Blood donations needed after tragic events

I n the wake of a tragedy, the country feels heartache. The worst U.S. mass shooting took place on Sunday at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Our thoughts and condolences remain with the victims and their families.

People in communities throughout the country are lining up to donate blood, as there is a dire need for donations to help the injured following a tragic event.

Tara Hughes of Ambient and Peggy McGee-Smith of Kenmore — two volunteers from the American Red Cross Western New York Chapter — will be traveling to Orlando this morning to provide disaster mental health support following the shooting.

According to a press release, the volunteers have experience helping in the Red Cross response to traumatic situations, including after 9/11, the crash of Flight 3407, Sandy Hook, the Boston Marathon bombing and the recent wildfires in Alberta, Canada.

Local Red Cross volunteers are supporting emergency responders by providing snacks and water, and the Red Cross is coordinating closely with local officials to determine how it can best support the affected community throughout the coming days and weeks.

The thoughts and deepest sympathies of the entire American Red Cross family are with the people of Orlando and those affected by Sunday’s shooting, according to the release.

While the organization doesn’t typically serve hospitals in the Orlando area, the Red Cross is providing a small number of blood products to support Florida hospitals in response to the shooting and stands ready to provide additional blood and blood products as needed.

Volunteer blood donors are needed each and every day to help save lives. In fact, right now, blood and platelet donations are being distributed to hospitals as quickly as donations come in.

According to the release, this weekend’s tragedy illustrates that it’s the blood already on the shelves that helps during an emergency.

Eligible individuals can make an appointment to give blood in the coming weeks and months by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

The Red Cross responds to nearly 66,000 disasters each year, and donations for Red Cross Disaster Relief are used to help people and communities prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters large and small.

Spindle items

Chris Graham
Orchard Park Editor

HELP LOCAL EVENTS — In a little more than a month, Quaker Days will take over Orchard Park with numerous community events marking an extensive summer celebration for the area.

At this week’s Village Board meeting, Deputy Mayor Joseph Wales informed residents that the village would be sending letters to around 550 businesses to sponsor the two major village events of Quaker Days: the ice cream social and the street dance.

Both events have been around for several years, providing entertainment for adults and children. If you have a business in the Orchard Park area, respond to the letter and sponsor one of these events.

Everything provided year after year is due to the sponsors. Those who are frequent attendees want to see the same quality in entertainment and fun they’ve seen in the past.

The deadline to be a sponsor is Friday, July 15.

Become a sponsor of one of the events and continue the great tradition of the ice cream social, the street dance and Quaker Days as a whole.

ATTENTION SINGERS — The Buffalo Choral Arts Society, a 120-member community chorus under the direction of Marcia Giambrie, will hold auditions for its 2016-17 season on Thursday, June 23, at the Ebenezer United Church of Christ, 630 Main St., West Seneca.

The society is actively auditioning for all vocal parts. Prospective auditors should prepare a solo from any published source that best exemplifies the singer’s range, tone and interpretive qualities.

Pitch matching, range exercises and sight reading will make up the rest of the audition.

To schedule an audition, call Nancy Cannizzaro at 847-0030 or 856-1357, or visit the society’s website and fill out an audition form at www.buffalochoralarts.org.

The Buffalo Choral Arts Society encourages all singers impressed with the choral art to consider becoming a member of this prestigious community chorus voted “Best Vocal Ensemble” in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 by Artvoice and its readers in its annual Best of Buffalo contest. The society is a proud member of Chorus America.

NOTABLE NOTARIES — Having documents notarized is not always a fun process, but it’s one that has just been made much cheaper for many residents.

The County Legislature’s clerk staff will now be offering notarizing services free of charge from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Legislature’s Office, 92 Franklin St., fourth floor, Buffalo.

A resolution sponsored by Legislator Ted Morton was recently approved by the legislature to make this service available to the public.

According to Morton, many notarized documents need to be filed at Old County Hall, and the proximity of the office where the notary services will be provided creates a convenient situation for residents.

So the next time you are looking for a document to be notarized, skip the fee and head to the Legislature Clerk’s Office.

For more information on what is involved in the notarizing process, call Morton at 858-8956 or email ted.morton@erie.gov.

Out of the Past

20 Years Ago
June 20, 1996

• Orchard Park Central School District students may not be able to taste the changes in their school lunches next year but will notice a healthier trend in the way they are prepared.

• John and Mary Smith would have been proud. The dairy farm that Smith and his wife started will live on again thanks to a new farm family: Strawberry Bank Farm will be built on a 203-acre parcel between East Aurora and Orchard Park on Quaker Road at Darwin Road.

• Southtowns Storage is giving something back to the community by donating $10 to the Boys and Girls Club of Orchard Park for every rental for the months of May and June.

• At the Orchard Park Garden Club’s June meeting, Town Supervisor Dennis Cannizzaro presented the group with a proclamation saluting the week of June 19-25 as National Garden Week in Orchard Park.

GIFT FOR ST. MARK’S — Solon Wiley bought and gave this house to St. Mark’s Church for use as a rectory, allowing the congregation to hire its first resident minister in 1900. Piled in the foreground are the bricks that were used to become East Quaker’s roadbed. These bricks were removed in the summer of 2002, when the road was reconstructed. The house still stands at 6630 E. Quaker Road on the north side of the road. It is the second door east of Sunset Lane.

Photo courtesy of “Images of America: Orchard Park” by Suzanne Kulp and Joseph Bieron.