

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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Lewiston's 2020 Holiday Coloring Contest



## Local officials hand out free meals to Wheatfield seniors



Niagara County Legislator Jesse Gooch and Town of Wheatfield judges Gary Strenkoski and Angela Stamm-Philipps handed out over 100 Thanksgiving dinners to local seniors for free on Friday.

**BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO**  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
LEGISLATOR JESSE GOOCH

On Friday, officials from Niagara County and the Town of Wheatfield were on hand at the Wheatfield Senior Center to hand out over 100 Thanksgiving dinners to local seniors. The event was part of Niagara County Legislator Jesse Gooch's "Meals With Heart From Six Feet Apart" program that he created in March to offer affordable meals to seniors in the commu-

nity amid the ongoing pandemic. "Senior citizens are very important to our community and sometimes get overlooked," Gooch said. "I think it's important for the seniors, especially with the number of (rising cases in the area) and the lockdowns and stuff. A lot of them aren't going to get to see family members this year."

The meals, which were prepared at cost by chef Jeff Jamieson from The Meeting Place, were initially advertised at a

price of \$5. However, when customers arrived to pay for their meals, they learned all meals had been paid for by Gooch, and Town of Wheatfield judges Gary Strenkoski and Angela Stamm-Philipps.

Strenkoski and Gooch were quick to credit Stamm-Philipps for organizing the trio to cover the meal costs.

"For me, it was just a small way to give back," Stamm-Philipps said. "But it was also so worth-

SEE WHEATFIELD, on Page 9

## Youngstown/Porter community baskets assist needy



Above: Youngstown Boy Scout Troop No. 829 collected plenty of canned goods and nonperishable foods at its food pick-up drive last year. Scouts will be out in the community on Dec. 6. • At right, volunteer Jeff Jircitano is shown with a donation box during the 2019 Christmas Baskets program. (File photos)

**BY TERRY DUFFY**  
Editor-in-Chief

As most realize, COVID-19 has prompted some significant changes in how we plan to mark the holiday season in 2020. Many activities have been outright canceled, with others seeing curtailing or adjustments to community functions.

For the most part, the same holds true up in Youngstown, with 2020 "Christmas in the Village" celebrations on the shelf for this year. However, one familiar community happening will again be taking place – albeit somewhat modified.



"It's that time of year again – time for our annual Youngstown/Porter Community Christmas Baskets program." SEE DONATIONS, on Page 2

## Ransomville to hold 'no-contact' Santa Claus parade

**BY TERRY DUFFY**  
Editor-in-Chief

Holiday celebrations in Ransomville – like those in other communities – are adjusting to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While the hamlet traditionally holds its annual Lighting of the Wreaths celebration in the days following Thanksgiving, there will be some changes in store for 2020.

This weekend, Ransomville kicks off the Christmas season with a "Santa Claus Coming to Ransomville" celebration. The hamlet will have decorations on the Ransomville community tree located on Andrews Road.

The tree will include what is promoted as "meaningful blue LED lights" climbing the trunk of the tree, representing the difficult year all the world has experienced. Also, white twinkling lights running through the tree will represent hope for the future years.

Santa and his reindeer will parade through the hamlet in what's being touted as a "no-contact" program starting at 3 p.m. Sunday in front of the Ransomville Free Library, which will be closed.

The parade will lead off with holiday-themed vehicles decorated as Santa's sleigh, with the

A familiar face will be on the streets of Ransomville this Sunday. (File photo)

last vehicle in the procession featuring Santa for all the community to see. Parade organizers invite residents and visitors to greet Santa as he visits the community.

Again, there is no actual contact: Parade attendees will be able to remain inside their parked vehicles along the route, watch and wave as Santa Claus goes by.

Anticipated to run from 3-3:45 p.m., the parade route will cover Ransomville Road to New Road



and proceed along the Dorwood mobile home park on the New Road side. The parade will con-

tinue up Daniels Road, North Ridge (Route 93) and proceed back toward Ransomville. It will then continue up Church Road and down Birch Street.

Returning toward Ransomville, the procession continues on Randall Road to New Road, then to Harris Road, down Curtiss Road and turns to Route 93. It will proceed past the KI-PO dealership and Stevenson's Hardware out to Dickersonville Road, down to Route 104, and return to hamlet on Ransomville Road.

The community is invited to be a part of this special holiday event.

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