

# Village of Lewiston has new parking plans for North Water Street

**ARTICLE AND PHOTOS  
BY JOSHUA MALONI**  
GM/Managing Editor

Looking to add parking on North Water Street, trustees in the Village of Lewiston have a plan to convert part of the grassy area at the corner of Onondaga Street into between six and eight striped spaces.

This addition would sit kitty-corner to The Silo Restaurant.

At Monday's work session, the board discussed using the adjoining berm – a plan that would call for more than a dozen parking spaces overlooking the roadway. But at a site inspection, elected leaders instead voiced support of keeping the green space and adding picnic tables or benches to be used by parkgoers.



Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt discusses use of the North Water Street berm, as Board of Trustees members listen and look on.

The half-dozen or so parking spaces would be parallel to Water Street, and cut a few feet into the berm. A sewer line would have to be covered before blacktop could be placed.

"We've talked about this before. Spring is here, and we're going to be needing extra parking," Mayor



Anne Welch said at the work session.

Trustees acknowledged this is a busy roadway – particularly when The Silo is open – and so plans also call for North Water Street to

be widened. To do that, some of the larger existing parking spaces on the east side would be trimmed when the area is repaved.

A public hearing will be held before any final decision is made on

this parking plan.

Welch said The Silo proprietor Alan Hastings offered to pay for the new parking spaces, which would be open to the public.

## Messy Monday: Village of Lewiston DPW tends to half-dozen watermain breaks – and 7th on Wednesday

**ARTICLE AND PHOTO  
BY JOSHUA MALONI**  
GM/Managing Editor

Village of Lewiston Department of Public Works employees



reportedly were out until 1 a.m. Tuesday morning, dealing with a rash of watermain breaks that occurred Monday.

Problems began during testing

conducted in conjunction with a pending project to replace the piping on North Ninth Street.

Following the initial repair work, DPW Superintendent Larry Wills said, "There were six breaks yesterday and into last night."

He explained the Niagara County Water District was brought in to help shut a 12-inch main line "to verify some work that we're having done on the North Ninth Street waterline."

"Once we started disturbing the valves, the water lines started popping everywhere in the village," Wills said. "It ended up turning into a nightmare."

"The Town of Lewiston came in to help us. The contractor, DJM, he came in to help us out, because we had so many breaks. In the 12-inch line, we had to cut a section out (about 8 feet at the corner of South Ninth and Cayuga streets) and replace it."

Watermain breaks were triggered across the village, leaving residents temporarily without water.

Wills said, "There was two on the 12-inch line on Ninth Street. And then there was one on Creek Road, which was a 6-inch; and then there was a 6-inch on Seneca. There was two on Seneca: One was out of a meter pit on Seneca Street, and then the other one was at the corner of Baker and Oxbow. That was a 6-inch."

He noted, "There's a lot of lines in the village that need to be replaced."

Over the past 20 years, superintendents "Dave Jacobs, Bryan Meigs, and Terry Brolinski and myself, all of us have tried to work with the board over the years, and tried to find the financing" to replace piping, Wills said. "That's the biggest problem is the financing for these old water lines. So much money involved. So, what (Mayor) Anne (Welch) is trying to do is she's asking the state for some assistance on starting to replace some of these lines."

North Ninth Street repairs will be financed by a recent raise in municipal water fees.

"We allocated money through our water bills," Wills said. "We have a small fee through our water bills. We've been building that



The Village of Lewiston Department of Public Works had to cut into a 12-inch watermain line on South Ninth Street to fix a break on Monday.

up for a couple of years now, and that's helping pay for North Ninth Street. But it's just a drop of sand on the beach, I guess you would say."

Ultimately, the waterline replacement project will stretch further down Center Street.

"We only have one source of water that comes into the village, off of Walker Drive," Wills said. "And that line is nearly 100 years old. And we've already done plans on bringing a new main across the parkway, on 104, just as a second source – just in case that first source ever fails. And then we can start working on all of the streets that leg off of Center Street, mainly on the north side."

Welch reported Wills and the DPW team were back out and working first thing Tuesday morning.

Wills said, "I want to say thanks to all my whole crew who stayed with us throughout the night. They changed their personal plans, so we can stick with this emergency situation. I want to thank Niagara County Water for coming down and helping us out. I want to thank the Town of Lewiston Water Department for helping us out, and also DJM Contracting. They're the contractors for North Ninth Street waterline. I called them out of the blue. They weren't even scheduled to come down here," but came down to help out.

The mayor said, "I want to thank Superintendent Larry Wills and the Village of Lewiston Department of Public Works for the great job they did on Mon-

day repairing the broken water lines. They worked from 9 a.m. to midnight without stopping. I stopped by the sites to see how they were doing and saw firsthand what a difficult and dirty job it is to dig up and fix the waterline breaks."

"Due to the breaks and water pressure, they had to fix six waterlines. The old waterlines break from time to time, but to have six in one day was unprecedented. Our guys will tell you it's all in a day's work and it's what they do. I, for one, am very grateful for the great work they do every day to make this village a great place to live."

"I also want to thank the Town of Lewiston Water Department workers, Niagara County Water Department workers, and DJM Contracting for working with them to fix these breaks and getting the water service flowing again."

Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt said another watermain break occurred Wednesday, on Mohawk Street.

He echoed Welch's statement.

"I want to say thanks and give credit to the DPW, for all those guys out there," Eydt said. He also commended the Town of Lewiston, Niagara County and DJM Contracting for helping the village. "Without all their help, they would've been there for 24 hours instead of 13 hours."

On March 6, trustees approved a motion awarding the North Ninth Street water system improvements project to DJM Contracting Inc., at a cost of \$278,000.

## OPEN HOUSE

NIAGARA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### NCCC SANBORN CAMPUS

3111 Saunders Settlement Road, Sanborn, NY 14132

April 20 • 6-8 p.m.



### NIAGARA FALLS CULINARY INSTITUTE

A division of Niagara County Community College

28 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303

April 22 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

To register: [niagaracc.suny.edu/oph](http://niagaracc.suny.edu/oph)