

Johnston announces funding campaign for POTL facility

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outfall building adjacent to the Lower River Road Park. At its Monday meeting, the board approved \$64,000 in change orders to install 12 new, energy-efficient windows, along with some exterior improvements to the 1944-era structure.

"This would be a change order to the original contract," Building/Zoning Inspector Tim Masters said of the additional improvements. "The gutters and downspouts would make the building look a whole lot better."

On his recommendation, the board approved the aforementioned \$64,000 for the new black replacement windows, plus complementing gutters and downspouts on the outfall building. It marks the latest in town work at the new park, which is expected to open over the next year.

Supervisor Steve Broderick said the improvements at the outfall building actually came about as a result of some problems on the part of the contractor: "They were doing asbestos work; they destroyed the older windows. They came back with an offer, 'We'll do this, put in new windows.'"

Broderick said that, following an original town bid of \$8,000 for the windows, the contractor returned with an offer of \$48,000 to install new windows following the

work. The town then adjusted the price to include the black finishing work for windows, plus gutters and downspouts.

"For approximately \$65,000, we're getting 12 new windows – high-energy, double-paned windows," plus the other improvements," Broderick said. He noted this latest project complements a series of improvements at the new town park, which includes paving, plus a new, 30-by-44-foot pavilion with concrete pad that is expected to be complete in 2022.

In addition, Broderick said Lewiston is expanding its parks holdings. He announced the town has entered into an agreement with the Western New York Land Conservancy to acquire Camp Stonehaven, a 66.9-acre, former Boy Scout campground located adjacent to Bonds Lake at Simmons and Albright roads. Cost of the proposed land acquisition is \$665,000, which also includes a tractor.

"The town intends to seek grant money to cover a good portion of the cost," Broderick said. "Basically, it will be a nature preserve, open to the public."

He said no recreational improvements – playgrounds, pavilions or the like – are planned. "It will be a low-maintenance nature preserve, similar to those in the Town of Lockport. 'We're excited about it.'"

Broderick said Stonehaven includes a 5-acre lake, plus some older cabins and pavilions the town expects to take down. He envisioned Stonehaven to be open for public use come next year.

"This will be a legacy project for this particular board, to get it in perpetuity," Broderick said. "We're excited about it."

Porter

Meanwhile, in the Town of Porter, plans are moving ahead for the MVP Fitness Court project eyed for Porter on the Lake town park on Dietz Road.

"It's not an outdoor gym, it's a fitness court," Supervisor John 'Duffy' Johnston said.

He announced a community sponsorship effort aimed at helping the town cover partial funding for this project – a \$165,000 recreation endeavor that will be part of a series of enhancements ongoing at the park. Steered locally by MVP Health Care in New York, Johnston said this project would also be under consideration for Niagara River Greenway funding in the future.

"I enjoyed learning more about all the great work happening in Porter, and exploring synergies with our new statewide wellness campaign," said Ginger Barnwell, partnership development manager of the National Fitness Campaign,

who is facilitating this project with the town. "We are thrilled to be working with MVP Health Care of New York to support the growth of this initiative and look forward to next steps."

Part of those "next steps" involves a fundraising campaign geared at local businesses intended to help the town support the project. Grant monies may be sought, too.

Johnston called the Fitness Court yet another enhancement for POTL, a picturesque lakeside park that Porter acquired in the early 2000s. Work thus far includes a new lakeside pavilion, restroom facilities, a trails project that's still in progress, along with playground equipment and beach improvements in the future.

As far as the MVP Project, Johnston said MVP Blue Cross Health Care in Massachusetts is donating \$30,000 toward the POTL project to jump-start the funding effort.

"I've gotten a lot of support locally, Johnston said, noting interest he's received from the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. "We also have a grant application out with the Greenway Commission."

Johnston said he expects this project will be discussed at the June Greenway meeting. "This just fits in with Greenway. It's down by

the water. I'm hopeful for this."

He noted his hope for the business community to step up, as this project becomes reality. "The concrete has to be poured by a certain date, the gym has to be delivered by a certain date. It's happening this year."

As far as sponsorship opportunities for the fitness court, Johnston said there are corporate funding levels available, including \$10,000, \$15,000 and \$20,000. All levels include varying amounts of recognition for the donor for this fitness court that, when complete, Johnston said would be unique in Western New York.

"That's why we're trying to solicit some additional funding for this," he said.

Johnston envisions the final design will involve the work of student artists from both Lewiston-Porter and Niagara University. "I'm trying to make this a total community project; I'm trying to involve as many people as I can. It's going to be a go."

For more information on the Porter fitness court, a promotional video is online at <https://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/watch>. To assist with this project, contact Johnston at 716-745-3730 or townsupervisor@townofporter.net.

Niagara County deemed 'StormReady' by National Weather Service

Niagara County has been deemed "StormReady" by the National Weather Service, according to Jonathan Schultz, Niagara County's emergency services director. NWS officials came to the county's public safety building on Tuesday to present the "StormReady" designation.

"We have had our fair share of weather events in recent years, from snowstorms to rains and flooding to damaging high winds, so receiving this designation sends

a message that our team and our community are prepared for what comes our way," Schultz said.

The NWS stated some 98% of all federally declared disasters are weather related, leading to around 500 deaths per year and nearly \$15 billion in damage. The "StormReady" program helps arm America's communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property – before, during and after the event.

To be officially "StormReady," a

community must:

- ✓ Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- ✓ Have more than one way to receive severe weather warnings and forecasts and to alert the public;
- ✓ Create a system that monitors weather conditions locally;
- ✓ Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and
- ✓ Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

"Being storm ready starts with

preparedness, which means we focus on our training and our planning to make sure we can tackle adverse weather events, even though you can't predict the future," Schultz said. "This includes the release of our Prepare Niagara smartphone app last summer to keep the community informed

and help them plan ahead, as well.

It takes all of us in the community working together to really be storm ready." Schultz said the Prepare Niagara app is available for download from Google Play and the Apple App Store at no cost.

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OBITUARIES

Evelyn 'Mary' Ball



Evelyn "Mary" Ball of Lewiston passed away on Monday, March 28, 2022, in Elderwood at Wheatfield.

She was born in Niagara Falls, New York, on Oct. 25, 1934, the daughter of the late Edward and Elizabeth (McCormack) Berthot.

Ball graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1952 and was a business office representative with New York Telephone for more than 35 years before retiring in 1992.

She was a devoted Catholic who volunteered her time at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine and was very generous with her time and donations.

Ball loved spending time with her grandsons and singing with her sisters. She enjoyed cooking, baking and polishing her copper

and silver. She was also an avid reader and will be remembered for her famous Thanksgiving pies.

She was the wife of the late Robert A. Ball, who passed away in

January of 2018.

She is survived by her son, Tim (Jackie) Ball; two grandsons: Cullen and Ryan Ball; three sisters: Doreen (late Mike) Michailof, Gail (Jim) Hastings and Rita (Paul) Martin; also many nieces and nephews. Ball was the sister of the late Ann (Bill) Ranney.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at a time to be announced. Ball donated her body to the University at Buffalo anatomical gift program.

Memorials may be made in her name to the Alzheimer's Association of WNY.

Arrangements were made through the Rhoney Funeral Home, Lewiston. Visit www.rhoneyfuneralhome.com for guest register.