

# Youngstown Lions assist Holiday Baskets Program



This week, the Youngstown Lions presented unwrapped gifts and toys for donation to the Town of Porter Community Holiday Baskets Program.

In the photo, Youngstown Lions Club President Terry Cummings unloads gifts from a pickup; Lions Treasurer John Rolfe is shown with volunteers in the gym of Youngstown Red Brick Village Center.

Starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, volunteers from throughout the Village of Youngstown will join in a delivery blitz to needy families. Volunteers are still needed. To help out, contact Rolfe at 998-6083 or Colleen Summer-ville Johnson at 531-6701.



## Ortt joins forces with S.E.R.V. Niagara for holiday program

A press release from New York State Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt:

New York State Senate Minority Leader Rob Ortt recently announced he would be joining forces with S.E.R.V. Niagara this holiday season to bring dinners, gifts, Christmas decorations and care packages to military and veteran families in Niagara County.

"Making sure we are able to look after our veterans and the families of active military personnel during the holidays is really an important aspect of the armed services community. While the holidays may be

a joyous time for most, for some, it is the most difficult part of the year. For those veterans who are alone or spouses who are at home while their loved ones are on tour, the holidays are a reminder of the costs of serving."

This year, Ortt will host a countywide toy drive with S.E.R.V. Niagara, Walmart, A Hand Up Inc., and several police departments across the county. Toys will be collected at the various departments and then distributed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 21-22, with a parade of holiday-decorated police and other vehicles.

"I am thrilled that S.E.R.V. Niagara reached out and asked if I would like to be part of its program this year," Ortt said. "I want to thank S.E.R.V. Niagara for all the amazing work they do and also to thank Walmart for continuing to be an amazing supporter of our military, veterans and their families."

Each year, Ortt and Walmart host a warrior flight for veterans of various generations to visit Washington, D.C., and tour the multiple military memorials. Because of the pandemic this year, however, the warrior flight was not possible.

Instead, Ortt and Walmart have decided to use the available funding to assist S.E.R.V. Niagara in expanding its holiday program.

"It's been a long and arduous year for so many people," said Jennifer O. D'Andrea, president and founder of S.E.R.V. Niagara. "With the uncertainty of COVID and lack of donations as a result of shutdowns and canceled fundraisers, we were nervous that we weren't going to be able to expand our holiday outreach to meet the needs of our local veteran families. But with the support of Sen. Ortt and Walmart, and the collabora-

tion of the local police departments and other local businesses and donors, we are anticipating the largest and best Christmas we've ever had!"

"One of the core pillars of Walmart's national and local giving is to help support veterans and military families," said Jason Klipa, New York Walmart director of public affairs and government relations. "We appreciate the sacrifice made by military families, especially this time of year, so we are proud to help S.E.R.V. Niagara make the holiday brighter this year."

### IN THE NEWS

#### Tops brings spirit of season to Oishei Children's Hospital

Tops Friendly Markets is pleased to once again support Oishei Children's Hospital, but this time in a "sweet and delicious way!"

Until supplies last, Tops is helping families bring the spirit of the holiday season alive by selling gingerbread house kits with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Oishei Children's Hospital. Available in Tops bakery depart-

ment, these kits come complete with gingerbread to build a house, sweet candy decorations, and delicious icing. All one needs to do, is bring the family magic.

A press release said, "What a wonderful way to reinforce important values about giving back to those in need all while creating wonderful memories with your family."

"Our No. 1 priority at Oishei Children's Hospital is keeping families healthy and safe, especially this year. We are grateful that Tops, our largest corporate partner, has put together this opportunity for families to have a fun, safe holiday activity at home that also supports the work our team does at the hospital," said Allegra C. Jaros, MBA, president, Oishei Children's Hospital.

Gingerbread house kits are

available at myriad local Tops Markets locations, including 1000 Portage Road, Niagara Falls; 7200 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls; 2956 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn; 4235 Military Road, Town of Niagara; 301 Meadow Drive, North Tonawanda; and 906 Center St., Lewiston.

Can't get enough of gingerbread houses? Tops launched its advent of savings calendar Dec. 1, as well, and it's full of sweet surprises behind each and every gingerbread house door! Savor the countdown to Christmas by visiting [www.Topsmarkets.com/AdventCalendar](http://www.Topsmarkets.com/AdventCalendar) and begin revealing exclusive savings at Tops on delicious treats, gifts to give, and more every day.

For more information, visit [www.topsmarkets.com](http://www.topsmarkets.com).

#### Driver's licenses extended

Niagara County Clerk Joseph Jastrzemski said Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued executive order 202.79, which extends the expiration dates on licenses and permits that expired after March 1. The new date is Jan. 1, 2021. In addition, the executive order also continues to require that all in-person transactions at DMVs be done by appointment only.

"Our team has made tremendous progress in clearing up the backlog of expired driver's licenses, but certainly an extension takes pressure off of people," Jastrzemski said. "However, I recommend people do not wait and instead book an appointment to renew their licenses with our office."

Jastrzemski said increasing cases of COVID-19 has county clerks across the state concerned Cuomo might shut down DMV offices again. He said he is opposed to any closure and said the New York State Association of County Clerks sent a letter to Albany opposing

any curtailment of services.

"The public was exceedingly understanding when we were forced to close earlier this year and remained patient as we put protocols in place to keep people safe as we gradually reopened," Jastrzemski said. "Today, we have an efficient system that, while not optimal, is getting the job done. Our safety measures are working so there is no reason to create another backlog by shutting us down."

Erie County Clerk Michael Kearns said this extension does not pertain to non-driver identification cards or vehicle registrations, which needed to be renewed by Nov. 3.

"The staff of the Erie County Auto Bureau has worked tirelessly to assist thousands of motorists to complete their transactions in order to reduce wait times for appointments and be compliant with DMV laws," Kearns said. "I am pleased to say that our offices are now accepting same-day or next-day appointments."



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