



Town of Cheektowaga

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Supervisor Benczkowski announces creation of Citizens Youth & Recreation Advisory Council

Cheektowaga, NY – Supervisor Diane Benczkowski is seeking out residents to take part in her newly created Citizens Youth & Recreation Advisory Council after announcing the creation of the Advisory Council during her 2018 State of the Town Address last week.

The Citizens Youth & Recreation Advisory Council’s mission is to provide recommendations to the Supervisor as to what youth and recreational activities or programming residents want the town to provide. The Supervisor intends to bring together numerous stakeholders from the community: including taxpayers, parents and youth organizations.

“Since taking office, I have advocated for and supported opening up town government to our residents, not only through transparency, but making it more accessible to the residents,” said **Supervisor Diane Benczkowski**. “We need to listen to what our residents have to say. The Citizens Youth & Recreation Advisory Council is another step in this direction. I look forward to bringing residents together to make sure we are providing the right programs and activities for everyone in our community, and that these programs and activities are not competing against one another.”

In 2016, Benczkowski created the Budget Advisory Committee made up of town residents with the goal of recommending expense reductions as she prepared the town’s annual budget. For two years, the Budget Advisory Committee has recommended hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings to the Supervisor that have been incorporated into her budget. The Citizens Youth & Recreation Advisory Council is intended to mirror the Budget Advisory Committee, providing input from the community as to what programs and activities residents would like the town to organize and fund.

Benczkowski and Councilmember Linda Hammer both oversee the Youth and Recreation department and will attend the Advisory Council meetings to hear what residents want to see happen within the town.

Councilmember Linda Hammer said, “Being part of the Youth and Recreation Committee, I am proud to help oversee the Citizens Youth and Recreation Council. It is very important our residents have a say in what programs are offered and which programs may be lacking in public interest. The town offers recreation services to all town residents including the Village of Depew and the Village of Sloan. It will be interesting to see what ideas the residents have.”

Joe D’Amaro, Chair of the Cheektowaga Thunderbirds Football League, has volunteered to Chair the Citizens Youth & Recreation Advisory Council.

Information regarding current youth and recreational programming and activities is available on the town’s website www.tocny.org under the “Youth & Recreational Services” department tab.

Residents interested in becoming a member of the Citizens Youth & Recreation Advisory Council can submit a letter of interest to the attention of the Supervisor via mail to Town Hall, 3301 Broadway, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 or by emailing supervisorsoffice@tocny.org. The Citizens Youth & Recreation Advisory Council is a voluntary and informal committee organized by Supervisor Benczkowski to encourage resident participation and input in Town government specifically related to the Town’s youth and recreational programming. Meeting dates and times will be determined once the Advisory Council has enough participants.

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