

# Niagara Falls Memorial honors those impacted by COVID-19



This maple tree was planted in honor of those who fought and those who suffered as a result of the coronavirus. • Pastor Vince Eisaman said NFMMC President and CEO Joseph Ruffolo was the captain of the ship. He presented him with this cap.

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center honored area residents and staff members impacted by COVID-19 during ceremonies held Tuesday morning in historic

Schoellkopf Park on the medical center's downtown campus. The outdoor program celebrated the resilience and perseverance of the community and

facility brought in 80 extra volunteers and was among the first medical centers to begin contact tracing those who tested positive. To date, more than 6,500 people

the dedication and extraordinary efforts of Memorial Medical Center and Schoellkopf Health Center employees during the pandemic.

NFMMC President and CEO Joseph Ruffolo said the hospital was ahead of the curve in terms of response to the coronavirus. The

dedication and extraordinary efforts educating the public – less than 1% of the 2,000 most recent tests have come back positive.

Ruffolo said there was no playbook for COVID-19, but he and upward of 50 people met daily for huddles: planning and praying and prepping for what the new day would bring.

The Rev. Craig D. Pridgen, senior pastor at True Bethel Baptist Church and a member of the NFMMC board, had the coronavirus. He shared his symptoms were severe and required hospitalization. Pridgen said that, thanks to the work of hospital staffers, he recovered and reunited with his family.

Other speakers included Pastor

Vince Eisaman, NFMMC spiritual care coordinator; attorney James C. Roscetti, chairman of the hospital board of directors; the Rev. Stewart Lindsay, OSFS, senior parochial vicar at Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Parish; Judy Villani, director of volunteer services; and City of Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino. Vocalist Hillary Poole, R.N., performed an original song she wrote and recorded about the pandemic.

A maple tree honoring those whose lives have been impacted by the disease was dedicated adjacent to the ceremony, and a moment of silence was held to honor those whose lives were lost.

## Schoellkopf Health Center begins limited visitation

Residents at the Schoellkopf Health Center are able to receive visitors for the first time since mid-March.

Schoellkopf Administrator John Durno confirmed Thursday the center meets the state's requirements for the resumption of visitation, including having no new COVID-19 cases for 28 days, and is now allowing limited visitation by appointment.

"Weather permitting, visitation will be limited to outdoor areas, with no more than two visitors per resident at a time," he said. "Visits will be limited to 30 minutes and visitors under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult guardian. In the event of inclement weather, indoor visits will take place only in designated areas. Indoors or outdoors, social distancing will be required."

Upon entering the facility, visitors will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and have their temperatures taken. They also will be required to complete a questionnaire that includes their recent travel and contact information. Those who do not pass the screening or who exhibit any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will not be granted entry.

"Our most important priority

is keeping our residents safe," Durno said. "Along with social distancing of at least 6 feet, face coverings and hand hygiene using an approved hand sanitizer will be required."

Visits will be scheduled between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For information, call 278-4591.

## Cuomo: People 'outraged' over noncompliance at eateries

Continued from Page 1 health. ... New Yorkers paid a dear price for COVID-19, and they are equally upset with these violations," he added.

Cuomo also announced a "Three Strikes and You're Closed" initiative in New York City. Any establishment that receives three violations will be closed for business. Egregious violations can result in immediate loss of liquor license or closure before a third strike. Additionally, any establishment facing disciplinary charges by the State Liquor Authority will have its name and location posted publicly and updated on a weekly basis.

If the state is alerted to similar noncompliance in other regions of the state, these restrictions will be extended to those areas immediately.

The governor also announced that travel form compliance went up to 92% after the state announced fines for failure to complete the form. Earlier this week, Cuomo announced out-of-state travelers from the 22 designated states with the highest infec-

tion rates must provide local authorities with contact information upon entering New York to help enforce quarantining, or they'll face a fine of up to \$2,000 if they don't supply that information.

"As we continue our science-based phased reopening, the number of hospitalizations and our rate of positive tests remain steady and low," Cuomo said. "But we need to remember our success fighting this virus is a function of our own actions. Mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing – basic as they may seem – are critical to controlling the spread of this virus. Especially now that we are seeing spikes in cases throughout the country, this is not the time to let up – especially on compliance enforcement. We know the prescription and we know it works – we just need to be smart and do it."

In a second conference call on Thursday, Cuomo said his phased reopening applied to outdoor dining.

"We never said outdoor bars," he stressed. "We were not opening outdoor bars. We were open-

ing outdoor dining. We never said we're opening block-party bars. (We're) opening outdoor dining, which means people come to eat; which means people would go sit at a table, stay at the table, only be exposed to the people at the table. And the tables were socially distanced. That's what we approved. We did not approve outdoor bars, where you set up tables for people to place drinks, and then you have 100 people mingling outside in a block-party format. That's not what we approved. We never did.

"So, outdoor dining, if they think that outdoor dining meant an outdoor bar, they're wrong. And that is the exact behavior that we're seeing all across the nation, that is causing an increase in the virus. So, that was never authorized in the first place.

"Takeout drinks were authorized. But the takeout drinks were, you can purchase a container, and then you have a container law. And you can go home and you can drink it. But there was never an authorization of outside congregate drinking. That was never authorized."

The number of new cases, percentage of tests that were positive and other data points are available at forward.ny.gov.

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Pesticides are used in the growing of all commercial non-organic crops, on home lawn and gardens, in any public place where grass grows like golf courses or parks, for insect and bug control in homes, flea collars and flea shampoos for pets and often under the foundations of homes.

*Very few pesticides are specific to a certain species. Instead, most work against basic hormones, enzymes and other body systems of ANY living organism.* Pesticides can disrupt many types of hormones, interfere with the nervous system function, especially neurotransmitters, can cause genetic damage, destroy digestive enzymes, be widely carcinogenic, cause infertility and who knows what else, since most are not sufficiently tested!

Humans are also exposed to pesticides through the fat tissue of commercially-grown livestock, from residues on all commercially-grown food, and through environmental contact. Pesticides especially accumulate inside the home.

*Protect your health by finding natural alternatives to chemicals, buy organic when possible, use a natural wash designed to remove pesticides on your produce to remove chemical residue as water only does not remove them.*

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