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Village of Lewiston to leverage insurance money into long-term solution for damaged docks

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

Trustees in the Village of Lewiston voted Monday to use insurance money from the damaged waterfront docks as a 25% match for additional monies to fund a more-permanent solution.

"We are currently receiving about \$200,000 back in insurance funds for the dock repairs," Mayor Dan Cota said. "The amount to repair the docks and get them in a condition and a place where we want them and need them for long-term maintenance is going to cost significantly more than that."

"We need to amplify that insurance money through the LWRP grant program in order to do that, but it requires a matching fund of 25%."

"We are going to be using that insurance money, using the grant program, magnifying it in order to get the project going. We are working very diligently with the engineers right now."

The total Local Waterfront Revitalization Grants program project



The Village of Lewiston Board is working toward finding a permanent solution to weather threats against the waterfront dock.

is listed as \$800,000, with a required match of at least 25%. Should more of a municipal contribution be required, Cota was authorized to use in-kind services.

In September 2020, the Village of Lewiston debuted a new,

multimillion-dollar waterfront that included shoreline stabilization measures and floating docks designed to withstand damaging high-water levels like those seen in 2017 and 2019.

SEE PLAZA, continued on Page 3



Ken Brodie II, of Grand Island's CentsLess racing team, driving GP-50 Freedom, captured third place in the Grand Prix finale at the 2025 Thunder on the Niagara. (File photo by Nathan Keefe)

CentsLess Racing set to make waves at THUNDER ON THE NIAGARA

Submitted

CentsLess Racing is ready to take to the water at Thunder on the Niagara, Aug. 1-2, bringing one of the event's strongest and most diverse lineups to the Niagara River. With entries spanning

four competitive classes and several hometown favorites behind the wheel, the team will be chasing victories in front of Western New York race fans at Gratiwick Park in North Tonawanda.

SEE ISLANDERS, on Page 5

Wheatfield eyeing outdoor improvements

By Senior Contributing Writer
BENJAMIN JOE

The financial groundwork is being set for a future project on the Town of Wheatfield's only property adjacent to the Niagara River.

At a recent Town of Wheatfield Town Board meeting, several resolutions were approved by the Town Board to realize plans such as habitat restoration, environmental rehabilitation, shoreline improvements, trail enhancements, an accessible fishing access dock, bicycle amenities and

other recreational improvements.

The next day Wheatfield Supervisor Don MacSwan explained the property had been owned for years by the town, which had also received a grant to develop it.

"We did receive a grant to revitalize the park and restore it," he said via telephone. "There's additional grants available to go further with it."

The received grant, called an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant, totaled \$425,000 and was given by the Niagara County Brownfield Development Corp.

MacSwan said Niagara County was also aware, or would be aware, of other grants available for the project and submit on the town's behalf.

Issues involving the safety and health of the property have been tested and sampled, MacSwan said.

"The soils were sampled and any potential environmental issues were identified and that was what the original grant was for. As far as it being brownfield, the purpose of the grant is to take designated brownfields and bring it back," he said.

"The Greenway trail (The Niagara River Shoreline Trail) runs right by it, which is perfect, because people can be riding along the trail from Niagara Falls to Wheatfield and they can stop at the park."

The plans could be implemented by September, MacSwan said, provided the grants come through.

"It's going to be a town's park. So, as far as use, there will be a couple benches, a place to fish. All strictly recreational," MacSwan said.

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