



Is McGovern next for an extension?
Center is an invaluable piece of the Bills’ offense | PAGE C1

THE BUFFALO NEWS

BUFFALONEWS.COM

Serving Western New York since 1880

WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES

Copyright 2025

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025

McGuire children’s appeal to block DNA sampling is denied

Late civic leader’s estate has been tied up in court for years

JAY TOKASZ
News Staff Reporter

A daughter of business and civic leader Frank J. McGuire, whose \$5.4 million estate has been mired in surrogate’s court proceedings for nearly five years, has agreed to submit a DNA sample to determine whether he had an eighth child who was not known to him before he died in 2020.

Jeannie Marie McGuire said she thinks the DNA sample would help speed the settling of her father’s estate.

But her offer comes with a caveat: She wants Jordan A. Tripi, the former Grand Island resident who believes Frank McGuire is her biological father, to sign a waiver agreeing not to seek money from the estate or the McGuire family.

Tripi, 34, first requested the DNA sample in 2023 in Erie County Surrogate’s Court after an Ancestry DNA test kit showed she was a first cousin of John McGuire, Frank’s nephew. The Ancestry match prompted Tripi’s mother, Caroline, to admit to her daughter that she had had an extramarital affair with Frank McGuire in 1990. Frank McGuire was unmarried at the time.

Erie County Surrogate’s Court Judge Acea M. Mosey ordered that a DNA sample be obtained from one of Frank McGuire’s known children to confirm whether he is the father of Tripi.

Until now, Jeannie McGuire and her five biological siblings had opposed providing a DNA sample, citing privacy concerns. They appealed Mosey’s decision, and the Appellate

Division, Fourth Judicial Department recently denied their appeal, concluding that Mosey “did not abuse her discretion in determining that respondent’s privacy concerns do not outweigh petitioner’s interest in ascertaining her true parentage.” A seventh McGuire child who was adopted was not part of the appeal.

Jeannie McGuire said her biological siblings still feel strongly that submitting to a DNA swab test violates their privacy rights. She said she is more concerned that the estate gets finalized, in part so that the Buffalo Diocese receives whatever monies are due to it and uses those funds toward a Chapter 11 settlement with child sex abuse survivors.

Frank McGuire donated \$2 million to the diocese in his will.

“Maybe it wasn’t our father’s intention to see his money going to that aspect of the Catholic Church’s, the Diocese of Buffalo’s functioning, but I feel for those people, because they are grieving so much of the quality of life that they’ve lost because they carry this trauma with them,” Jeannie McGuire said.

If Tripi signed the waiver, Jeannie McGuire said she would immediately provide the DNA sample. The test could be done without any further delay in court and provide a quick answer for Tripi, who has expressed grief over not getting to know Frank McGuire.

“I’m sensitive to her grieving – I’ve had a lot of grieving in my life – and would like to see it alleviated,” Jeannie McGuire said.

Please see **MCGUIRE**, Page A5

Amherst eyes progress at long-vacant properties

STEPHEN T. WATSON
News Staff Reporter

Tangible progress could finally come soon on two long-vacant properties in Amherst that have become a focus of political debate in the town.

Previous owners of the former Westwood Country Club and “gun club” properties in town had struggled for years to redevelop the sites.

The town floated its own visionary plans to transform Westwood into an Amherst Central Park recreational hub, a proposal stymied by legal challenges and public backlash. Instead, officials announced earlier this year that Erie County would take over the country club site from Amherst and turn it into

a nine-hole golf course and passive park, renamed Willowdale Park.

As for the gun club property, on Maple Road near the University at Buffalo North Campus, the town bought the site in December from its student-housing developer owner in a transaction meant to preserve four town-built softball fields.

Now, resolutions intended to allow the county to begin work at the Westwood site and to make way for the sale of the gun club property are on Monday’s Town Board agenda.

And the new gun-club developer is sharing details about his ambitious plans for a roughly \$50 million indoor sports venue linked to his massive nearby 716 Health complex.

“Our plan is to develop the safest place to practice and play sports in the United States,” Dr. Brian McGrath said in an interview Friday afternoon.

Deputy Supervisor Shawn Lavin, the Democratic candidate for town supervisor this year, said residents should welcome that the town is advancing the long-stalled redevelopment of prominent Amherst properties.

