

# Niagara County announces community engagement meetings on sheriff's office

Members named to police reform and reinvention collaborative

Niagara County Legislature Chairman Becky Wydysh and Acting Sheriff Michael Filicetti on Friday announced the next steps Niagara County is taking to comply with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's mandate that local governments undertake a police reform and reinvention collaborative initiative.

Wydysh named the members of the task force the County Legislature created to help put the police reinvention plan together.

"The Niagara County Sheriff's Office has responsibility across the county, so we asked each city and town to appoint a member of their community to this task force

and we also included appropriate county personnel as well as some at-large members of the community with a particular interest in the issues," she said. "We appreciate the commitment of all the members who have agreed to serve."

Wydysh said the committee has a few more spots to fill, but as of right now, the members are:

#### Municipal:

- √ City of Lockport, Leonard Thomas
- √ Niagara Falls, David Taylor
- √ North Tonawanda, John Divirgilio
- √ Cambria, David Littere
- √ Hartland, Steve MacEvoy

- √ Lewiston, Ron Winkley
- √ Lockport, Barry Kobrin
- √ Newfane, William Clark
- √ Niagara, Markus Williams
- √ Pendleton, Michael Zimmerman
- √ Porter, Gloria Baker
- √ Royalton, Joshua Walker
- √ Somers, TBD
- √ Wheatfield, Tom and Rita Kontak
- √ Wilson, Chris Jordan
- √ At large (one vacancy remains): Tina Schultz, Carl Cain, Doug Nicholson and Mary Brennan-Taylor

#### Niagara County:

- √ Sheriff Michael Filicetti
- √ District Attorney Caroline

- Wojtaszek
- √ Public Defender Nick Robinson
- √ Emergency Services Director Jonathan Schultz
- √ Mental Health Director Laura Kelemen

Filicetti said community input and engagement beyond the task force is an important component of this initiative and, as such, two community meetings have been scheduled for any member of the public to come and express their opinion.

"We hope the public will come out and take part in these community meetings, because we want to be sure this process is open,

transparent and inclusive, and that every citizen who wants to have a say will have the opportunity to do so," he said.

The meetings are scheduled for: √ 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5, at Town Hall in the Town of Lockport, 6560 Dysinger Road.

√ 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the Wheatfield Community Center, 2790 Church Road.

Wydysh said that, once the task force completes a draft of the plan, it will be made available for additional public comment. She expects the legislature will adopt the final plan around the end of the year.

## Community Missions

### 10th annual Interfaith Community Prayer Service for Mental Illness Recovery & Understanding

Community Missions Inc. will present its 10th annual Interfaith Community Prayer Service as an online event at noon Tuesday, Oct. 6. The event is part of Mental Illness Awareness Week, "a national event designed to raise public awareness about mental illness and break down the stigma that too often discourages people from seeking help when needed."

The service will be premiered on Community Missions' Facebook page, found at [www.facebook.com/cminiagara](http://www.facebook.com/cminiagara). It will also be cross-posted to the social media of several other organizations, including Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, a partner in the service for the past several years.

"Area leaders from various faith traditions will join to seek guidance and help in replacing misinformation, blame, fear and prejudice with truth and life, in order to offer hope to those touched by mental illness," said the Rev. Mark Breese, agency minister at Community Missions (pictured). "With the clear challenges to mental health and wellness presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever that people of all faiths join together in prayer to offer hope and comfort to those struggling with mental illness in this new dynamic."

The service will feature read-



ings, prayers and music offered by representatives of various faith traditions and community members.

One in five adults experience mental illness problems each year. Although many people understand that mental illness is a medical condition, individuals and families affected by it are still often subjected to stigma and discrimination.

"It is so critical that we, as a society, squarely face the challenge of ending the unnecessary stigma associated with mental illness," Breese said. "This service is an opportunity for the wonderfully diverse faith community in Niagara County to come together to pray for both the healing of those living with mental illness, and to call for strong unified advocacy and community action to address the unnecessary injustice our neighbors living with mental illness too often face."

