

TUESDAY TECH TIP



NIAGARA FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY/NIAGA LIBRARY SYSTEM

OCTOBER 31, 2017: SCHOOL AND JOB CLOSINGS

Many of us can remember those mornings when we were kids, after snow fell heavy overnight, and we really, really, REALLY wanted a snow day. We sat in front of the TV anxiously, waiting for our school's name to appear on a never-ending scroll. Many times, we would be waiting for quite some time before that fateful moment when we could go back to bed, or be forced to rush to the school bus.

Nowadays, kids wanting a day off from school (and adults dreading the commute to work through unplowed streets) have many options! We can now go directly to a news website for local school and working closures, and check the NYS Thruway site for updates on thruway conditions. Alternatively, we can just sit back and wait a closing alert to be text messaged to our phones!

SCHOOL CLOSINGS, BUILDING DELAYS AND TRAVEL BANS



- WIVB (Channel 4):** <http://wivb.com/closings/>
- Text Alerts: <http://wivb.com/text-alerts-2/>



- WGRZ (Channel 2):** <http://www.wgrz.com/closings>
- No text alerts available – downloading the WGRZ app is encouraged:
<http://www.wgrz.com/about/text-alerts>



- WKBW (Channel 7):** <http://www.wkbw.com/weather/closings>
- Storm Shield Alerts available via phone apps and phone call service:
<http://www.wkbw.com/news/national/storm-shield-app-alerts-users-in-severe-weather>

Niagara County Weather Wire: <http://www.niagaracountyweatherwire.com/closings.php>

- This website displays closings pulled from the WIVB list, but for Niagara County only.

TRAFFIC AND ROAD CLOSURES



NYS Thruway: <http://www.thruway.ny.gov/index.shtml>

- The NYS Thruway website is updated continuously with updates regarding lane and road closures due to accidents and weather conditions. There are a number of useful features on the website.
- Traveler Map: <http://www.thruway.ny.gov/travelers/map/index.html?layer=ram>
 - Users can check which layers to display from the Map Legend, including accidents, roadwork, travel advisories and Google Traffic Conditions.
- Cams: <http://www.thruway.ny.gov/travelers/map/index.html?layer=cameras>
 - The NYS Thruway cams allow viewers to check the road conditions across the state before heading out on a trip. To use this feature, click the blue camera icon on the map to view conditions at that location.

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND FORECASTS

Many folks automatically type in “weather.com” or check the weather from their local news station, but there are a number of sources available to check current weather conditions and forecasts. Here are just a few.

Weather Forecast - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <http://www.weather.gov/>

Weather Underground 'Wunderground': <https://www.wunderground.com/>

Accuweather: <https://www.accuweather.com/>