But Lavin’s Republican opponent, Dan Gagliardo, criticized how the current town leadership has handled both projects, raising concerns about whether the town is getting the best deals possible.

Please see **AMHERST**, Page A5

JFK Pool closure hurts in many different ways



HARRY SCULL JR., BUFFALO NEWS

The closure of JFK Pool highlights issues that Buffalo and municipalities across the country have been grappling with. The number of public municipal pools has been falling sharply for decades as cash-strapped cities and towns try to figure out how to keep them open and staffed.

Chief among them are the lessening of civic value

JUSTIN SONDEL
News Staff Reporter

Last week, JFK Pool at 114 Hickory St., one of six operational municipal pools in the city, was closed for the season during one of the hottest stretches of summer.

A woman hit a lifeguard with a flotation device after being asked repeatedly to leave the pool. She refused and assaulted the city employee on her way out and promised to come back. She did, with a large group, and city lifeguards and security stayed inside the JFK Recreation Center building until police came. They spent the rest of the day in the building and called police back to escort them to their cars, according to police reports obtained by The Buffalo News.

With lifeguards refusing to go back to work at JFK Pool, Mayor Christopher Scanlon announced that the pool would remain closed through the remainder of the season, which ends on Labor Day on Sept. 1.

“It’s so out of hand,” Scanlon said in an interview the day the closing was announced. “Whether it’s fights and disorderly conduct, the continued vandalism after hours, trespassing, it’s a real problem at that location.”

Buffalo Common Council Majority Leader Leah Halton-Pope – JFK Pool is in her Ellicott District – has since said she is working with

the administration, the parks department and the human relations department to try to figure a way to staff the pool and get it open for the remainder of the season.

She is also coordinating with anti-violence groups to provide additional support if they are able to staff the pool again this year.

“My hope is we can come to a resolution sooner, rather than later,” Halton-Pope said. “Certainly, we don’t want to have to go through this again next year.”

But the closure highlights issues that Buffalo and municipalities across the country have been grappling with. The number of public municipal pools has been falling sharply for decades as cash-strapped cities and towns try to figure out how to keep them open and staffed.

In recent years, city pools have remained closed for long stretches of summer, with a nationwide lifeguard shortage playing out in the city and other Western New York municipalities. Some suburban communities, including West Seneca and the City of Tonawanda, have recently grappled with decisions on whether to close pools because of high maintenance and operation costs.

Halton-Pope said public pools are not just a place to have fun for city residents, but an important way to cool down, to get exercise and to foster community.

And as summers continue to get warmer, their importance grows, she added.

Please see **POOLS**, Page A5

ANALYSIS

Trump’s stance on justice continues to show selectivity

ERICA L. GREEN
New York Times

WASHINGTON — As President Trump made the case for militarizing the streets of Washington, he used pictures of “homegrown terrorists” to illustrate his point that crime in the nation’s capital was out of control.

“Look at these people here,” Trump said at a news conference last week, flipping through a handout from the White House containing five mug shots, all people of color.

“They will never be an asset to society,” he said. “I don’t care. I know we all want to say, ‘Oh, they’re going to be rehabbed.’ They’re not going to be rehabbed.”

The declaration provided a window into the president’s selective view of criminality and redemption. In his eyes, Capitol rioters, a triple murderer, two police officers involved in covering up the killing of a Black man, and

an Israeli settler accused of extremist violence all deserve a second chance.

But the people accused of crimes in Washington are irredeemable.

Trump, himself a felon, has shown particular leniency to criminals he seems to identify with – people who are white or wealthy, or who he believes have been unfairly persecuted, or who rioted in his name on Jan. 6, 2021.

The White House defends the president’s actions, pointing to his criminal justice record from his first term, which included signing prison overhaul legislation aimed at rehabilitation and using his clemency powers to release many Black offenders who faced excessive punishments for nonviolent crimes.

But in his second term, Trump has seized on racial tensions to further his

Please see **TRUMP**, Page A8

INDEX

Asking Eric.....	B5	Crossword.....	B7	Opinion.....	A6
City & Region.....	B1	Horoscope.....	B5	Scoreboard.....	C8
Classified.....	B6	Local News.....	B3	Sports.....	C1
Comics.....	B5	Obituaries.....	B4	Television.....	B8



WEATHER

Less humid with sunshine.
High 74, low 56. Details on Page B8



\$3.00

Newsstand and machine price