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Niagara County *the* place to go for disc golf

As we enter the dog days of summer, I decided to focus this month's column not on any particular policy issues, but rather golf. And I'm not talking about traditional golf, but the increasingly popular game of disc or Frisbee golf. I am writing about this topic because Niagara County has two tremendous disc golf courses in two of our parks, with one of the courses having just opened this summer.

For the uninitiated, disc golf is played much like regular golf. But instead of a ball and clubs, players use flying discs. The sport shares with golf the goal of completing each hole in the fewest strokes or, in the case of disc golf, fewest throws. The "hole" in disc golf is usually an elevated metal basket.

The county's first foray into this sport came with the opening a few years ago of our first disc golf course in Burmaster Park at Bond Lake. The course was a tremendous hit and brought people far and wide to the park. Today,

that course is rated as the 41st best course in the world, on the list for the second year in a row ... and that was out of over 10,000 rated courses. This is a tremendous accomplishment.

This success led to planning for a second disc golf course at the other end of Niagara County in Royalton Ravine Park. Royalton Ravine Park, located on Gasport Road in the Town of Royalton, has long been known for its natural beauty. The park is located on 146 acres and contains several miles of nature trails, a waterfall and a fishing pond.

That course opened earlier this summer, and it's clear from the initial reaction and online reviews that it is going to be tremendously successful. This course was built by the Niagara County



Becky Wydysh
Chairwoman

Parks Department in conjunction with several partners. First, the county worked with Davey Tree, a highly regarded forestry management company, to catalog all the mature trees at Royalton Ravine and build the course with minimal disruption to the natural surroundings. The vast majority of removal focused on dead trees (many of them ash trees that fell victim to the emerald ash borer) as well as clearing brush.

The Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District was also involved to lend their expertise and help mitigate any potential environmental impacts.

The design of the course was done in conjunction with the Western New York Disc Golf Club, the local organization committed to expanding and promoting disc golf in our region. This group effort helped us add a top-notch disc golf to the amenities at Royalton Ravine while maintaining the park's character and natural charm.

Perhaps the other beauty of

disc golf is there is no cost to play in our county parks. Just show up any time the parks are open, which right now is 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Players do need to bring their own discs. I'm told the Niagara County courses can be challenging, but regardless of skill level, the courses offer a great outdoor experience.

In closing, I want to stress our county parks system exists for the recreational enjoyment of our residents. Whether it's through use of playgrounds, splash pads, disc golf or other amenities, we encourage people to take advantage of what we have to offer. And we are always looking for ways to improve. I know we have had many requests to consider adding pickle ball courts in some of our parks, and that our team is looking into that request.

You can learn more about Niagara County's five parks at <https://www.niagaracounty.com/Parks>.

Clerk's Corner: Town of Lewiston news and notes

Lewiston's bicentennial weekend celebration was GREAT!!!!!! Thank you, all members of the village and town bicentennial planning committee. Your years of planning, fundraising and organizing definitely showed. THANK YOU!!

Now, onto to some helpful news and notes.

- The Town Board continues its summer schedule, and will hold its next regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 22, at Town Hall. The session is open to the public and will be available online via Zoom.
- The 2022-23 New York state hunting licenses are available for

purchase, starting Monday, Aug. 1, at the town clerk's office. New York state residents must provide one of the following proofs of residency: a NYS driver's license, NYS non-driver's ID, voter registration or a current letter from Niagara County Board of Elections.

- Residents are reminded that, each year on Sept. 1, any unpaid water bill balance through May 31 will be levied on to your 2023 town and county tax bill if not paid by then. Any water and sewer charges levied to a tax bill will incur a \$100 levy fee. This fee is to recoup town costs in processing the unpaid bill. Call the town Water Department at 716-754-8213, ext. 235 or 236, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. for more information.
- As home projects season continues, residents are reminded



Donna R. Garfinkel

that a building permit is required for the construction of a shed, fence, installation of a pool and many other projects. Permits are available through the Building and Zoning Department. Call the office to make sure your project is in compliance: 716-754-8213, ext. 227, 243 or 245.

- Notice a streetlight out or flickering in your neighborhood? Contact the town clerk's office at 716-754-8213, ext. 222 or 256, or enter the information on the town website, www.townoflewiston.us, under the comment drop-down. The following information is necessary in order to report this to National Grid: pole number, closest house address and closest street intersection to the pole.
- Replacing your tattered American flag? Proper disposal of the U.S. flag is a very important and respectful thing to do. The town

received a receptacle from VFW Downriver Post No. 7487, which is located in the front foyer at Town Hall. Residents are encouraged to dispose of their flags properly.

- Have a question about Lewiston? Visit the Town of Lewiston website, www.townoflewiston.us. Questions or comments can be forwarded to any town department by simply clicking the "Contact Us" or "Comments/Questions" tab located on the left side.
- Fun Fact: Lewiston is the smallest town/city in the history of "The Amazing Race" to host the finish line for an edition of the reality show. Season 8 was completed at Joseph Davis State Park back in 2005.

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