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Lancaster, Depew to receive PAVE funding

FRONT PAGE

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According to Sen. Tim Kennedy's office, PAVE NY funds are available to municipalities throughout the state to be used for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of local roads.

Specifically, this includes resurfacing, widening and realignment, along with other improvements such as the installation of turning lanes at intersections and improved drainage to mitigate the effects of potential flooding.

"PAVE NY funds strategic investments in local roadways, helping ensure roadways across the state are in good repair, remain reliable for motorists and able to help foster regional economic growth for years to come," said Cuomo.

The Town of Lancaster will be awarded roughly \$18,300 through the initiative, and according to Kennedy, Depew will receive more than \$61,000.

"Earlier this year, elected officials from across upstate stood together to declare that enough is enough, and we fought hard for our fair share," said Kennedy. "With a recent report from TRIP, a national transportation research group, showing that 47 percent of roads in WNY are in either poor or mediocre condition, there is certainly a need for increased funding."

He said the \$171,000 in PAVE NY funding that was awarded to Cheektowaga, Depew and Sloan "is a direct result of our call for parity," and he is pleased to see that the funds are already making their way to municipalities in Western New York.

Cheektowaga will receive more than \$97,000 of the funding as well.

Matthew Driscoll, the state's Department of Transportation commissioner, said the investment will improve local roads, reduce driver delays and increase economic activity and tourism statewide.

Nearly 1,600 municipalities throughout New York are being awarded funding through PAVE NY.

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Read stories from this week's police reports.

F Rori Fugate, 2, takes a ride on the carousel with her father, Damien, and her "Papa Joe" during the Village of Lancaster Independence Days celebration held during the weekend. Trina Arletta and Caden Tynan, 2, above, and their 5-year-old brother, Collin, sport red, white and blue outfits during the event. Photo by Chuck Weigert. Purchase color photos at www.lancasterbee.com

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Pickleball picks up momentum in Lancaster
by JULIE HALM Editor
Pickleball is a sport that is picking up speed across the country and is taking hold in Lancaster. "Pickleball is the fastest growing racquet sport for 25- to 39-year-olds," said Bob Giroux of the Lancaster Recreation Department. A pair of courts was recently completed at the Lancaster Senior Center, 100 Oxford Ave., and already has several regulars. According to Giroux, a group of roughly eight enthusiasts can be found at the courts each Friday night. The courts are also listed on www.lancasterpickleball.com. He describes the sport as a mix-up of ping pong and badminton. According to Highway Superintendent Daniel Amatura, the town began receiving requests for the courts two or three years ago and the sport is very popular in the senior community. Roughly a year and a half ago, the planning for the courts began in earnest. The courts are reserved for that age group from sunrise until noon from Monday through Friday, and lessons take place on Monday mornings. It is open to anyone on the weekends. According to Amatura, pickleball is an excellent way to stay active and have fun no matter one's age. A smaller court than most other racquet sports makes for a somewhat lower-impact sport. The funding for the new area came from the Town of Lancaster Recreation filing fees, according to Amatura. "Since the courts opened, they have gotten plenty of use. The response has just been great," said the superintendent. On Tuesday morning, a set of racquet sports makes for a somewhat lower-impact sport. (Please turn to back page)

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