

DPW add-ons will protect equipment, free up resources for beautification volunteers

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Wills noted, "All of my summer stuff is inside of my garage right now. And all my winter stuff is outside. And then in the winter, the winter stuff comes inside, and then all summer stuff goes outside. ...

"We're a municipality that we do everything. We do water, sewer, trees, sidewalks, highway, parks – you name it, we do it. So, we have multiple different layers of tools for us to be able to do our work, and a lot of it's sitting outside."

Wills said the second reason for requesting the additions is "the third building, which is all by itself; we call that the 'beautification building.'"

"It's probably been about 30 years, now, that the Beautification Committee and Garden Club have always had a hard time (with storage). We have Christmas decorations, seasonal decorations that are just all over the place. We have them up in the attic of the Red Brick School. We have them in the basement of the Red Brick School. We have them over by the stage area. Some of the Garden Club members have decorations in their garages, because we just don't have room to store anything."

Wills said the "beautification building" will solve a number of problems.

"They can come and go as they want. They don't have to get a hold of me to come in the garage," he explained. "It's going to be a heated garage with a half



The Village of Lewiston Department of Public Works has to be creative in storing vehicles and equipment, often utilizing space outside the garage.

bath, so they can have meetings there. And they can fluff wreaths there. They can paint pots, if they want, or any type of adjustments that they want to do – any time of the year. ...

"If they want to make a change, like say they want to change the size of their Christmas wreaths that hang on the poles every year, or if they want to change their pots – like the ground pots for the flowers – if they want to change anything, they can have sales out of that building, at their own leisure. And then buy the new ones that they want. They can transfer things around. We don't have to worry about where we're going to put this, and where we're going to put that, and how we're going to sell it. It's almost like their own – literally – their own garage."

Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt, who serves as liaison to the DPW, said, "It's been long overdue. For all the new equipment that we bought in the last three or four years, instead of storing it outdoors in the winter and all of the elements, we'll be able to put them in the building. And it'll last."

He said it will be "much more convenient" for the volunteers to access their materials in the new building, which "will be a great asset."

The Village Board previously voted to take out a \$1.8 million bond to pay for the DPW addition. When trustees were preparing the 2022-23 fiscal year budget, accountant Pat Brown advised them to use some of the municipality's almost \$3 million fund balance.

"This will be a prime project to use it on," Eydt said.

He noted the village combined an outstanding bond (financing the existing DPW garage) with this new one and, in the process, received a lower interest rate.

In addition, "We've applied for some grants."

Wills said, "It's a long-term investment. You're going to see it over the decades. You're not going to see it right now, obviously, but you're going to see it over the decades, as equipment lasts longer. A lot of our equipment sitting inside ready to go. We're going to be able to respond quicker for emergencies. There's several different layers to it."

Trustee Dan Gibson said, "We definitely need the space. All the equipment they've bought

– there's no sense in leaving it out in the elements. The Garden Club needs areas for their storage. It's definitely a great idea."

Trustee Nick Conde said, "I'm glad to see it come, and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Mayor Anne Welch said, "I'm excited to see it start. It's really going to help Larry and the guys out with the equipment, and the Garden Club with their own personal space. It's long overdue."

Trustee Tina Coppins said, "It's a win-win for everyone."

Peak Construction Group is the general contractor.

"They're going to start clearing the land," Wills said. "The first phase is excavation – digging out the three building areas for footers – and then start laying drainage pipe in, and getting the concrete all set up."

"The steel building part of it had to be ordered, and it's going to take a couple of months. But, in the meantime, the concrete will cure while we're waiting for the steel."

With any luck, Wills said, "It's going to be done by the spring. It all depends on the steel order. If it comes in earlier, they're going to get going on it."

"Now, they're predicting November is when the steel's coming in. So, obviously it depends on weather, whether they can work out there in the weather or not. But they're hoping to be done by the spring."

'Electrify Lewiston': EV showcase curated by Gallo Restaurants & National Grid

Will your next car be electric? If so, how far will you be able to drive it on one charge – and where will you find charging stations? Does it handle like a gasoline-powered car?

Bring all your questions, your appetite, and your family to "Electrify Lewiston," a one-day event created by National Grid and Gallo Restaurants, on Saturday, Aug. 6. From 3-6 p.m., attendees can meet EV drivers, auto representatives, charging installers, e-bike and e-scooter vendors on Gallo's patio at 402 Center St., Lewiston.

"As an electric vehicle owner, I understand that it's overwhelming with the amount of information

available when you are exploring electric vehicles and deciding what's best for you and your family," said Michael Hibbard, owner of Gallo Restaurants. " 'Electrify Lewiston' is a fun, casual, family-friendly event where you can have your questions answered by local experts and drivers."

In addition to Gallo Coal Fire Kitchen and National Grid, other businesses and organizations participating in "Electrify Lewiston" include Fuccillo Hyundai of Grand Island, PPR Energy Solutions, Shared Mobility Inc., Sight See Rentals, Solar by CIR, Tesla Owners Club of New York State, and The Yummm Truck.

New York state has set a goal to have 850,000 electric vehicles on the road by 2025, and all new passenger cars and trucks sold to be zero-emissions by 2035.

"Even as more electric vehicles hit our roadways, people still are looking for baseline information to help guide the decision-making process – whether purchasing an electric vehicle for themselves, or looking to install a charging station at home and their places of business," said Whitney Skeans, se-

nior program manager of National Grid's EV make-ready program. "By partnering with Gallo Restaurants on this event, we can help demystify and bring the community a meaningful experience when it comes to electric vehicles."

National Grid's electric vehicle (EV) make-ready program provides incentives of up to 100% cost on the installation of charging for any business customer, including workplace, multiunit residential buildings and retail stores, as well

as parks and vacation destinations. The company also offers a program for businesses looking to electrify fleets, which can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and help to meet New York state's decarbonization goals.

Visit electrifylewiston.com.



Whitney Skeans, senior program manager of National Grid's EV make-ready program, is shown with Michael Hibbard, owner of Gallo Restaurants. "Electrify Lewiston" is scheduled for Aug. 6 at the Village of Lewiston restaurant. (Submitted photo)

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July 29 - The Yacht Rockets feat. Jerry Andres (Yacht Rock)

Aug 5 - The Taverners (Classic pop and rock...and possibly a request or two)

Aug 12 - Bruce Wojick (Acoustic)

Aug 19 - Emerald Isle (Celtic Music)

Aug 26 - Ladies First Jazz (Ten piece all-female orchestra)

NOTE: rain location (if needed) will be the Red Brick gym, 240 Lockport St.

The Concert Series is by generous contributions made in memory of former Mayor Neil C. Riordan by many friends and businesses who knew how much the concert series meant to Neil.

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