

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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## Veterans Day ceremonies are a go

### Town of Niagara Lions Club Veterans Day ceremony

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, the Town of Niagara Lions and Lioness Clubs are proud to again honor this nation's veterans with a very special ceremony at the newly constructed memorial in Veterans Memorial Community Park, 7000 Lockport Road.

The ceremony will commence promptly at 11 a.m. Town Supervisor Lee Wallace will welcome everyone with opening remarks. Boy Scout Troop 841 will be the Color Guard. Town resident Nick Cofield will perform the Star Spangled Banner and taps with his trumpet. There will also be wreath presentations by the Lions and Lioness. The Rev. Ron Maines of the Forestview Church of God will offer opening and closing prayers. The guest speaker is Dr. Kristin Jacobsen, founder of the veterans recognition organization Hands Healing Heroes. All veterans attending the ceremony will receive a unique veterans pin.

The Lions will also be collecting American flags that are in disrepair for proper disposal.

Due to the continuing pandemic, attendees are requested to wear a face covering and practice social distancing. Cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Everyone is invited to join in honoring these veterans. For further information, contact Chairperson Lion Angelo Onevelo at 628-0244.

### Veterans Day in Lewiston

At 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, VFW Downriver Post 7487 will conduct its annual Veterans Day ceremony at the Circle of Honor Monument at Academy Park.

Members will also be distributing poppies to individuals at DiMino Lewiston Tops Market from Nov. 6-8. Donations will be accepted in support of the VFW scholarship fund.

Additionally, DiMino Lewiston Tops will offer veterans an 11% discount all day on Nov. 11.

Social distancing and mask-wearing is mandatory at Tops and at the ceremony.

This will be the one-year anniversary of the VFW's "Circle of Honor" installation.



Top: Harry Raby salutes the memorial wreath at the "Circle of Honor" in Lewiston. • Below • Pictured from Last year's ceremony are Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, Lion Angelo Onevelo, Lion Ed Sturgeon, Lioness Elizabeth Colangelo and Pastor Ron Maines. (Image courtesy of the Town of Niagara Lions Club) • Bottom: Old Fort Niagara (Submitted).



### Veterans Day at Old Fort Niagara

The Fort Niagara Officers Club will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday. Tours will share the history of the building, constructed in 1938, and explore the history of the four historic murals in the building. These were painted by German POW Ernst Wille, African-American artist Hubert Crawford, Tom Lof-

tin Johnson (who painted murals for West Point) and Polish-American artist Eugene Dyczkowski.

Visitors can also view a photo exhibit on New Fort Niagara, the army post that was active from 1866 to 1963.

Admission to the Officers Club for the tours is free. Patrons are asked to wear a face covering and practice social distancing. Building capacity is 25.

## COVID-19

### Niagara County health director offers guidance for residents as winter approaches

Gives insight on mask-wearing, possible transmission from air, surfaces

#### Q&A BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

At the start of this year, how many people would've guessed wearing a mask, socially distancing and washing hands would become the new kale, exercise or hot yoga?

It's been said there was no playbook for the coronavirus. Instead, health experts and elected leaders had to come up with better practices on the fly, test those ideas with research, and see what worked best to limit the viral spread and keep people healthy.

Last spring, these individuals spent copious amounts of time studying and discussing how businesses and restaurants could reopen. They then spent the summer months preparing for fall, and determining how students could return to a classroom setting.

Indeed, much of the conversation centered on the aforementioned preventative safety measures. Both the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases – led by Director Dr. Anthony Fauci – agreed washing hands, wearing a mask and socially distancing would effectively limit the spread of COVID-19 and prevent virus-related deaths.

But as fall crept in, a lot of the talk turned political, and it became more difficult to ascertain what should be done when winter arrives. Or what did we learn in the warmer months that could help us in the colder ones?

Per the numbers, Niagara County is doing an admirable job in keeping the number of infections low. As the percentage of new positive test cases in Western New York rose above 2.5% last week, Niagara County was under 2% each day. It was below 1% Tuesday. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has said the coronavirus is manageable up to a 1% infection rate.



Leading the charge locally is Public Health Director Daniel Stapleton (pictured above). The Niagara County Department of Health has worked hand-in-hand with the Niagara County Legislature, municipalities and school districts in setting (and maintaining) safety guidelines.

Stapleton spoke with NFP on Monday, providing insight and clarity on what is known now, what happens next, and what residents can do to limit their exposure to the coronavirus.

An edited Q&A follows.

**Q:** *The infection rate numbers have been a little higher, but I'd say Niagara County is still doing pretty well. The other metrics seem to be moving in a positive direction. How would you say Niagara County is doing overall today?*

**Dan Stapleton:** I think compared to a lot of parts in our region, our state and our country, I think our numbers are looking good – favorable compared to those. Of course, we're not happy with the numbers. Nobody should be happy with the numbers. But we do believe that our numbers, comparatively, are much better.

We look at the positive cases. We have a lot of positive cases today. But we also look at the infection

SEE RESIDENTS, continued on Page 2

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