



NIAGARA COUNTY  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

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OLCOTT BEACH OPENS WEDNESDAY  
PUBLIC WORKS OBTAINS LIFEGUARDS, OPENS BEACH

OLCOTT—Olcott Beach in Niagara County's Krull Park will be open to swimmers tomorrow, Niagara County Legislator John Syracuse, R-Newfane, said today from the popular summertime venue.

Olcott Beach, located on the Lake Ontario shore in the town of Newfane, is opening later than normal this summer after concerns about the late state budget had prompted county lawmakers on the Legislature's Public Works Committee to delay approval of funding for lifeguards. That changed last month through efforts by Syracuse and Committee Chairman Clyde L. Burmaster, R-Ransomville, to identify untapped sources of funding in the county budget.

Niagara County's Parks & Recreation department will operate the beach from noon to 7 p.m. daily, seven days a week, throughout the remainder of the summer.

"This has been a challenging year for the county in opening the beach, with so many of the problems occurring at the state level with the budget," Syracuse said. "I am thankful to my colleagues on the DPW Committee, especially Chairman Clyde Burmaster, who was able to secure funding at no additional cost to the county's taxpayers."

Syracuse noted that, even after securing funding for the lifeguards, the county had to accomplish several key tasks, including grading and cleaning the beach and training lifeguards to meet the strict Waterfront/Open Water certification rules.

"I really want to acknowledge the hard work of Deputy Public Works Commissioner Rob DeVoe and Lee Ann Cogar from Parks & Recreation, who organized training for lifeguards in very short order," Syracuse said, noting Cogar had organized training for certified lifeguards through the American Red Cross so that the beach could open for the summer.

"We are really excited to have this key piece of the county park system—which is, incidentally, surrounded by the Olcott Beach Carousel and a number of really great shops and restaurants in the hamlet of Olcott—up and running for the remainder of the season," Syracuse said. "All are certainly welcome to come on down and enjoy a refreshing dip in the lake and the great shops and the Carousel."

Olcott Beach can be reached by traveling north on New York State Route 78 (Transit Road/Lake Avenue/Lockport-Olcott Road/Lockport Street) to its terminus, then turning right on Ontario Street. Parking is adjacent to the waterfront.

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