

Gooch asks Hochul to intervene on Shawnee Road speed limit

Niagara County Legislator Jesse Gooch on Thursday sent a letter to Gov. Kathy Hochul asking her to intervene in efforts to lower the speed limit on Shawnee Road in the Town of Wheatfield. Residents have been seeking a speed limit reduction for years, but the state Department of Transportation has refused the request.

In the letter, Gooch wrote, "Shawnee Road (NYS Route 425) is a major north/south connector in Niagara County and is heavily

traveled by commuters, school buses and commercial traffic each day. Yet Shawnee also has a large number of residential homes right on it as well as numerous neighborhoods and subdivisions that funnel into it. The communities that rely on Shawnee also happen to be some of the fastest growing areas in Niagara County, according to recent census data.

"I give this background information to make the case for lowering the speed limit on

Shawnee Road, something local residents have been seeking for years. There have been an incredible 183 traffic accidents on this stretch of road between 2017 and 2019."

A press release said, "Gooch pointed to several other factors that point to the need for a lower speed limit, including the difficulty of turning onto Shawnee from adjoining neighborhoods; the fact school buses make regular stops on Shawnee to pick up and drop off children; the very

narrow shoulder on the road; and the multiple speed zone changes on Shawnee from Lockport Road to Niagara Falls Boulevard, creating confusion and inconsistency."

Gooch noted this request is not unprecedented, as the state took "bold action" on both the Scajaquada Expressway and Niagara Falls Boulevard in recent years to reduce speed limits.

He said, "I recognize there are always requests for lower speed limits and that traffic engineers will say that lowering a speed limit

in some instances can actually create dangerous situations. With that being said, the situation on Shawnee Road does not fall into that category. A once lightly traveled north/south road in a rural community has become a major connector in a built-out and still growing suburban area. The community has significantly changed along Shawnee and the speed limit needs to change with it."

IN THE NEWS

Wheatfield Lions 'End of Summer Fest'

The Wheatfield Lions Club will host its "End of Summer Fest" on Saturday, Sept. 18, at American Legion Post 1451, 6525 Ward Road, Sanborn. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a night of food trucks, basket raffle and 50/50 split draws. There will be a cash bar, booze box raffle and live music with "Welcome Distraction."

Electronics recycling event in Youngstown

The Youngstown Free Library will hold a free electronics-recycling event for the community from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, in the parking lot of the Youngstown Red Brick Municipal Center, 240 Lockport St.

Residential electronics items – including computers, monitors, TVs, laptops, modems, servers, microwaves, cell phones, FAX machines, copiers, CD players, IT equipment, audio and video peripherals, telecommunications equipment and GPS units – will be accepted.

A suggested donation of \$5 per item is requested. Proceeds benefit the Youngstown Free Library.

Fashion Outlets & Sunnking to host free e-recycling drive-thru

Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA has partnered with Sunnking to host its annual electronic recycling event from 8:30 a.m. to noon this Saturday, Sept. 18, at the shopping center, 1900 Military Road, Niagara Falls. Attendees will be able to visit to drop off their electronics from the convenience of their vehicle.

"We look forward to teaming up with Sunnking every year as it offers the community a chance to clear out some of their unused and outdated electronics," said John Doran, Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls general manager. "It's historically been a popular event, and the drive-thru component really makes it incredibly convenient for attendees. We're looking forward to seeing a nice turnout this weekend."

The event is open to the public with free admission, but attendees must register in advance, as each attendee will be given a designated time slot. Visit the Sunnking website, <https://www.sunnking.com/events/niagara-falls-09-18-21>, to register online a select a preferred time. Registration will close at 4 p.m. on Sept. 17, or when the event is fully booked.

Upon arrival, attendees will

enter the lot located near Sakes OFF 5th and will proceed toward the drive-thru where the Sunnking team members will unload the items from the vehicle. Attendees must remain in their vehicles at all times and are encouraged to neatly pack recyclables in the back of the vehicle for easy unloading.

NCDOH to provide vaccine, breastfeeding & baby-changing station at Niagara Celtic Fest

The Niagara County Department of Health will participate in the 20th Niagara Celtic Heritage Festival and Highland Games this Saturday and Sunday at the Niagara County Fairgrounds in Lockport. COVID-19 vaccine will be offered each day.

