

Food pantries benefit from community generosity



Tuesday saw the presentation of checks in Ransomville to assist two Niagara County food pantries: the Wilson Community Food Pantry and the Care-N-Share Pantry in Ransomville.

Angelo Sarkees of Lewiston, founder and administrator of Deposits for Food, said the checks represented donations received by Lewiston and Niagara Falls-area businesses over the past year through individual collections of returnable containers and scrap metals.

Sarkees said Mount St. Mary's Hospital donated to Care-N-Share from its in-house returnable collections, while the Porter Empty Return Center presented the Wilson Community Food Pantry with a check representing the returnable donations brought to the Ransomville redemption center from patrons. He explained donations totaled \$3,000 and were presented in the spirit of the holidays.

Sarkees said he also wanted to recognize Steve Matthews, Ken Bryan and Eric Matthews of the Brickyard/BBC for their scrap donations this past year, following the ravaging fire and lengthy rehab of the Center Street businesses.

Also a tip of the hat to Emery Simon of the Lewiston Stone House for his recent scrap donations; Rob and John of Collision Enterprises for the scrap donated by their auto repair business; to Carmelo Raimondi and staff from Carmelo's Coat of Arts in Lewiston; and those from the community who assisted with donations of bottles, cans and scrap over the years.

"Finally, a special thank you to Doug Adamson and his staff at Porter Empty Return Center in Ransomville, where the returnables are processed," Sarkees said.

He encouraged the community to support the pantries and shelters in WNY, especially during these times and during the upcoming holiday season. He would also like to thank all the staff at the pantries for their dedication and efforts year-round.

Shown with \$500 check presentations at the Porter Empty Return Center event are, from left, Sarkees; Janet Hoffman, administrator of the Wilson Community Food Pantry; Adamson; and Jenna Chesnut, manager of the Porter Empty Return Center, accepting on behalf of Care-N-Share. (Photo by Terry Duffy)

'Yellow zone' designations continue in Wheatfield, NT

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

With areas of Niagara County remaining in the micro-cluster action initiative "yellow zone" and Erie County mostly moved to an "orange zone," various Niagara County communities in the southern portions responded over the past week with changes to public meetings as well as access to buildings, parks and such.

Wheatfield

Wheatfield Supervisor Don MacSwan said the town, which is under a partial "yellow" designation, has chosen to restrict public access to Town Hall and further restrict access to meetings.

"The Town Hall will remain open. Access will be restricted and anyone entering will be screened, must wear a mask and maintain social distance requirements," he said.

MacSwan noted the town's Community Center will be reduced to activities of not more than 10 attendees. Senior activities, line dancing, or any activity of more than 10 attendees are postponed until further notice.

The Town Board and Planning Board are conducting their meetings via Zoom, which will allow for public observation and comment via the town website.

"All of our employees have been instructed to be cautious, wash hands, wear masks and maintain social distance as much as possible," MacSwan said. "This has been a very difficult time for all of us."

"We will endure this difficult time and be stronger and more

COVID-19

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appreciative of the things in life that matter. Enjoy your family at Thanksgiving, be aware, be cautious and be thankful."

Town of Niagara

The Town of Niagara, which is not under the "yellow" designation, is continuing to hold Town Board meetings via Zoom in accordance with executive order No. 202.1, issued March 12 by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and advisories from state and federal authorities related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Town Board meetings can be accessed by the public by calling 646-558-8656 and then entering the meeting ID number: 266 966 2599.

North Tonawanda

The City of North Tonawanda remains under a "yellow zone" micro-cluster designation that began Nov. 18. The designation places limits on public attendance activities, including the following:

- Houses of worship, operating at 50% capacity;
- Nonresidential mass gatherings, 25 people maximum, indoors and outdoors;
- Businesses remain open;
- Indoor and outdoor dining is allowed, with a maximum of four people allowed per table;
- Schools remain open, with a testing provision of 20% of staff

and students to be tested on a weekly basis.

In addition, the North Tonawanda Youth Center remains closed at this time.

According to a release by North Tonawanda Mayor Arthur Pappas: "As the COVID-19 virus cases continue to rise and our city is of major concern to the governor, we must take every precaution to help keep the rate of infection low. The neighboring counties are reaching levels that may put them in the 'orange' and eventually 'red zone.' It is our hope that NT does not fall into that scenario."

"For that reason, the Youth Center will remain closed, but the winter outdoor activities will commence. Upon advisement by the Niagara County Health Department' it is in our best interest to keep the Youth Center closed. It is understandable that children want to see others and have activities besides those at their own household, but with the spread of infection we want to keep our children and adults safe."

"Although frustrating, adherence to restrictions must be followed. The money is in place to open the Youth Center when it is deemed safe to do so."

"The Senior Center is not in full service, but is meeting the demands of the county programs."

"Please try to help the community stay safe by following (the governor's) mandates and make preparations for quiet holidays this year. Have a blessed Thanksgiving and stay well."

NIAGARA COUNTY SERVICE DIRECTORY

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