

Supervisor Brian Kulpa's February 2022 Column



In partnership with the Amherst Chamber of Commerce and Daemen College, I look forward to presenting my fifth State of the Town address this coming Friday, Feb. 11, via livestream from Daemen College.

The platform for the State of the Town allows me the opportunity to discuss a rather wide variety of topics. However, with so much going on in Amherst, I could easily fill hours detailing the great things happening, but time doesn't allow me to cover everything. Because of that, we'll continue to keep you updated on projects and initiatives throughout the year. For starters, I expect very soon to have updates on an exciting community planning project along Niagara Falls Boulevard near the Willow Ridge neighborhood.

This year, having to present virtually for the second year due to COVID-19, I decided to try something different and I took my "show on the road." Originally, I had wanted to mimic one of my favorite shows, "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee," but instead decided to make stops (in-person and virtual) throughout the community, region and even Washington D.C. During my State of the Town, you'll hear from esteemed leaders providing updates on medical advancements, the new cancer center coming to town, agricultural growth, athletic news, cultural plans and other exciting developments.

As I noted, putting together this year's State of the Town required both virtual and in-person meetings. This is just another reminder how COVID has changed so much of how we do business and how we interact with each other. That exact understanding resulted in another important document created by the Town's award-winning Planning Department. We took what we have learned from this pandemic to create our Advance Amherst Recovery Plan, which will be referenced throughout my State of the Town. As we roll out the plan, we'll be implementing the goals set forth and working with stakeholders throughout Amherst.

When we created the Advance Amherst Recovery Plan, we designed it to be a catalyst for change. This started at the onset of the pandemic with Amherst recognizing an opportunity to diversify the Town's approach to economic development. The Recovery Plan accounts for COVID's terrible affliction on our Town and the very real impact it has had. We needed a plan that ensured that the whole community bounces back, improving and growing together. This comprehensive Recovery Plan provides Amherst with a roadmap to emerge from this health crisis stronger.

The State of the Town address will be uploaded to the Town website for easy viewing and shared on my Facebook page to update all residents on my vision and plans for 2022, and beyond. I invite you to provide your feedback.

I want to thank everyone who helped in the creating of this year's address and it is my sincere hope that next year we will be back in person as I layout the plan for 2023.