Ice Cream and ITAC Brings People Together in Town Hall Meeting

by Renea Lauck

Freelance Reporter ITAC, It Takes a Community Drug and Alcohol Coalition, has a mission to increase awareness of 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 held a town hall meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 3 at the Elma Village Green Park, aligning with its mission of providing prevention, education and communication. The event

attracted over 200 people from surrounding communities. With generous donations from

the community and ITAC fundraising efforts, many families were provided with free school supply bags and ice cream from The Pink Cow Ice Cream.

The evening included kid-friendly activities including a ropes course led by the National Guard and a "Drug Free Looks Like Me" picture contest. Presentations by John Bennett, the Kids Escaping Drugs Face2Face Program Director, shared current substance use trends. Mark Sterlace, President of ITAC, and Interim ITAC Program Director Bette Dehr shared

A mini health fair with representatives from Women's Health General Physician P.C., Gateway Longview, Elma Fire Department, The Prevention Council, Erie County Department of Health, Grace in Community Church and others provided resources to support ITAC and the community.

This event was an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate each person while embracing a healthy lifestyle. Along with a little scoop of ice cream to enhance the enjoyment.



Photo by Renea Lauck

The Pink Cow Ice Cream truck on hand, ready to give out free ice cream at the ITAC event last week.



Photo by Renea Lauck

Reese Kinal from the Elma Fire Department gives away information and gifts supporting the fire company at the ITAC event.

Photo by Renea Lauck

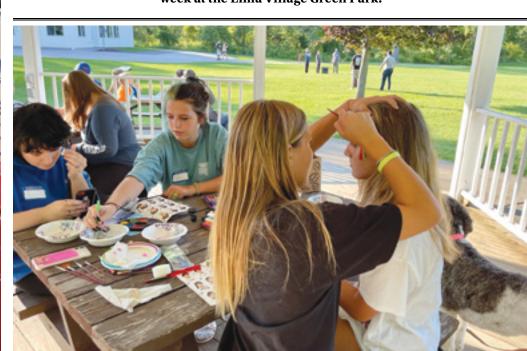


Photo by Renea Lauck

National Guard counter-drug task force members Justin Chernogorec and Lamont Pugh pose for a photo.



Bette Dehr and Mark Sterlace continue the discussion during an ITAC event last week at the Elma Village Green Park.



Face painting was one of several activities organized by members of the ITAC community group.



There were lots of games and contests for children and

adults to participate in during the ITAC community meeting.

Welcome Back Erie County Fair!

John Bennett, the director of the Face2Face program

Photo by Renea Lauck

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