

APRIL 2024

Mother Nature at Her Best



First in the lineup of terrestrial wonders is the full solar eclipse of the sun on April 8.

All eyes will be on the sky that afternoon to see the total solar eclipse that will take place at the Moon's ascending node and visible across North America and dubbed the Great North American Eclipse by some media.

A total solar eclipse occurs when the Moon's apparent diameter is larger than the Sun's, blocking all direct sunlight, turning day into darkness. Totality occurs only in a narrow path across Earth's surface, including the Buffalo area.

The Moon's apparent diameter will be 5.5 percent larger than average. This eclipse will be the first total solar eclipse to be visible in the U.S. since August 21, 2017. It will be the only total solar eclipse in the 21st century where totality will be visible in the United States, Mexico and Canada. It will also be the last total solar eclipse visible in the Contiguous United States until August 23, 2044.



Moving a bit forward, Earth Day 2024, falling on April 22, is an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The official theme for 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics."

First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. For Earth Day 2024, Earthday.org is unwavering in its commitment to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60 percent reduction in the production of ALL plastics by 2040.

More than 20 million people poured out on the streets, and the first Earth Day remains the largest single-day protest in human history. The first Earth Day was focused on the United States. However, in 1990, it went international with organized events in 141 nations.

A True Champion!



Many of you will recognize Brie who resides in the office with Pam, but did you know Brie also competes in dog sports several times a year?

This picture is of Brie, looking a bit bored as she checks over some of her ribbons from a recent weekend competition.

Pam said there should be more but they ran out of the green "q" ribbons so they will send the remaining four to her later. Brie also earned her 17th title, this one was in the sport of "Nose Work."

I guess she is not just a cute face but also a little worker bee too!

Congratulations Brie and let's not forget her wonderful trainer, Pam, who spends hours working with Brie making sure she'll bring home the ribbons that make us all proud of her.

Variety Club Telethon: A Tremendous Success

SUCCESS! That's the new name of the 2024 Variety Club Telethon, chaired this year by Bill Simon who many of you might remember used to deliver TCMOW, and co-chaired by Rose Ann Heilemann of North Tonawanda.

As many of you will remember, last month we had an article about Bill Simon who was this year's 62nd Annual Variety Club Telethon Chairman. Well, it was another successful year for the variety club with \$1,041,775 in pledges, bringing in more than last year!

Congratulations to Bill and his wife, Cindy, who worked tirelessly

behind the scenes and to everyone who worked so hard to make this drive so successful once again this year!

The need is great and organizing an event that was broadcast LIVE for two days and the streaming online at wgrz.com and on the Variety Facebook page was beyond exhausting!

Variety is proud to be the longest running locally produced Telethon in the United States!

Thanks to all the TCMOW volunteers who contributed to the Telethon and congratulations to Bill.

Pam's Corner

The following is a true story: While on a road trip several years ago with two very good friends we had some fun with the On Star (GPS) in the vehicle.

We were traveling along and it was telling us where to go, when we came to an intersection. We all looked at each other and said in unison "Which way did it say to turn?"

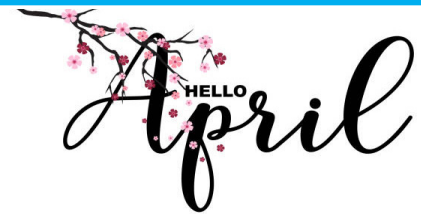
Well we decided it was right which of course was not right but wrong, and at which point the On Star lady became irritated with us. She began saying recalculating, recalculating!

Well that dumb voice sent us on a drive through some of the worst streets I have ever been on. Actually I don't know if you could call it a street, it was more like just a lot of huge potholes in row.

We laughed our way through the whole drive. I guess you could look at it as a metaphor of life, wrong turns, potholes, and finding our way!

So I guess my point is (aside from thinking about a fun trip) is that during this Easter season and the renewal of spring enjoy the journey! If you need to do a little recalculating do it with friends and make the trip worthwhile!

So until next month HAPPY EASTER and have a great ride..... Pam



Around Town

April 3 - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Creative Writing Workshop at the North Tonawanda Public Library 505 Meadow Drive. Join us for writing tips. Bring your own works to share, enjoy the company of a friendly group. Chat about fun stories and anything on the craft of writing.

The City of Tonawanda Fire Department will provide free blood pressure screening service on the first Thursday of each month from 11-11:30 a.m. at headquarters, 44 William St. No appointment is necessary. Also Fire Chief McNulty would like to remind everyone that in keeping with your health programs, the Fire Department will take your blood pressure at Fire Headquarters anytime you may have to have a regular reading before going to your doctor.

April 12 -15 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, the Greenhouse Events Center will host its second annual **free** North Tonawanda Garden Show. Featuring over 70 local vendors, live Music Saturday and Sunday noon to 3 p.m. from the Samuel Tambe Band. A **Mickey Mouse** meet and greet Saturday noon to 3 p.m. Vendor space available, contact Jacob @ 716-545-6102.

