arts, entertainment, museums, film and movie production, higher education and professional sports."

He added, "We are continuing to study malls, movie theaters and gyms. There's new information that comes out on this virus every day - and anyone who thinks this is a static situation is wrong. So we are continuing to study the most recent developments. We're looking at what happened in other states.

"There are some reports that malls, bars, certain social clubs with air conditioning, that air conditioning may not be cleansing the air of the virus and just recirculating the virus. So we are studying that and as soon as we get some more information we will make an informed decision."

- √ In addition, within phase four, **houses of worship** can expand the number of in-person participants from 25% to 33%.

- √ **Gatherings**, in general, can expand from 25 to 50 people.

"The numbers continue trending in the right direction as we went from one of the highest infections rates to one of the lowest in the country, so we will also allow slightly larger social and

SEE WNY, continued on Page 7

Town of Porter cancels Summerfest



90 West entertained the crowd at last year's Town of Porter Summerfest.

STAFF REPORTS

The Town of Porter Town Board announced Thursday it has decided to cancel this year's Summerfest, which had been scheduled for Saturday, July 18, at Porter on the Lake Town Park.

Town Supervisor John "Duffy" Johnston said the Town Board held out hope this year's event - which was scheduled to include performances by The Strictly Hip and the Thurman Brothers - could take place. However, as the town awaits Gov. Andrew Cuomo's coronavirus guidelines as it pertains to phase four, it became difficult to finalize planning for the event.

"After much deliberation and waiting on the governor's phase four, the Porter board decided to cancel the event. The decrease in COVID-19 cases in Niagara County is a great result of our elected officials' hard work. We believe that, if this popular event was to go on as planned, the number of participants would be overwhelming," Johnston said. "The Town of Porter Town Board wants to make the correct decision for our residents and the surrounding communities. We want to thank all of our sponsors, vendors and The Strictly Hip and Thurman Brothers bands. We will see you on July 17 in 2021. Thank you."

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