

Theatre to screen ‘My Brother’s Keeper’

The Aurora Theatre is hosting a screening of “My Brother’s Keeper” Tuesday, May 25, with proceeds benefiting WNY Heroes and the Academy of United States Veterans.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the program will begin at 7 p.m. The film stars T.C. Stallings as Travis Fox, a returning veteran struggling with PTSD. The cast includes Joey Lawrence and Jeff Rose. Kevan Otto directed the movie, which was written by Ty Manns, who also plays a jail guard.

Attendance will be limited to 175 people under current safety standards, and tickets are \$15 each. Tickets can be purchased online via the Aurora Theatre’s website, www.theauroratheatre.com.

Since its inception in 2007, WNY Heroes, Inc. has become a critical life-sustaining vehicle for veterans and their families by providing immediate financial assistance to those in need. WNY Heroes’ programs provide support to veterans including through services dogs and job placement.

Additional sponsors include Steve Foley Law Firm and American Legion Post 362.

All-ability inclusive parks coming to Erie County

One of Erie County’s most valuable assets is its vast parks system. However, it is frustrating that our parks have been lacking spaces for inclusive play. This is why my colleagues and I in the Minority Caucus fought to secure funding for inclusive playgrounds in each of the county’s five heritage parks as part of last week’s capital budget process. I am proud we were able to reach an agreement with the administration to ensure children of all abilities are able to learn and play in our parks.

The funding we have secured will allocate \$425,000 each for Emery, Chestnut Ridge, Como Lake, Akron Falls, and Ellicott Creek parks to install adaptive playground equipment. Parents and children shouldn’t have to travel far to access inclusive play space, and right now, there are very few options throughout our area. The next step in this process will be the issuance of a Request for Proposals. That will take place in the coming weeks, and playground designers will then have the opportunity to submit their proposals and plans to the county. The county will then review the proposals, and the Legislature will approve the contract with a specific designer and construction company later this year. If all goes as planned, it is our hope that play-

grounds will be operational next year. This is a major step in making Erie County more inclusive to all, and I look forward to getting the work underway as soon as possible.

In addition to inclusive playgrounds, we also secured more than \$3 million in road and infrastructure improvements beyond what was originally proposed by the administration this year. Each year, the administration falls short on getting road work done, especially beyond the first ring suburbs. Taxpayers in every community deserve to have their roads and bridges properly maintained to prevent further long-term damage. I am hopeful this increased funding will yield results for my legislative district and Erie County as a whole.

Since each of these projects are being funded in cash, there will be no impact to the county’s long-term debt. This is a win-win for everyone, and an example of what can be accomplished if members of county government are willing to work together for the benefit of the people we represent.

As always, if you have questions, comments, or concerns regarding the above capital budget projects or another county-related issue, please feel free to contact my office at Joseph.Lorigo@erie.gov or by phone at 716-858-8922.



Joseph Lorigo

10th DISTRICT
ERIE COUNTY
LEGISLATOR

Keep children’s mental health in mind during in-person schooling transitions

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and an ideal time for It Takes a Community Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coalition to educate our community on ways to create a smooth transition for students back into the classroom. ITAC’s mission centers on prevention and education of substance use. Enhancing protective factors that help children and adolescents avoid behaviors that place them at risk for adverse health and educational outcomes will promote healthy, social and emotional well-being.

Here are ways to help students feel safe and connected as they transition back to the classroom full time now and in the fall.

Be honest and straightforward about changes:

Always bring the reasoning back to keeping everyone healthy and safe. Let them know that teachers and parents have not been in this situation before, so things may change as we learn more information, but we are thinking about the students first when making any decisions.

Connect the change with being safe:

Have a conversation to express that experts and scientists have put together guidelines to help us stay as safe and as healthy as possible. Recognize that many of our students have experienced or may be experiencing trauma. Reach out to experienced and trained support staff as to how best to support students in the classroom

and at home.

Help kids cope with new changes; use control circles:

Identify things kids can control and those that they cannot control. Youth often feel anxious and stressed when it seems like everything is out of their control. Help them focus on the positive things they can control vs. the things out of their control by doing a quick and easy circle chart. It is a powerful and calming reminder they can refer to when needed.

Act like yourself:

Youth will take their cues from us. If we are stressed, worried and upset about changes, they are more likely to feel that way, too. Of course, we are going to have off days, but the more we can be our positive and upbeat selves, the more our kids will be at ease in our classrooms and at home.

Brainstorm possible changes together:

Think about changes that you can make in the classroom – while still following guidelines – to help students feel more connected. Have the students help; sometimes kids have the best ideas, plus it gives them ownership in the activities. These back to the classroom transition suggestions can be part of a successful end of the school year plan for K-12 students and implemented for their return this fall as well.

Here’s to a summer filled with happy times and sunshine-filled days. Be well; be safe.



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Log onto www.EastAuroraBee.com today, to cast your vote for next week’s online poll!

Last week’s question:
Will you vote in the May 18 school election?

You Said:
50% YES 50% NO

How to reach The Bee

The East Aurora Bee publishes community news free of charge. Mail items to The East Aurora Bee, 5564 Main Street, Buffalo, NY, 14221-5410. Our telephone number is (716) 632-4700. Our fax number is (716) 633-8601. Our websites are www.BeeNews.com and www.EastAuroraBee.com. The East Aurora Bee Editor Bryan Jackson’s email address is bjackson@BeeNews.com. Senders should state on their contributions whether their email address can be published.

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News Brief

- The Roycroft Campus will host group yoga on the Great Lawn at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 19, to celebrate the start of summer. The event is a collaboration with Joywheel Yoga & Wellness. The class is for all levels of yoga experience and will take place rain or shine. Bring your own yoga mat, water bottle and towel as a prop, if you wish. There is plenty of room for students to safely spread out. Registration is required to maintain social distancing requirements. Masks are also required during arrival and departure, although they are optional during yoga practice, unless moved indoors due to weather. Donations will be accepted for the historic Roycroft Campus.