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Opinions

Use of all submitted letters and editorials is at the discretion of Niagara Frontier Publications. All entries should include the writer's/organization's name, number and address. Submissions, which may be edited for content/style/accuracy, do not necessarily reflect the opinion of NFP staff.

Town Clerk's Corner

County-certified 2021 primary sites, times listed

The Lewiston Town Board meeting will take place at 6 p.m. Monday, May 24; there is no work session in June. Town Hall offices will be closed on Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day. Garbage collection in the Town of Lewiston will be on Tuesday, June 1, due to the holiday.

TOWN CLERK'S CORNER



Donna R. Garfinkel

The town will be performing necessary construction/up-keep work at Kiwanis Park. The tennis courts will be closed from May 25 to June 4 to allow for resurfacing of the court.

Niagara County-certified 2021 primary early voting sites include

the St. John De LaSalle Center, 8469 Buffalo Ave., and the Niagara Falls and Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4487 Lake Ave., Lockport. Scheduled voting times are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 12, and Sunday, June 13; noon to 8 p.m. Monday, June 14, and Tuesday, June 15; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 16; 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday June 17, and Friday June 18; and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 19, and Sunday, June 20.

The sites are open to all registered voters in the Democratic, Republican, Conservative and Working Families parties in Niagara County. The primary will be held with polls open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday June 21.

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, June 5, at the Amtrak Train Depot (Niagara Falls train station) 825 Depot Ave., City of Niagara Falls.

Free Fishing Days will take place Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27. Anyone can fish the fresh waters of New York state and no fishing license is required. All other freshwater fishing regulations still apply. Take the family fishing, and don't forget the grandparents!

Brush pick-up reminders - Town personnel will pick-up brush until Friday, Oct. 15. No need to call; crews will be in your neighborhood on a regular rotation. Town residents, at any time, can bag grass clippings, leaves and any other small vegetation, and Modern Disposal will take them with the weekly trash pick-up.

If you should notice a street

light is out or flickering, please contact the town clerk's office at 754-8213, ext. 222 or 256, or enter the information on the town website, www.townoflewiston.us (under the comment drop-down). The following information is necessary in order to report this to National Grid: pole number, closest house address and closest street intersection to the pole.

While visiting all Lewiston town parks, please adhere to the "Smoke Free Zone" signs placed throughout our parks.

The Dickersonville Cemetery, located on Ridge Road, is owned and maintained by the Town of Lewiston. Plots are available by contacting the town clerk's office. The plot map is available on the town website, www.townoflewiston.us (under the Department drop-down - Town Clerk).

Reflections on year of COVID

BY JONATHAN HART

Executive Director Ascension Living Our Lady of Peace

Ascension Living Our Lady of Peace celebrated Nursing Home and Mission Week May 9-15.

We salute our residents and associates during this week every year; however, this year feels different. Perhaps it's only the ruminations of a 25-year veteran nursing home administrator's longing for bygone days of normalcy mixed in with sheer gratitude for the joy that the team at Ascension Living Our Lady of Peace has allowed to flourish during the most uncertain of times.

This year, I have an overwhelming sense of gratitude, appreciation and pride in our dedicated As-

scension Living Our Lady of Peace associates and residents who have been on this pandemic roller coaster ride together. Reflecting on the last year, I realize much has changed. I think fondly of our dear residents who were called home and their grieving families. Having lost a brother to cancer last year, I share their feelings of sadness and loss. My heart and prayers surround them with love and comfort. I think about how my coworkers rose to the occasion and met every challenge head on. This pandemic did not come with a playbook; every new situation required the knowledge, skill, creative thinking and dedication of every person on our campus. These heroes stepped up to every challenge with determination and a fierce commitment to serve.

I think back on how these amazing health care heroes, including ancillary support associates, direct caregivers, nurses and other medical providers, focused on hope over fear and came to work every day. Despite the pandemic and other challenges, these champions continued to provide our residents with the best they had, each and every day. I'm not saying it was easy or that we were perfect - it wasn't and we aren't. To their credit, they overcame and adapted

to a once in a lifetime public health emergency (I hope), including stepping up to be among the early groups to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. I am humbled and inspired to work with them.

Assistance from the community was instrumental in our success. This support came in all shapes and sizes. Thank you to our partner hospitals for expertly managing our sick residents. Thank you to the Niagara Frontier school students for the beautiful letters and cards that brought smiles to our residents' faces. Thank you to the numerous community organizations who provide comfort items and to the church groups who provided spiritual support and help manage family visits.

We all appreciate the support from our board of directors for their steady guidance. We are grateful to Ascension Living for their continued commitment to our mission in the Niagara Frontier community and assistance with procuring critical supplies, providing clinical expertise and infection control resources. Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, we are forever grateful for the support from our residents, their families and loved ones. Your generosity, kindness, patience and understanding was and always will

be greatly appreciated. The kind words and support given seemed to magically arrive on the days when they were most needed and gave us the strength to continue on. These acts, big and small, helped to ease our residents' and associates' stress, isolation and suffering. We will be eternally grateful.

It is with a full heart that I will remember the last year, one I hope we never experience again. If we are faced with similar challenges in the future, I take comfort in the knowledge that the associates of Ascension Living Our Lady of Peace will be ready, willing and able to provide loving care to those who seek us out.

In closing, please join me in thanking Ascension Living Our Lady of Peace's amazing health care heroes and residents and in praying for an end to this pandemic. Please also include prayers for the safety of our residents, their caregivers, all loved ones near and far and a return to a new normal and the moments we have missed that will allow us to live a life without the fear of COVID. Mother Mary, Our Lady of Peace, pray for us.

May God continue to bless you!

Give us the scoop!

We welcome your submissions.

If you would like the Sentinel to publish a story or photo of a notable event in your life or a community snapshot of your service organization...

E-mail it to:

Sentinel@wnypapers.com

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