

June 27, 2023

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ANNETTE IAFALLO – THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE ‘A BITE OF LACKAWANNA’ A GREAT SUCCESS!

Yesterday was a wonderful day for the Lackawanna community, as thousands gathered on Ridge Road between South Park and Electric Avenues to enjoy the inaugural ‘A Bite of Lackawanna’ Outdoor Food & Music Festival.

This was the first city run festival since before the pandemic. My goal for reintroducing a festival was to create a new event which not only brought the community together, but also showcased and directly benefited the many wonderful restaurants that have loyally served the Lackawanna community for years.

I am thrilled to say that our first ‘A Bite of Lackawanna’ was a great success! Each participating restaurant and artisan craft/beverage/musical/community vendor put on a wonderful display for festival goers – many of whom came from other communities to see what Lackawanna has to offer. And they were not disappointed.

KUDOS TO LACKAWANNA’S RESTAURANT COMMUNITY FOR DOING WHAT YOU DO BEST – PROVIDING DELICIOUS FOOD AND A GREAT GUEST EXPERIENCE!!

There’s a saying that ‘it takes a village to raise a child.’ The same can be said for creating and delivering an event the magnitude of ‘A Bite of Lackawanna.’ My heartfelt thanks to the small and mighty planning ‘village’ that worked with me to make this event a success:

- Lackawanna City Council members: Fred Marrano (President), Amira Muflahi, Karl Anderson, Dean Moretti and Kevin Surdyke,
- Recreation/Youth Bureau: Brian Lakso, Linda and Rick Zybert and Kathy Moran,
- Marketing/Public Information: Chuck Clark,
- Public Safety: John Wolf, Fire Chief Jim Fino, Police Chief Mark Packard,
- Public Works: Tony DeSantis,
- Purchasing: Tom Nicometo,
- Mulberry Ristorante’ owner Joe Jerge,
- Southtowns Regional Chamber of Commerce: Jamie Decker,
- 97 Rock/Cumulus Radio personality and Lackawanna resident Dave “DJ” Jickster.

SPECIAL THANKS to every member of the Lackawanna DPW, Fire and Police Departments for your ‘above and beyond’ efforts to provide a welcoming, safe and clean/comfortable environment for our guests. You did an outstanding job – while simultaneously handling your primary duties throughout the city.

Also to OLV and Catholic Charities of Buffalo for graciously allowing us to use their nearby parking facilities during the event.

And last but certainly not least, my thanks to the thousands of people who came out to support Lackawanna’s restaurant community!

We plan to build on this year’s experiences and feedback to make ‘A Bite of Lackawanna’ Outdoor Food & Music Festival even better for many years to come.

With Sincere Gratitude,
Annette
[Lackawanna Police Department,](#)
[Lackawanna Firefighters Local 3166,](#)
[Lackawanna Recreation Department – NY](#)
[Southtowns Regional Chamber of Commerce](#)

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