"We have seen an increase in the number of individuals seeking vaccination to satisfy work and school requirements," Public Health Director Daniel J. Stapleton said. "We are hopeful that festival attendees take advantage of this convenient opportunity to get vaccinated and protect themselves, their family, and their community."

In an effort to accommodate as many preferences as possible, the following vaccines will be available:

√ Johnson & Johnson (ages 18 years and older) – single dose

√ Moderna (ages 18 years and older) – third and second dose, plus booster dose for individuals moderately to severely immunocompromised

√ Pfizer (ages 12 years and older) – third and second dose, plus booster dose for individuals moderately to severely immunocompromised

"Although we encourage people to visit our website to register in advance, walk-ins are welcome," said Tracy Fricano Chalmers, director of public health planning and emergency preparedness.



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"The registration links for the Celtic Festival and other upcoming vaccination clinics are available on our website at <https://www.niagaracounty.com/health/Vaccine>."

Niagara County will also provide a breastfeeding and baby changing station at the Celtic Festival.

"Providing a cool and quiet space for breastfeeding mothers and babies, as well as an accessible changing area for all parents and children, supports the health and wellbeing of our community," Stapleton said.

The breastfeeding station has a temperature-controlled refrigerator for mothers to store breastmilk, a sink for washing hands, power outlets for expressing breastmilk, and air conditioning.

A dual changing station is available to all families, separate from the private breastfeeding area. Mothers are welcome to nurse their children under the shade of the blue trailer, and NCDOH encourages the public to visit the station to learn more about the benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and baby.

Festival attendees can look for an easily recognizable blue trailer located next to the fairgrounds brick administration building in Fiddler's Green.

Buffalo Silver Band to perform in Youngstown

At 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, the Buffalo Silver Band will perform

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the last of its summer concerts at the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown, 100 Church St. The BSB will play a program of film music scores, jazz arrangements, and lighter musical fare. Admission is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

This will be an outdoor concert, and a portion of the parking lot will be used as the performance and audience space. As such, there will be limited parking; but there is also sufficient street parking near the parking lot. In the case of inclement weather, the performance will move into the church's fellowship hall. Chairs will be provided, but patrons may elect to bring their own.

A press release stated, "The distinctive sound of the current Buffalo Silver Band is a fairly standard instrumentation for British-style brass (silver) bands: 10 cornets, a flugelhorn, three tenor horns, two baritones, two euphoniums, three trombones, four basses, and two to four percussionists. About 25% of the group is current or retired music educators, and the remaining 75% are members of other professions who love music and who have a high standard of playing defined by their own disciplined practice regimen. Many of the group's

members play in multiple bands throughout Western New York."

The current conductor is Bill Cocca, a veteran of 36 years in public school music education as band director, with music degrees from SUNY Fredonia and Ithaca College.

Ascension Industries is Member of the Month

The Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas named Ascension Industries its Member of the Month.

Ascension Industries was founded in 1956 by John Kopczyński Sr. as St. Mary Manufacturing Corp. to provide machining, tooling and related manufacturing services. In 2000, Ascension Industries was incorporated to represent the broader engineering, machining and fabrication capabilities of the company. Today, Ascension provides design, engineering and custom manufacturing services for companies worldwide, with a focus on assemblies and modular packages for the energy, mining, filtration, chemical, compressor and process equipment industries. Capabilities further include instrumentation, electrical assembly and validation.

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 SEPT. 29 - DEC. 15, 2021
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 7:00PM - 8:00PM
 11 CLASSES
 CHOOSE THE ENTIRE SESSION OR PAY PER CLASS
PAY PER SESSION
 + RESIDENTS - \$33.00 PER SESSION
 + NON-RESIDENTS - \$38.50 PER SESSION
PAY PER CLASS
 + RESIDENTS - \$3.00 PER CLASS
 + NON-RESIDENTS - \$3.50 PER CLASS

Registration forms can be obtained at the N.T. Recreation Department located at 500 Wheatfield St., N. Tonawanda. Registration forms are also available online at northtonawanda.org