For more information, contact Breese at 285-3403, ext. 2259, or [mbreese@communitymissions.org](mailto:mbreese@communitymissions.org).

## River Region bike path plan to be presented in series of meetings Oct. 8

Shoreline trail feasibility study public workshops look at connecting Lewiston to Youngstown

The Niagara River Greenway Commission, in collaboration with New York State Parks Niagara Region, has hired Bergmann, in conjunction with ALTA Planning + Design, to prepare conceptual design alternatives for extending the shoreline trail from Artpark in the Village of Lewiston to Four Mile Creek State Park in the Town of Porter.

The public is invited to attend upcoming meetings to learn more about the status of the project – including proposed concepts – and share feedback on design alternatives.

Meeting details are included below:

#### •Public workshop No. 1

2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8

Artpark, 450 S. Fourth St., Lewiston

This meeting will be held outdoors, unless weather prohibits. Bring a chair.

#### •Public workshop No. 2

6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8

Lewiston Senior Center, 4361 River Road

Due to guidelines in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, upcoming meetings will be limited to 45 people, and face masks will be required when social distancing is not possible. All individuals interested in attending either meeting must RSVP on the project website: <https://lowerniagara.com>

[lowerniagara.com/communitry-engagement/](https://lowerniagara.com/communitry-engagement/).

Both meetings will include a brief presentation by the consultant team, followed by an opportunity to weigh in on design alternatives by providing feedback at interactive workshop stations.

In addition to the meetings noted above, a "pop-up" open house will be held at Falkner Park in the Village of Youngstown from 4:30-5:30 p.m. It will include a series of informational and interactive feedback boards, although a formal presentation will not be provided. If it is raining, the "pop-up" will be moved to the Town of



Porter Municipal Building at 3265 Creek Road, Youngstown.

If interested in attending the "pop-up," RSVP at <https://lowerniagara.com/communitry-engagement/>.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BUILDING STRONG

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District is pleased to announce

the release of the proposed plan for the Balance of Plant and Groundwater Operable Units of the Niagara Falls Storage Site, located in Lewiston, New York.

The public is encouraged to review and provide their comments on the proposed plan. The public comment period begins October 5, 2020, and ends December 5, 2020.

The proposed plan was prepared under the authority of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) for which the Corps of Engineers is the lead federal agency. The Corps of Engineers conducts FUSRAP projects in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

The proposed plan documents the Corps of Engineers' preferred alternative for the Balance of Plant and Groundwater Operable Units, Alternative 3 Removal with Building Decontamination. Under Alternative 3, impacted soil, road bedding, and groundwater are removed; the foundation and utilities of former Building 401 are removed; and Building 433 and the foundations of former Buildings 430 and 431/432 are decontaminated by scarifying (mechanically grinding the surface) and left in place. FUSRAP-related material that is removed is transported off-site for disposal at an appropriately permitted disposal facility. Five-year reviews are conducted to ensure protectiveness of the remedy.

Due to restrictions that are in place in regard to public gatherings, a virtual public meeting will be conducted on October 21, 2020, at 7 p.m. Space is limited, so please email [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil) by October 19, 2020, to register for the meeting, and to let us know if you will be providing comments. The public meeting presentation is available on the website in the Public Presentations section. The virtual public meeting will be recorded so that oral comments received can be captured.

Written comments may be emailed to [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil); or mailed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, Attention: Environmental Project Management Team, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14207.

The proposed plan and supporting documents are available electronically in the administrative record file for the site, which is on the website listed below.

The proposed plan and major documents are also available on the web at: <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Niagara-Falls-Storage-Site/> in the Reports section. For further information please e-mail [fusrap@usace.army.mil](mailto:fusrap@usace.army.mil), or call (800) 833-6390.

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