April 13 - 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Defensive Driving Insurance Reduction Class for 10 percent insurance credit. Call the North Tonawanda Public Library at 716-693-0719 to register or for information.

April 20 - noon to 1 p.m. Spring Flower Workshop North Tonawanda Public Library 505 Meadow Drive. Learn about forced bulbs and forsythia arrangements. Inspire your creativity with demonstrations on creating spring table and wreath arrangements. Registration required. Call 716-693-0719

April 20 - 9 a.m. to noon, Canal Cleanup at Mayor's Park, Sweeney St., North Tonawanda Volunteers will join members of the Waterfront Commission, Parks & Recreation Department to clean out the shoreline, picking up debris. Refreshments and lunch will be served to all volunteers. Contact Joyce Santiago, assistant to Mayor Tylec, email jsantiago@NorthTonawanda.org

Carnegie Art Center Readies for Its Summer Art Spree

Applications are officially open for this year's Carnegie Art Center Spree! on August 17 and 18. Artists of all backgrounds are welcome to apply using the free online form. (Last year the Best in Show award went to a first time exhibiting artist!)

The Carnegie Art Spree! Festival is an event organized by the Board of the Carnegie Art Center and will take place on both sides of the Tonawandas: Webster Street and Canal Street, connected by the Renaissance Bridge. This year, artists will only be assigned to Canal Street or Webster Street.

Don't miss early bird pricing that ends June 1. Final applications are due by July 15. Artists are accepted on a rolling basis, all artists will be notified by July 31. All payments are due by August 1.

All fees collected will help support the costs of this event and expanding our non-profit arts mission. Admission to the event is free for visitors.

If you are a business or organization that would like to help sponsor this event, your tax-deductible donation can go a long way! Learn more about sponsorship opportunities by calling the Carnegie Art Center at (716) 694-4400 or visit the website at carnegieartcenter.org.

How To Order Meals on Wheels

If you know someone who would like to order Meals on Wheels either for themselves or a friend or loved one, the process is easy.

Call the TCMOW office, 716-693-1663 and Pam will sign you up, provide the cost and the various programs offered or mail you the information.

Pam Hill, Coordinator

Board of Directors

James Burke - President
Denise Sawatzky - Vice President

Rick Henderson, Secretary
Curt Gaume, Treasurer

Board Members

Karl Bauer, Carol Butch, John Grobe, Robert Pecoraro,
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Phone: 716-693-1663 Fax: 716-693-1663 Email: info@tcnow.com Website: www.tcmow.com



Jim Davignon	39 years
Sherry Davignon	39 years
Rodney Brown	23 years
Nancy Young	12 years
Carol Butch	10 years
Bill Fadel	9 years
Deb Fadel	9 years
Kathy Ceckowski	7 years
Barbara Brenchley	4 years
Jean Ohrum	4 years

Each month the names and years of service to TCMOW are listed. Congratulations to each volunteer for continuous and amazing energy as well as your devotion to helping others! It's volunteers like you who make TCMOW.



David Cech	April 2
Bobbie Seekins	April 8
Patricia Fiorentino	April 10
Carol Woodcock	April 10
Rose Marohn	April 11
Bill Fadel	April 15
Margaret Smith	April 16
Guy Richardson	April 20
Kaye Brenon	April 21
Michael T. Finiki	April 25
Clare Grinnell	April 28

Each month the names and birthday date are listed for staff and volunteers who are celebrating their birthdays during the month. Happy Birthday to All Best Wishes for a Wonderful Year!

More April Dates to Remember

- **April 11** - 5:30 to 8:39 p.m., all are invited to join the City of North Tonawanda to learn about the Comprehensive Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program plan. We are seeking your input and vision for the city! The public meeting is at the Carnegie Art Center, 240 Goundry St., North Tonawanda. Questions? Contact Director of Community Development: Laura Wilson - lwilson@lumbercitydc.com.
- **April 19** - Meat raffle to benefit Ryan Niemiec at the K of C Hall, 755 Erie Ave., North Tonawanda. For more information, call Katelyn Niemiec-Klimek at 716-807-4681.
- **April 15** - Last day to order a 2024 rain barrel and/or compost bin sponsored by Erie and Niagara counties. Pick-up date is April 27 at the Boulevard Mall parking lot. The rain barrels, compost bins and accessories are significantly discounted this year. The event is sponsored by the counties, in partnership with the Western NY Stormwater Coalition. If you live in the City of Tonawanda or North Tonawanda, there are discounts available. For information or to order, email: recycle@erie.gov.
- **April 27** - The annual Meat Raffle by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northtowns, will take place at the K of C Madonna Council, 755 Erie Ave., North Tonawanda. Doors open at 6 p.m. Presale tickets are \$12, \$80 for a table of eight. For information, call 716-873-9842, ext. 228.

