

Village of Lewiston: Erosion causing delay in WellNow opening

Marino compliments company for taking action

BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

Construction on a WellNow Urgent Care on Center Street began last winter, and, at that time, Public Relations Manager Annie Keller said, "It's still early in the process, but we anticipate a 2023 opening for our upcoming center in Lewiston."

With the exterior shell in place, residents awaited that opening. But up until last week, when workers were seen on site, it appeared the project was stalled. No progress was seen inside the clear, glass windows for several weeks.

Mayor Anne Welch said there is a good reason for the delay: "The back of the property eroded and needed a retaining wall" above bordering Onondaga Street.

She explained, "That cost a lot of money; and they had to put drainage back there, because of the people behind it. ... That's why it slowed down any construction inside."

Village of Lewiston Engineer Mike Marino added, "That back slope that they have, they noticed that there was some movement where the parking lot ended in the back - in the slope, kind of where they were working - that, if it was left unaddressed, that it likely would have continued to deteriorate and slide down. So, they had stepped up, actually - which is a great thing, I think - and decided to put a bigger retaining wall up there, that has soldier piles and wooden lag boards in there."

He said WellNow used a geotechnical engineer to formulate plans to shore up the site.

Marino said, "That definitely, I think, set them back from opening, because that's no small expense to construct a retaining wall like that. So, good on them that they did that."

"But now that they've got that



completed, that disturbed some other areas of that slope. So, we were just looking to see how is the drainage impacted by that. Is there anything else that needs to be addressed before final final. Because there is a ditch that kind of runs along where the rear property line is, already, that's collecting water, and we don't want to mess with the toe of the slope anymore, in particular, than we would have to, because of the retaining wall. We don't want to undermine that.

"By what they've constructed there with the retaining wall, and with the parking lot that they've created, it actually has more control over the runoff now, and they've got it directed to catch basins and out. Essentially, the amount of water leaving the site now - especially out of the back

- is reduced than what it was on paper, engineering wise, by the numbers.

"There's no real issue going to the back. We're just trying to give the reality check to it all, to look at it and see - especially since the wall's been in place for a little bit now, just to kind of see are we seeing any impacts. Are we getting any swampy areas back there or anything. That's just kind of the final check we need to do with that."

Marino added, "There was motion, and they did step up to address it, and just didn't try to sweep it under the table."

NFP reached out to Keller for comment. In an initial email reply, she wrote, "The timing has been pushed back and a specific opening date has not been confirmed yet. However, we are looking for-

A WellNow Urgent Care is under construction at 860 Center St., Lewiston.

ward to opening our Lewiston location as soon as possible."

WellNow Urgent Care purchased almost one acre of property, at 860 Center St. - between AP-Plus/Sunoco and Lewiston Family Dental - in the spring of 2022. In December, Keller said, "We expect construction to be completed in March, and we anticipate an early spring opening. We'll be hiring five to 10 employees to staff the new center."

She added, "The new center will provide treatment for non-life-threatening injuries and illnesses, as well as occupational medicine services, including workers' compensation assistance, pre-employment physicals, drug and alcohol testing and more. Most insurance is accepted, including Medicare and Medicaid, and we offer competitive self-pay rates for patients without insurance."

Follow key tips to protect your child's personal information, avoid back-to-school shopping scams

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Avoid Back to School Shopping Scams

Back-to-school shopping is parents' second-largest spending event (behind holiday shopping). Oftentimes, a shopping scam starts with a fake website, mobile app or, increasingly, a social media ad. Every year, smartphone shopping becomes more popular for its convenience. DCP urges consumers to take note of common scams while shopping. Scammers may try to exploit the back-to-school rush through fraudulent ads or through other forms of solicitations.

✓ **Protect your identity when shopping online.** Ensure transactions are conducted over a secure connection. Make sure the website is secure by identifying a padlock symbol by the URL or the https, and avoid using public Wi-Fi to log in to online accounts.

✓ **Download retail apps only from trusted sources.** Cybercriminals are now creating apps that look and might even function like legitimate retail apps, but are actually

malware designed to steal your personal and financial information, send text messages without your knowledge, or even track your location using your phone's GPS capabilities.

✓ **Beware of fake ads and websites.** As fraudsters continue to advance in sophistication, fake websites frequently resemble legitimate sites with credible looking logos, pictures and payment options. If the website is advertising extremely low prices, or discounts beyond 50%, consumers should be wary and diligently verify the legitimacy of the seller.

✓ **Learn how to spot phishing emails.** Scammers may send phishing emails to students and parents saying that they missed a delivery of school supplies. These emails request that the recipients click on a link to reschedule this delivery. That link either floods victims' computers with malware or sends them to fake websites that request their personal and payment information.

✓ **Ensure you know who the seller is.** Some major retailers

allow third-party sellers to list items on their site, and those items can be hard to distinguish from the rest. Read all the fine print to ensure you are comfortable with the seller.

✓ **Pay attention to return and refund policies.** Retailers must post their refund policy. If no refund policy is posted, consumers have up to 30 days from the date of purchase to get a full refund or store credit with receipt. For more tips, please see information from this December 2022 consumer alert.

✓ **Use a credit card for online purchases, if possible.** Credit cards offer the most protection against fraud, including the right to dispute charges if there are problems with your purchase. Beware of online sites that ask for payments via gift cards or cash transfer apps.

✓ **Watch out for fake coupons on social media.** If the coupon doesn't come from a recognized coupon distributor, the manufacturer or a specific store, be wary.



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