

Town of Lewiston board approves new water rates, park rental fees

4% water rate increase

BY TERRY DUFFY

Editor-in-Chief

The Town of Lewiston had some interesting news items of note for residents at its Monday meeting.

Water rates are going up. As in other Niagara County communities, the town revealed it is now dealing with the across-the-board increase approved earlier this year by the Niagara County Water District.

"The Niagara County Water District raised their water rates 10%. We did not pass that on to the homeowners at a 10% increase," Town Supervisor Steve Broderick said. "We actually figured out the dollar for dollar, and, for us, it was a 4% increase."

A resolution, "Setting Water Rates for the Town of Lewiston" followed. It stated, in part, "Whereas the water rates charged the Town of Lewiston water district by the Niagara County Water Board have increased substantially, now therefore be it resolved that the water rates for the Town of Lewiston are hereby set as follows."

The water rate minimum charge is now \$30.23 per quarter. From 0 to 1,000 cubic feet, the usage rate is \$30.23 per quarter; over 1,000 cubic feet, the rate is \$0.030230 per cubic foot.

Broderick said the rate increase would be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2023.

"That will match when the county raised their water rates," he said.

The resolution went on to be approved unanimously.

Broderick said the Town of Lewiston is moving ahead on recreational matters and town parks, as it continues a search for a new recreation director following the earlier resignation of Cathy Cvetinovic.

On seasonal hires, the Town Board approved the hiring of Michael Trane, a retired Niagara Falls Police Department officer, effective May 1. Trane will be assigned to Lewiston's newest property, the 66.9-acre Camp Stonehaven nature preserve, a former Boy Scout camp acquired earlier by the town. Trane's compensation will be \$16 per hour.

"We closed on Camp Stonehaven in the beginning of April. It's owned by the town, it's not open to the public yet. We have some work we need to do out there. What we are doing is hiring a seasonal employee who will be out there two hours every morning, 10 hours a week. To basically open the park, mark sure that trees aren't across the path, make sure it's safe," Broderick said of Trane's expected duties.

The hiring went on to be unanimously approved.

Board members also moved on a number of other seasonal hires who are expected to begin their work in Recreation and Parks over coming days.

Other recreation news finds the town has set park rental fees for 2023.

"Every year, we charge for park rental," Broderick said as he revealed the new rates. Approved without comment by board members, the rates are:

✓ Lower River Road Park (the

town's newest park expected to open this year), park rental fees per day for town residents, \$250; for nonresidents, \$350.

✓ Pletcher Road, pavilion rental, residents, \$50; nonresidents, \$75.

✓ Kiwanis pavilion rental, residents, \$50; nonresidents, \$75. The fee for the Kiwanis pavilion with use of the concession and kitchen area for residents, \$100; nonresidents, \$150.

✓ Sanborn pavilion rental, residents, \$50; nonresidents, \$75.

In other town news:

- The Town Board approved a public liability agreement with National Grid (Niagara Mohawk) to allow for the installation of street decorations on utility poles as Lewiston debuts its "Hometown Heroes" banner program this spring. The routine measure releases National Grid of liability "from the attachment, maintenance and removal of decorations to any and all poles and other fixtures, facilities and properties owned or used" by the utility company in the town.

"This is an agreement with Niagara Mohawk (National Grid) where they are held harmless," town attorney Al Bax said.

"Hometown Heroes" is expected to debut around Memorial Day, with banners posted on utility poles on roadways in the town. More than 30 banner sponsors are currently signed up. Applications are still being taken. For more information, contact Historian Marjorie L. Maggard at 716-754-8213, ext. 252.

- The Lewiston Senior announced its Senior Club will celebrate the birthdays of residents ages 80 and 90 years old in a program at 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 9. The program is being held in recognition of May as Older Americans Month. It will recognize eight Senior Club members "for their contributions given to the Lewiston Senior Club and the community," Councilman Bill Geiben said.

The Town Board went on to issue a proclamation, with Town Clerk Donna Garfinkel and board members expected to attend the program. Geiben said reservations for those interested in attending the program are still being accepted. For more information, call the Senior Center at 716-754-2071.

- Councilman John Jacoby said Marchise Porter, a law enforcement academy student, was retained by the Lewiston Police Department effective April 25

"It's a provisional hire, subject to his successful completion of the academy," Jacoby said. "He will not be paid until he actually comes to work. It's a requirement that he be hired by a police department before he completes the training."

- Councilman Rob Morreale announced a workshop to review the town code would be held at 9 a.m. Friday, May 5, at Town Hall.

"I'm sure there will be more meetings; it's just a start," he said.

Morreale said the current town code has not seen any updates in more than 10 years.

The May 5 session is open to the public. For more information or any updates, residents are advised to check the town website, www.townoflewiston.us.



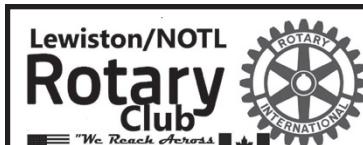
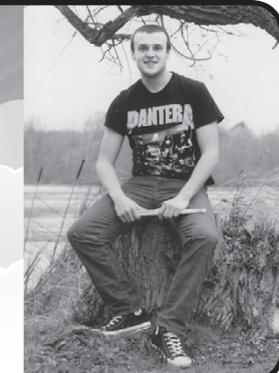
Spring cleanup at Lewiston Peace Garden

On Sunday, April 23, the Lewiston Garden Club partnered with Lower Niagara Moose Lodge 584 to perform a spring cleanup of the International Peace Garden. Members of both clubs were joined by local high school students and braved the unseasonably cool temperatures to clean up the gardens and beds.

Located behind the Little Yellow House on Center Street, the International Peace Garden is one of a series of green spaces across Western New York and Southern Ontario created to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812. Open to the public, the plot is recognized by the International Peace Garden Foundation.

Next up, planting season!
(Submitted photo)

Cullen D.R. Dwyer
*We miss you so
very much.
Love you Forever*



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