

Academy Park comfort station nearing reopening, but not sufficient for larger park events

BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

Academy Park's comfort station is set to reopen in early July, following completion of a four-wall mural and surfacing of the adjacent bike path.

"Right now, there's a safety issue, because there's a lip around the (side of the building), because of the bike path. It's like a construction site," Mayor Anne Welch said Tuesday.

Department of Public Works Superintendent Larry Wills noted the painting and paving have delayed him in reopening the public bathrooms. In addition, "After the concrete was poured around the bathroom, we put a very large amount of topsoil around the whole perimeter of that building. We wanted the grass to grow in so they wouldn't track mud into the new building," he said.

In mid-May, the DPW dug out a strip of green space on the park's east side, across from DiMino's Lewiston Tops, to accommodate the trail that now enters the village at Seneca and South Ninth streets and extends down to Mohawk Street and over to River Road.

That area was fenced and has narrowed the immediate path to the comfort station.

Paving in phases

Wills said the paving process has to be done like this, in phases, because of what the job requires.

"I had to get that dug out (weeks before paving), and I wanted to get it pounded in with the roller and make sure there's no low spots that were going to drop," he explained. "And then we recoated it again and then rolled it again."

"And the main reason why it's not paved yet is because ... we all



The Academy Park comfort station will reopen following the completion of a new mural and adjoining bike path.



Uneven surfaces will be remedied before the bathrooms reopen.

share the same paver. So, those guys are finishing (in the towns of Wheatfield and Lewiston), and then they're coming down here. But in the meantime, I have to make sure that I'm ready to go when they do come in."

"If I had my own equipment and we weren't trying to operate a whole municipality, between grass-cutting and festivals and garbage pickup and house calls that we have to do for water and sewer, and inspections, and all this other stuff we have to do. You know, I have to do stuff way ahead of time to make sure that I'm ready to go for when the paver does come in town," Wills added.

When the bathrooms do reopen, they will be available from 6 a.m. to 9 or 10 p.m. daily. They are not open 24 hours because "we used to have a lot of vandalism problems overnight in those bath-

rooms," Wills said. "So, there's going to be timers installed on the doors. And then we usually, four to five days a week, we check all the bathrooms."

Facilities not sufficient

At last week's Village of Lewiston Board meeting, Fire Inspector Barry Beebe said events at Academy Park drawing more than 150 people would require extra toilets.

Clerk Shannon Fundis said her office has instructed event organizers to rent additional portable restrooms.

Welch reiterated that requirement.

"When you rent the place for whatever function you have, you're supposed to have portapotties to handle it," she said.

Tops owner Anthony DiMino financed the relocation and expansion of the Academy Park band-

shell and also donated money for the pavilion project. He said it's frustrating to know the comfort station isn't sufficient for larger events – even more so when park patrons cross Ninth Street to use his store's bathrooms.

DiMino said the bathroom building is basically of no help, then, except for people using the bike path. "It doesn't make any sense to me at all."

In renovating the comfort station, Wills said, "There was only so much money to work with to begin with, and only so much grant money to work with. And the other thing is, we had to knock a stall off on the men's and women's to expand them, to make them (Americans with Disabilities Act)-compliant, when it comes to wheelchairs. So, the stalls are bigger. There's one less stall on each side, but the stalls are bigger now."

"The building is only so big, and there was only so much money to work with. So, at the time, it

was either tear the building down and have no bathrooms at all, or at least have (some) bathrooms."

He explained, "That bathroom was only designed for the baseball diamond years ago, decades ago. The building was built just for the baseball diamond that was right there, that used to be there for years. Because there was no facilities up there. Basically, for a baseball game or something like that, that's kind of what it was set up. That's why the building is the size that it is."

"Lewiston has grown a lot since those days of baseball diamonds at the ballpark. So, that's kind of the size we have to work with. Whether the board wants to expand later down the road, I don't know; we haven't really talked a whole lot about it."

"I did put a sewer line in behind the bandshell about two years ago, just in case there was funds available to put a bathroom over there by the bandshell. So, there's one on the opposite side of the park."

Welch said she wanted to have new bathrooms included with the to-be-built pavilion, but there was not necessary funding made available to the village.

"I can only do with what I have," she said. "And like I say, every time we have a festival or whatever, we make people get portapotties because our sewage system can't handle all that."

