

Lewiston Porter Youth Football to set up shop at former board room inside Red Brick

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

The Lewiston Porter Youth Football and Cheer Organization has been partnering with the Village of Lewiston in recent years, most notably in using Richard F. Soluri Park in the plateau area off Portage Road. The youth group will soon begin renting the former board meeting room on the second floor of the Red Brick Municipal Building.

At Monday's work session, LPYF field representative and football coach Al Whitehead provided an update to the Board of Trustees, and asked if rent could be lowered. He explained the organization is "nonprofit and completely volunteer-run and operated."

"Advocating for our program is something I myself am extremely passionate about. And I have seen, during my short time with LPYF, that same passion coming from the Village of Lewiston," Whitehead said. "From the gracious and sole use of Soluri Park, to the excitement seen on the faces of Village Board members when discussing what the future holds for our organization. I could feel how deeply committed the Village of Lewiston is to giving back to our youth."

He explained, "We are transitioning from the traditional youth program approaches and doubling-down our efforts to not only stay relevant and current with today's youth, but also to become the standard in youth sports. As we continue our journey to be the standard in sports, we are at a crossroads as a program. To grow LPYF to its true potential, and reach as many kids as we can, LPYF is now in desperate need for an official home."

Whitehead said that, with 16

board members and 12 board meetings a year – each open to the public – "We find ourselves beyond capacity."

"Our committee meetings, that meet one to two times per month, are currently being held at our board of directors' personal homes. ... Our sensitive documentation, while in secure locations, requires a lot of coordination in order to access it. Our office equipment is scattered amongst our board members, as residents, as we do not have an office to keep these items. We are also in the process of holding biannual CPR and AED training classes for our coaches and board members, in an effort to give our kids the best possible player safety – but need to rely on the goodwill of local fire departments to offer the space required to host these events."

"All of this leads to extremely organized individuals having to work in disarray."

"An office space would grant us the ability to centralize all of our operations, and give our families and community access to LPYF as they need it. Our idea for the space is that of a community center, which will have regular CPR AED offerings, coaching seminars, Lewiston Porter Youth Wrestling Club access, true public access to LPYF board meetings, LPYF committee meetings, work space for grant writing, and various athletic uses."

"Our optics are important now, more than ever, and we come to you, the Village of Lewiston, to once again double-down on the compassion and commitment for our program and the youth and our area that you have shown over the past 55 years."

He called the current room rental rate of \$395 a month "rea-

sonable," but said the fee "is a larger financial expenditure than what our budget can endure."

Upon speaking with the LPYF board of directors, Whitehead said, "We would like to put forth a proposal of \$150 per month, with the expectation that LPYF will grant monitored access to local youth sports organizations in the Lewiston-Porter community, within reason. And, that we will also be hosting CPR and AED training events, and additional community services, with an updated calendar of events and office hours each month."

Trustees agreed to reduce the rent to \$150 a month.

Mayor Anne Welch said, "Talking to my board members, I think that's reasonable that we would give you half the price."

She explained, "We can appreciate everything you do for the youth in this community. You've done a lot; it's been great that you've taken over Dick Soluri Park. I've been up there and watched the kids; you have quite a group up there. It's what we like to see for our kids. ..."

"We like to see our kids getting involved in sports. It does a lot for them, and also for the parents, grandparents, to watch them."

"We wish you the best up there (at the park) – we know you want to really develop that park and make it really good for the kids. ... Any little thing that we can do to help, we're glad to help you."

Whitehead said, "We are so thankful for the opportunity to have a home at the Red Brick in the Village of Lewiston, and we are extremely looking forward to the continued support and generosity from the community that has given myself and our organization so much over the years."

Orange Cat owners give back to community, preserve history



The Orange Cat Coffee Co. owners Michael Broderick and Robin Faulring recently spent time giving back to the Western New York community – and working to ensure its tales are told.

Broderick shared on Facebook, "The last Friday in April is National Historic Marker Day – a service-oriented event which encourages people & communities to clean & maintain our historic markers!! Robin & I managed to get out & about around Niagara & Orleans counties this weekend to give some of our favorites a good & much needed scrubbing."

"If you missed it this year, don't worry – we're continuing it throughout the rest of May & so can you!! If you're into local history check out this (Facebook) page: Historical markers and the places they represent in New York State."

Broderick is pictured. (Photos used with permission)



Village of Lewiston adopts budget, approves Alphonso I. DiMino Memorial Band Shell events

Trustees seek comment on Lewiston Landing parking plan

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

The Village of Lewiston Board approved the new fiscal year budget at a work session on Monday.

Specifically, trustees voted in favor of a motion to authorize the levy of real property taxes for the 2023-24 tax warrant, directing the village clerk to receive and collect taxes in the amount of \$1,273,499, with a re-levy of water and sewer charges in the amount of \$25,240.08 – a total warrant to collect \$1,298,739.08, and to establish the tax rate at \$7.964858 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Alphonso I. DiMino Bandshell Events

The Village Board approved two event requests for usage of the Alphonso I. DiMino Memorial Band Shell at Academy Park: ✓ Greater Niagara Ballet Company will present a "Summer Showcase" from 6-7 p.m. Friday, July 14.

✓ Kenmore East High School music department will host a performance by the Tuscarora Nation Traditional Dance Group from 3:15-4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 27.

Reflecting on more activity in the park, Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt

said, "This is great."

"It's really getting used this year," Mayor Anne Welch noted.

In Other News

Three public hearings were set for the 6 p.m. monthly meeting on Monday, May 15:

- Trustees seek comment on a proposed plan to add parking spaces on the north side of Water Street – at the Onondaga Street corner.

- The board seeks to eliminate two sections of the village code:

- ✓ **Local Law No. 13-2023 – Remove Section 9.D.B.1.vi**

"Restaurants and drinking places provided all service and on-premises consumption take place within an enclosed building except, that after notification by registered or certified mail of all owners of abutting property and subsequent acceptance in writing by said property owners, and subject to the recommendation by the planning commission and subject to all conditions imposed by said commission, service and consumption may also take place in completely defined outdoor cafe areas."

- ✓ **Local Law No. 14-2023 – Remove the following verbiage from Section 10.G.2**

"The applicant shall also furnish a signed statement by all

abutting property owners saying that they agree to the construction and have no objections."

SEE VILLAGE, on Page 8

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Based on the Niagara County Sanitary Code, a permit is required to serve food to the public.