



Photo by Renea Lauck

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



Photo by Renea Lauck

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



Photo by Renea Lauck

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



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There were lots of games and contests for children and adults to participate in during the ITAC community meeting.



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.



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There were 98 bags with school supplies given out at the ITAC event.

# Rabies Vaccine Airdrop Planned For Rural Erie

A rabies vaccine airdrop is planned between Aug. 17 and Aug. 20 in the rural parts of Erie County.

In coordination with the New York State Department of Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection

Service Wildlife Services, the Erie County Department of Health will participate in a wildlife vaccination program for rabies using aircraft and on-the-ground delivery to distribute bait.

Fixed wing aircraft will distribute vaccine packets

to the rural regions, with all distributions being weather-dependent. Ground and hand-baiting began on July 28 with Erie County Department of Health vector control staff and USDA personnel in more densely populated urban areas. In 2020, this program resulted in the distribution of more than 267,000 vaccine packets in Erie County.

Residents who come in contact with wildlife vaccine packets can call the NYSDOH Rabies Information Line (888) 574-6656 with questions or concerns.

People are told to not disturb vaccine packets. Most packets are eaten within four days; almost all baits will be gone within a week. If packets are not found and eaten, they will harmlessly dissolve and exposed vaccine will become inactivated. If you must move a vaccine packet, wear gloves or use a plastic bag or paper towel to pick it up. Place any damaged baits in the trash; throw intact baits into a wooded area or other raccoon/wildlife habitat.

Residents should wash hands immediately if they come into direct contact with the vaccine or packets, then call the NYSDOH Rabies Information Line at (888) 574-6656. Additional recommendations include: -Supervise children's out-

door activities during bait distribution and for one week afterward.

-Confine dogs and cats indoors and observe leash laws during the bait distribution interval and for one week afterward.

-This will increase the probability of raccoon vaccination and decrease the chance of pets finding the baits.

-Baits and vaccines are not harmful to domestic animals. However, an animal may vomit if it consumes several baits.

-Residents should not risk being bitten while trying to remove bait from your pet's mouth.



Photo by Renea Lauck

John Bennett, the director of the Face2Face program with Kids Escaping Drugs, on hand at the ITAC community meeting last week to give a presentation.



Photo by Renea Lauck

# Community Yoga

People gather at Elma Village Green Park for group yoga sessions.

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