"I mean, I would love it if we had brand-new restrooms up there, but we don't – and we still have the antiquated (infrastructure) system that can't handle it all," she added.

IN THE NEWS

DEC & EPA announce resumption of aircraft-based survey

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation announced the resumption of the aerial radiological survey of Erie and Niagara counties that was suspended last fall due to weather-related complications. Flights were expected to resume this week and continue through summer. This survey is being completed in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It is being conducted by a single-engine, low-flying plane called the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology.

The ASPECT flight crew completed approximately 15% of the total survey area last fall before activities were suspended.

The plane, based near Dallas, is equipped with a suite of sensors for measuring potential radiation sources. The various sensors on the plane generate data to help assess the presence of material at ground level that could contain radiological material. Photographs of property will not be taken during the flyover.

To conduct the survey, the plane will traverse a planned linear grid pattern over Erie and Niagara counties at an altitude of approximately 500 feet above

ground level for about one month, including weekends. People may notice the low-flying aircraft with U.S. EPA markings (images and information about the ASPECT can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/aspect>). Flights are dependent on weather conditions.

For more information and updates on the survey, contact DEC project manager Patrick Concannon at 716-851-7280 or Patrick.Concannon@dec.ny.gov.

WXRL CLASSIC COUNTRY
1300 AM & 95.5 FM

WXRL RAMBLIN' LOU TOURS
Hosted by Linda Lou, Joanie & the Ramblin' Lou Family
"Celebrating over 70 years hosting tours"

July 23 Sun & Stars Show- Walter's Ranch-show/lunch
Sept 8-12 Montreal/Quebec
Sept 18 Sprague's/Seneca Alleg. Casino \$25 free play/\$5 food
Sept 29-Oct 3 Vermont/N. Hampshire/Maine -
Many highlights

Oct 8-10 Ride the Rails - Cass Railroad Train
Oct 23 Seneca Alleg. Casino \$25 free play/\$5 food
Nov 11-13 DANIEL - Lancaster, PA (2 shows)
& Amer. Music Theat

The Ramblin' Lou Family Band
"WNY's 1st Family of Country Music"

July 15 - Canal Fest of the Tonawandas at the Pavilion by Walgreen's. Showtime 6-8pm
Aug 7-14 Erie County Fair - Hamburg, NY
Showtime: 5:00-6:15pm Appearing the first 8 days of the Fair - Ave of Flags stage - Near Gate #2

"Buffalo's Home for Country Classics"
WXRL 1300 AM / 95.5 FM
& Streaming LIVE @ WXRL.com
For a FREE brochure, call 716-681-1313

Lutheran Church of the Messiah

Pastor Timothy Anas
915 Oneida Street, Lewiston
716-754-4944
www.messiahlewisston.org



Worship with us at 9:15am Live Streaming
Visit us on Facebook

Pick up your copy of the Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel at



535 Division St. Twin City Highway
North Tonawanda • 716-693-2802
OPEN MON - SAT: 7AM - 9PM
DAILY! SUN: 7AM - 7PM

**VISIT US ON THE WEB FOR
OUR WEEKLY SPECIALS**
themarketinthesquare.com
LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & INDEPENDENTLY OPERATED

"Lori & Friends"



hosted by Lori Caso

LCTV Channel 1301
July 1st - July 14th
Mon 3am, 10am, 3pm • Wed 4am, 4pm, 10pm
Thur 3am, 10pm • Fri 10:30am
Sat 3:30am, 5:30pm • Sun 11:30am, 10pm

Topic: Fatima Shrine's
Christmas in July



The Granite Shop
716-402-1046

A Milestone Video Production. Made possible by funds from...



Village of Youngstown

FREE Concerts 2024
Fridays
6:30pm to 8:30pm
(rain or shine)
Falkner Park Pavilion,
Youngstown

JULY 5
The Mackenzie Highlanders

JULY 12
2nd Time Around

JULY 19
Custode & Parisi

JULY 26
The Jerry Andres Band

AUGUST 2
Joe and the Schmoes

AUGUST 9
Emerald Isle

AUGUST 16
The Taverners

AUGUST 23
Waterstreet Quartet

Concert series is made possible 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.
This ad co-sponsored by
Niagara Frontier Publications Tribune/Sentinel