

## Memorial Medical Center celebrates \$155,000 Schoellkopf Park restoration



Press Release and Photo Courtesy of Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center announced the completion of its restoration of Schoellkopf Park, a vital component of the medical campus and the neighboring community. Funded by a \$155,000 Community Development Grant from the City of Niagara Falls, the project revitalizes key elements of the park's infrastructure and aesthetic appeal.

The renovation includes repainting the park's iconic iron fencing, restoring the historic pillars at the Walnut Avenue entrance, enhancing pedestrian pathways, updating the sprinkler system, and installing new, contemporary lighting fixtures to ensure safety and beautify the area at night. These improvements honor the park's legacy and enhance the well-being of patients, staff and visitors.

"We are deeply grateful to Mayor Robert Restaino, the city administration, the City Council, and Bloom Landscaping for their significant contribution to this project," said Joseph Ruffolo, president and CEO of NFMCC. "Their support highlights a shared commitment to nurturing the health and vitality of our community."

Schoellkopf Park, established in 1913 as the first public city park of Niagara Falls, is located at the intersection of Portage Road and Pine Avenue. It remains a beloved landmark within the community.

As the community looks forward to the park's continued legacy, everyone is invited to visit and enjoy the peaceful, rejuvenated green space.

In conjunction with the completion of the park renovation, community members are also invited to leave a lasting legacy by purchasing an engraved brick to honor current or former members of NFMCC and Schoellkopf Health Center. Each brick costs \$50 and will be prominently displayed along the beautiful new pathway.

To purchase a brick or for information on the David's Path brick campaign, contact Judy Villani at [judy.villani@nfmcc.org](mailto:judy.villani@nfmcc.org).

## Lewiston No. 1 (cont.)

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Exempts for 2024-25 include: Linda Fleck, president; Steve Cline, vice president; Frank Dengate, recording secretary; Brian Christmas, treasurer; and Harry Raby Jr., Roger Hutton and Doug Burnett as trustees.

In his chief's report, Lilly told visitors that Lewiston No. 1 responded to 1,073 calls for service in 2023: "Not quite a record-breaking year, but very close and still a very high workload on our ever-dwindling membership."

Top responders for 2023 included Copeland with 355 calls; Mike Conway, 314; Brian Christman, 290; Grant, 200; Rick Horton, 205; Lilly, 193; Beebe, 192; Grainge, 187; Krueger, 183; Parmer, 170 and Meagher, 153.

Lilly said Lewiston No. 1 acquired a new power load system for its second ambulance, which greatly assists responders with the lifting of patients and fire victims into the vehicle during times of need. Also, that Lewiston No. 1 continues its work on designing and completing specs for its new pumper truck, which he hopes would go out for bid later in 2024.

Lilly closed by praising the value of Lewiston No. 1's membership and its willingness to serve.

"And last, we continue to recruit new members," he said. "We're lucky to have a lot of new members, new faces around. I'm proud to say we have a great group of young and motivated individuals. All of these recruits have already begun working hard to complete their EMT, and their firefighter 1 (training).

"It's great to see new members

join the ranks, as they're the future of the fire service. ... It's great to have a lot of new, shiny red fire trucks and equipment, (but) without the dedication of membership to staff the equipment we wouldn't be able to do our best to assist the community in times of need.

"Thank you to the membership for your dedication and willingness to serve the community, time and time again."

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## Ceremony to honor Bruce Sutherland

A ceremony to dedicate a plaque in memory of the late Bruce Sutherland will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 11, at the Lewiston Public Library, 305 S. Eighth St. The plaque will be placed on the wall of the library at its front entrance.

Sutherland passed away in December 2021. A retired colonel in the U.S. Air Force, he served in many roles including president of the board of trustees of the Lewiston Library, president of the Historical Association of Lewiston, and as a member of the board of directors of the Old Fort Niagara Association. He also served as deputy mayor on the Village of Lewiston Board of Trustees.

Sutherland attended and graduated from both SUNY Niagara and Geneseo, with a degree in biology. He also obtained a master's degree in management from the University of Southern California. After college, he joined the Air Force and enrolled in Officer Training School and became a pilot. During his 26-year Air Force career, Sutherland and his family were assigned to far-flung locations across the U.S. and world. His military service culminated in his promotion to colonel and his appointment as wing commander at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas.

Event organizers stated, "Bruce loved Lewiston and never forgot his boyhood home. After retiring from the U.S. Air Force and working as a captain for a major airline, he returned to Lewiston with his wife, Jackie, and family and became an inspiration to his countless friends and fellow volunteers."



## Totally Buffalo is totally open in Lewiston

Totally Buffalo opened Wednesday in the Village of Lewiston. Owners Mary Friona and Scott Celani offer a colorful assortment of hoodies, hats, T-shirts and socks, as well as jewelry, tumblers and home décor.

"We love Lewiston," Celani told the Tribune/Sentinel in a recent interview. "We know a lot of people there; we have some very good friends. We know the area very well."

Friona added, "You can buy Buffalo stuff in so many different places. I think what makes us different is we're really, truly there to celebrate Western New York, and these artisans, and the people, and sort of just to bring it all together."

Read the full interview at <https://bit.ly/totallybuffalolewiston>.

Totally Buffalo is located at 467 Center St. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.



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