April 8/9 - Guide for solar eclipse.

- * Expect heavy traffic April 4 to April 9, especially April 8.
- * All schools will be closed April 8.
- * Fill up your gas tank during the week prior to April 6.
- * Stock up on supplies prior to April 4.
- * Avoid scheduling appointments or running errands on April 8.
- * Can you work from home? If you must commute, have a plan for additional traffic. Be aware of mass egress post totality. Plan to delay your departure from Eclipse Events to avoid extreme traffic delays.
- * Cell and internet service may become overwhelmed with additional crowds and demand. Be sure to have a backup communication plan.
- * Be mindful that First Responders, and Law Enforcement will be in extreme demand during this event.

New Volunteer!

Note from Pam:

For those of you who work in the kitchen on Friday (and are having such a great time together) you'll soon be welcoming Patricia Fiorentino of North Tonawanda who has recently joined our TCMOW family. So if you happen to see her say "Hi" and welcome her to the Fun on Friday gang.

If you want to join in the fun and bring a smile to a client's face, call Pam at 716-693-1663. You won't regret it!

.... and the winner is.....

On Friday, March 1, Twin Cities Meals on Wheels held the drawings for the TCCO dinner certificates raffle.

Eileen Britton was on hand and joined Pam Hill as they picked the winning ticket.

The Grand Prize worth \$685 was won by Candace Schultz of Sanborn.

The second place prize worth \$150 went to Linda Sokoley of North Tonawanda.

Congratulations to both of our winners and to TCCO for hosting another successful raffle.



There's always room in the Newsletter for news from YOU, our volunteers. Surely, there are new grandchildren, children's accomplishments, fun family events, church or other organization information Let Pam know your news or email it to

Barbara Tucker at wgtbt@aol.com

Share a Laugh



BANK WITHDRAWAL

The old woman handed her debit card to a bank teller and said, "I would like to withdraw \$500."

The teller told her, "For withdrawals less than \$5,000, please use the ATM."

The old woman asked, "Why?"

The irritated teller told her, "Because those are the rules. Please leave if there is no other matter, there is a queue behind you," She then returned the card to the old woman.

The old woman remained silent, but returned the card to the teller and said, "Then I want to withdraw all my money."

The teller was astonished when she checked the account and discovered the account had a balance of \$3.5 million dollars.

"My apologies, ma'am, but our bank does not have that much money available at this branch. Could you make an appointment and come back tomorrow?"

The old woman then asked, "How much can I withdraw today?"

The teller told her, "Any amount up to \$300,000."

The old woman then told the teller that she wanted to withdraw \$300,000 from her account.

The teller swiftly did so and handed the money to the old woman who put \$500 in her purse and then asked the teller to deposit the balance of \$299,500 back into her account.

The moral:

DON'T BE DIFFICULT WITH OLD PEOPLE-WE CAN OUTWIT THE YOUNG AND DUMB!

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A FEW THOUGHTS

- * My friend in Quebec is a heavy' drinker. In fact, he drank Canada Dry.
- * Big shout out to my fingers. I can always count on them.
- * I got hit in the head with a can of soda. ... Fortunately, it was a soft drink.
- * Never iron a four-leaf clover. Don't want to press your luck!
- "Life is too short to worry about what others say Or think about you. Have fun and give them something to talk about. .

DID I READ THAT RIGHT?

In a Laundromat:

Automatic washing machines: Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out

In a london department store:

Bargain basement upstairs

In an office:

After tea break staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Outside a secondhand shop:

We exchange anything -bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

Notice in a health food shop window: Closed due to illness

Spotted in a safari park (I sure hope so)

Elephants please stay in your car

Seen during a conference:

For anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day care on the first floor

Notice in a farmer's field:

The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges.

Message on a leaflet:

If you cannot read this leaflet will tell you how to get lessons

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LIKE PUNS? READ ON

My fear of moving stairs is escalating.

In search of fresh vegetable puns? Lettuce know.

I heard the word "icy" is easy to spell. Looking at it now, I see why. Saw a transparent billboard today. I thought, now there's a clear sign.

I'll take the high road. You take the psycho path.

I'm going to start collecting hi-lighters. Mark my words!

That awkward moment when a zombie looking for brains walks right by you.

I shot a man with a paintball gun just to watch him dye.

Some people are such a treasure, you just want to bury them.

Tried calling the tinnitus Helpline. No answer. Just kept ringing.

YES! I want to do my part to continue the work of Twin Cities Meals on Wheels. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____

E-mail _____

Amount enclosed _____

**Return this slip and your check made out to Twin Cities Meals on Wheels to:
TCMOW, 100 Ridge Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 or donate online at www.tcmow.com**