

# Town of Lewiston approves local laws, endorses Academy Park art project

Smith discusses plans for holiday ice rink at NU

BY TERRY DUFFY  
Editor-in-Chief

The return of Monday's Lewiston Town Board monthly work session was brief but productive. With the Buffalo Bills "Monday Night Football" game approaching, members whisked through two public hearings and approved local laws; heard a presentation by the Lewiston Council on the Arts; and discussed plans for holiday ice rink activities.

The meeting led off with the public hearing to establish a local law establishing a six-month moratorium on new applications, approvals, and/or construction or installation of solar energy systems and/or solar farms. The purpose of is to amend the code to place a six-month moratorium on the processing, permitting and/or construction of ground-mounted solar panels and solar farms within the Town of Lewiston to allow time for the research, development and adoption of a solar overlay to the Town of Lewiston zoning code, together with any appropriate amendments to the Town of Lewiston solar code, which regulates these types of uses.

The local law would provide time to "give the Town Board the ability to complete all reasonable and necessary review, study analysis and, if warranted, revision to the Town of Lewiston Zoning Code as may be necessary to promote and preserve the health, safety and welfare of the Town of Lewiston and its residents."

No public comments were offered. Local Law No. 2 went on to be approved by a 5-0 vote.

Soon after, a second public hearing, this one on a local law amending section a367-39-44 (water rates set) took place, again with no comments. The measure allows the Town Board to establish water rates for both in-district and out-of-district users. Local Law No. 3 was approved 5-0.

LCA representatives visited next, with Executive Director Maria Fortuna Dean, accompanied by Maureen Kellick and artist Dan Buttery, discussing plans for an Academy Park public art project. They seek Town Board support in submitting a funding application to the Niagara River Greenway.

Dean said, "The Lewiston Council on the Arts is seeking the support of the Town of Lewiston. We are creating a public art project, which was to start in Academy Park and continue down Center Street to the gazebo, and actually all the way down to the water."

The project would feature both visual art and the metal artwork of Buttery, who recently completed a metal work project above Lewiston Landing on Water Street.

Dean said, "There are three components to the Lewiston Art project": a mural at Academy Park, planned for all four sides of the comfort station; plans for a "Lewiston Living Outdoor Art Gallery" with a series of up to 10

large-scale outdoor frames that would be interchangeable and illuminated with special themes; and artistic benches on Center Street for the Discovery Niagara Shuttle stops in Academy Park at Eighth and Center streets, the village clock at Fifth and Center streets, and Lewiston Landing at Water and Center streets.

Town Supervisor Steve Broderick conveyed the town's support as he presented a motion seeking \$90,000 in Greenway funding for the estimated \$180,000 project. Dean said the Village of Lewiston would be assisting the endeavor also, with plans to create a pathway in Academy Park from the corner of Ninth and Cayuga streets to the rest station, paving, and a plaza to connection to the nearby Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce offices.

Town Board member John Jacoby voiced his support for the plan and further assisting visitors and riders via the shuttle service: "Aside from the artistic (merits), I see people standing out there all the time."

Broderick's motion, seconded by Councilman Bill Geiben, went on to be approved 5-0. He thanked the board for its support and quipped, "I warned Marie if she was longer for than a few minutes on the night of the Bills game she was not going to get funding."

Tim Smith, who recently took over as Recreation Department director, updated the board on the town's plans for the return of the holiday ice rink offering at Niagara University's Dwyer Ice Arena. "Niagara University has got us for 16 days for the open skate," he said. "We are looking at sponsors for the nights of this. For the days, we'll have several themes, which will include a Bills theme, a Disney theme to a disco night. So, we're looking for local sponsor. We've had a few (thus far). We are looking at several themes; we're looking to open it up, and we already have people who are going to sponsor those nights."

Smith said plans revealed this week call for the holiday ice rink to operate from Friday, Nov. 24, to Friday, Jan. 26, 2024.

"We are working in collaboration with Niagara University to bring Lewiston residents the chance to skate at Dwyer Arena again," a social media post stated.

More information on the holiday ice rink is expected as plans are finalized.

# Piece of history returned to Tuscarora Nation

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"Most of the activities were at Goat Island and a parade was held in Niagara Falls with many floats. For the year of 1969, the Falls was dried but the celebration still went on."

The annual Tuscarora celebration moved to the Niagara Falls Conference Center (now Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino) in the early 1970s; a maid was selected each year and costumes created for the annual celebrations.

Maggard said the very first maid chosen back then was Minerva Mt. Pleasant. Others selected in the years that followed were Claudia Miller, Gretchen House Broderick and Marjorie Radogna.

"Their duties included educating various outside groups on the Maid of the Mist legends and its various functions; also, to participate in a local parade presented by Falls-area Jaycees," Maggard said.

The Tuscarora Maid of the Mist celebration was since discontinued, but its connection to the Town of Lewiston remains to this day.



A close-up of this unique costume of the Tuscarora Nation's history. (Submitted photos)

Maggard said Barbara Bracalello Cich, a former secretary to the town supervisor, designed a costume for an earlier event that ended up in her possession. Cich contacted Maggard and asked if she had any interested in taking possession.

"Barbara didn't want it any-

more," Maggard said. "I found a mannequin and displayed it at Town Hall a few times. It was in very good condition, made of white leather and beadwork all intact."

Maggard said she felt a more appropriate setting was needed for this unique piece of the Tuscarora Nation's past.

"I've been to the Native House on the reservation many times and realized this is the proper home for this beautiful garment," she said.

After receiving approval from Cich, Maggard contacted Vince Shiffert, who serves as historian for the Tuscarora Nation.

"He came to the Town Hall to take pictures and presented to the historian group. They wanted the costume and were excited" to take possession, Maggard said.

A transfer of the garment occurred last month.

"This outfit was given to them for display in the Nation House by Barbara Cich, along with the Legend of the Maids. That day, all of us were happy the right decision was made," Maggard said.

## HAL welcomes Rick Falkowski

The Historical Association of Lewiston's next program, titled, "Early Buffalo Music & Entertainment," will be presented by Rick Falkowski at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, at the Lutheran Church of the Messiah Fellowship Hall, 915 Oneida St.

A press release stated, "Rick will take a look back to the beginning of Buffalo's entertainment history, starting at Canal Street to early theaters, concert halls, vaudeville houses, big band nightclubs and music prior to the advent of rock 'n' roll. He will include information on area radio stations, songwriters, musicians and en-

tertainers. His presentation will also have many historic photos of Buffalo's entertainment heritage."

Falkowski has been involved in all aspects of WNY entertainment during the past 55 years. He is the founder of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame and Buffalo Music Awards, former publisher of Buffalo Backstage Magazine, entertainment coordinator of Tonawanda's Gateway Harbor

Concerts, former representative of the American Society of Authors Composers & Publishers (ASCAP), USAF veteran and a Time Warner retiree.

This event is free and open to all, and refreshments will be served.

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