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Village of Lewiston provides clarification on expected removal of Water Street tree

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

Residents in the Village of Lewiston took to social media over the weekend to voice concerns regarding the removal of a blue spruce tree located next to the Freedom Crossing monument on North Water Street.

At their monthly meeting on Nov. 20, 2023, trustees voted 3-2 to have the roughly 30-foot tree and an adjoining crabapple tree taken down. Mayor Anne Welch and board members Dan Gibson and Tina Coppins voted in favor, while Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt and Nick Conde dissented.

On Monday, Welch said, "The

Beautification Commission asked if we could take (the spruce) down, because they want to redo the park. It's overgrown; ... it's got sharp needles; so, it's not real park-friendly."

Moreover, "It blocks the view of the Freedom Crossing monument, the view of the river. It's getting too tall to really take care of it. It's just going to get bigger and bigger, and it encompasses a lot at the park then. It starts consuming more green space."

Welch also shared part of a statement she provided to a village resident that read, in part, "The Beautification Commission wants to redevelop Lewiston

Landing Park with benches, gardens and flowering trees. ... The large pine tree in Academy (Park) was removed years ago because it also became a problem. Obviously, the Beautification Commission works very hard to beautify Lewiston, and we do not normally take down trees; but, in this case, I feel it is warranted."

Department of Public Works Superintendent Larry Wills explained, "The (spruce) tree's in

SEE TREE, continued on Page 10

The larger tree shown here on North Water Street, the blue spruce, is set to be removed once the weather is more cooperative and the Department of Public Works can rent a lift.



Fashion Outlets teams with Town of Niagara to support community groups



At a special ceremony Tuesday, Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA, in partnership with the Town of Niagara, donated \$50,000 to various charitable groups and organizations that benefit residents and neighboring communities.

This annual donation was publicly awarded at the annual "Give Fashionably" event.

For more than 20 years, the Town of Niagara and the Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls have partnered on this program. Since embark-

ing on the partnership, they've donated over \$1 million locally.

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 - ✓ Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier
 - ✓ Empower
 - ✓ Feathers of Love
 - ✓ Health Association of Niagara County

- ✓ Intandem/Opportunities Unlimited
 - ✓ Niagara Arts and Cultural Center
 - ✓ Niagara County Meals on Wheels
 - ✓ Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club
 - ✓ Niagara Hospice
 - ✓ Salvation Army
 - ✓ Society of St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry
 - ✓ United Way of Greater Niagara
- For additional information on this and other activities, visit fashionoutletsniagara.com.

The 700,000 square-foot Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA is managed by Macerich. For additional information, visit its website, "Like" it on Facebook, or follow on X/Twitter and Instagram at @FashionNiagara.

Funding recipients are shown with Fashion Outlets and Town of Niagara leadership. (Photo courtesy of Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA)

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