

Niagara County

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DiMino's Lewiston Tops looks to expand

New seasonal product room proposed



Top, the area now. • Below: DiMino's Lewiston Tops is set to expand, with the addition of a new seasonal product display room. (Expansion rendering by Fittante Architecture)



BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

The Village of Lewiston has received plans for an expansion project at DiMino's Lewiston Tops, 906 Center St.

"It is basically putting an addition on the other side of the store, the opposite side of the bottle room," storeowner Anthony DiMino said.

"It's going to be an area where we'll be displaying all our seasonal types of items," he added. That would include, for example, summer furniture, fall pumpkins, and winter rock salt and snow shovels.

DiMino's proposal calls for enclosing this portion of the front entrance area with a structure matching the look and color of the existing supermarket. The new room will have three garage door bay entrances. Throughout

the day, it also will be accessible via the existing left store door.

"It has garage doors, because, as you know, sadly, security is always a risk anywhere you are, regardless of where you're from," DiMino said. "I saw that out west. That's how they display their stuff, with the garage door. And then at nighttime, they put the garage doors down and lock them up."

He added, "The garage doors, unless it's a snowstorm, those doors will be open 90% of the time. It's part of the store."

In creating this structure, DiMino said more space will open in the vestibule area "so it's not so congested."

Safety amenities include an eastside fire door (loading dock side), and concrete curbing ahead of the traffic lane.

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Heart Love & Soul to celebrate 4 DECADES OF SERVICE



An artist's rendering of the new Heart Love & Soul therapeutic community garden. (Courtesy of the agency)

BY PATRICK J. BRADLEY
Senior Contributing Writer

Heart Love & Soul will celebrate a milestone in June: Four decades of providing essential services to people who need them most.

The celebration, of course, will feature something it does best: Introducing a new program to benefit those it serves.

The addition will be a community garden, but not the traditional kind where neighbors share space to grow summer vegetables. It will be a therapeutic community garden, a peaceful urban oasis where people can connect with nature in ways that enhance their quality of life and promote their physical and mental health.

Executive Director Mark Baetzhold said the professionally designed garden will serve another purpose as well by brightening the area where Heart Love & Soul is located.

"This is an intentional community beautification effort. In our own small way, we want to contribute to the vibrancy of the neighborhood," Baetzhold said.

Heart Love & Soul has been nourishing the bodies, minds and souls of people in need since 1983. Known for its innovative approaches to serving the hungry

About Heart Love & Soul

✓ Founded in 1983

✓ Offers free assistance to low income, food insecure, mentally ill, disabled, homeless and other disadvantaged people in Niagara Falls

✓ Provided 54,252 food pantry meals and 37,433 dining room meals in 2022

✓ Directly applies 89 cents of every donated dollar to agency services

✓ To learn more, visit [www.heartloveandsoul.org](http://heartloveandsoul.org) or phone 716-282-5687.

Source: Heart Love & Soul

In 2002, bolstered by the support of local businessmen James Glynn and Paul Joy, the agency purchased a former Salvation Army store at 939 Ontario Ave. The redesigned and completely renovated structure afforded Heart Love & Soul the space it needed to expand its food pantry while adding a dining room, nutrition program and many other services.

The most ambitious and innovative of those new offerings is the Daybreak Program, which debuted in February 2021. Daybreak provides onsite laundry and shower facilities, a community health nurse, homeless street outreach and case management services.

"Daybreak is an uplifting place," Baetzhold said. "We want to recognize and embrace the fundamental God-given dignity of the people who come, to try and live out the value of hospitality. I think it distinguishes us as a provider."

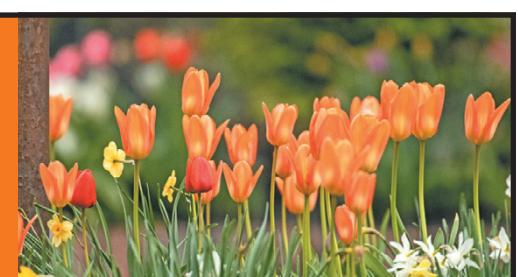
Heart Love & Soul continues to serve breakfast and lunch during the week, distribute essential household items including personal hygiene products, and provide monthly food boxes, said Marketing and Communications Manager Jillian Johnson.

SEE HEART, continued on Page 2

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