

Summaries:

Sign Project:

- Include 5/3/2023 article and pictures of the sign ceremony – pictures of the Wales and Marilla, Boys and Girls Club signs up
- The article/pictures have been shared with Rashawn and Krista at Tobacco Free Communities, Iroquois BOE and Buildings and Grounds, Ron at the Marilla Highway Dept. the EMW Boys and Girls Club
- Towns of Elma, and EA, and the Village of EA have been updated on the sign project and encouraged to consider updating their community signs
- \$200 check was received as a donation from the Tobacco Free Organization to support the Marilla signs- a thank you note was sent.
- ITAC will “thank” the Iroquois BOE for their collaboration and partnering with ITAC on the sign update on Tuesday, 5/9 at 7pm their regular meeting in the STEM room
- Iroquois School District continues to put up more of the signage around the campus, one can be seen at the Athletic complex entrance and Girdle Road entrances are next on their schedule.
- Marilla will continue to put up their remaining signs now that the spring has ‘sprung’.

S3-Safe Use, Safe Storage, Safe Disposal:

- A community presentation by 2- of the S3 ITAC youth ambassadors will be scheduled before the end of June-
- A PowerPoint combining the 3- Coalitions- Amherst, Springville and ITAC has been created for community viewing along with a 1- page informational handout -
- Hoodies-from the remaining funds in the grant will be ordered for those youth who participated in the S3 project
- An additional - 8000 2x2 stickers were received and will be divided amongst the 3 coalitions- TOPS will be contacted for possible distribution in their pharmacies
- An article summarizing the project will be sent to local papers- June/July- highlighting the project and the collaboration with local coalitions.



Photo by Renea Lauck

It Takes a Community (ITAC) Coalition members Bette Dehr (rear, far left), Joanne Goellner (rear, left) and Dawn Stover (front, left) join Town of Marilla Highway Superintendent Ron Unverdorden, Jr. (rear, in orange, right) to mark the new sign adopting ITAC's initiative to make Marilla public spaces drug and tobacco-free. Town officials approved a motion to add signs to all public places in Marilla to

ban all forms of smoking, cigarettes, vaping, e-cigarettes, and cannabis in June of 2022. Also shown (Front, L-R) are Rashawn Smalls, program manager, Advancing Tobacco Free Communities; Krista Douvlos, manager, Youth and Community Engagement to Prevent Tobacco Use and Pastor Mark Sterlace of Grace In Community Church, president of ITAC.

Local Signs Covered by ITAC Grants

Changes in the community have recently taken place with the hopes that public spaces will be safer and healthier.

Early in 2022, members of ITAC (It Takes a Community and Alcohol Prevention Coalition) brought municipal and community leaders together to advocate for adding signs in public places banning all forms of smoking, cigarettes, vaping, e-cigarettes and cannabis.

Marilla, the Iroquois School District, Boys & Girls Club of Elma, Marilla and Wales agreed to update their signage to align with the codes and policies governing their spaces. Grace in Community Church in Alden agreed to add new signage to their property as well.

All new signs are red and white, reflective and weather resistant. They include an ITAC logo and the property owner's or organization's logo when requested. The Town of Marilla will be adding a total of 15 signs, which will include all public locations like the Marilla Town Park, the town hall, the community center and the highway department. Iroquois Schools will be putting up a total of 16 signs. They are currently at Marilla Primary and Wales Primary schools and they will soon be at all



Photo by Renea Lauck

The new sign at the Marilla Primary playground is the result of a year of work coordinating local government, school officials and community organizations, facilitated by It Takes a Community (ITAC).

other district buildings and the athletics complex. Signs have also been installed at Grace in Community Church in Alden and the Boys & Girls Club of Elma, Marilla and Wales.

Village and Town officials in Elma, East Aurora and Aurora are considering updating existing signage.

The cost of the signs was

approved and covered by federal funds from a Drug Free Community grant. Due to Marilla approving a code change to ban tobacco products in public places, the Tobacco Free Communities organization was able to donate funds to provide some support for the Marilla sign project.

ITAC and the Tobacco Free Communities may continue to collaborate to bring similar concerns to Erie County to update Erie County Parks signage.

ITAC began its grassroots initiative in 2009 and was formally established in 2011 by concerned community members in Elma, Marilla, and Wales after a series of youth deaths, some due to drug overdose. The organization's mission is "to increase awareness of and reduce youth substance use within the community and enhance communication between parents, youth, educators and residents while utilizing data to drive prevention efforts, promote education and provide access to resources."

ITAC welcomes community members to their monthly meetings- information can be found at www.itacemw.com. For additional information, email itacemw@gmail.com.

Springville Teacher from Holland

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