

'In the Loop' with the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education

Budget vote, BOE election fast approaching

BY **JODEE RIORDAN**

Board of Education President

The Lewiston-Porter annual budget vote and Board of Education election is fast approaching. Here's what you need to know to be "In the Loop":

The district budget vote and Board of Education election is Tuesday, May 18, at the Community Resource Center on the Creek Road campus. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The budget will be presented to the community for approval, and three seats are open for the BOE.

This year's election is uncontested, meaning there are three candidates running for three open seats. Two seats are for three-year terms, running from July 1 to June 30, 2024. One seat is for a one-year term to fill the vacancy created by the sudden death of Anne Orr on April 17. By state regulation, the one-year

term will be filled by the candidate receiving the third-highest number of votes. The term begins immediately and expires June 30.

Candidates seeking election, listed by ballot number, are Jennifer Klemick, Julie Donnelly and Anika Fetzner. Visit the district website, www.lew-port.com, to view the candidates running for the Board of Education and read their biographies.

This year's election will take place in-person at the CRC. Absentee ballots may be requested, but they will not be mailed out as took place last year. Visit the Lew-Port website for details on requesting an absentee ballot, or contact District Clerk Marisa Barile at 286-7266.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed S.5545 (Mayer)/A.6475 (Bronson) into law as Chapter 60. The legislation, which takes effect immediately, officially includes

COVID-19 under the definition of illness for the purposes of requesting and receiving an absentee ballot for school district and BOCES elections. Voters are required to submit an absentee ballot application, as they would in any normal year. The legislation takes effect immediately and is in place for 2021 only.

District Budget Details

•Lewiston-Porter will hold a budget hearing at 6 p.m. Monday, May 10, followed by a "Meet the Candidates Night." The event will be livestreamed. Residents can join in by following the Zoom meeting link on the district homepage (passcode: Lancers).

•The proposed budget is \$51,195,913. This represents a 4.28% increase budget-to-budget, and a 1% increase to the tax levy, which is well below the tax cap threshold of 2.26%.

•The budget plans for a tradi-

tional school year, with all students on campus five days per week.

•The budget accounts for anticipated increases in needs for academic and emotional support, and consideration for continued necessity to work within pandemic guidelines and precautions, including the necessity to continue a remote learning model for some students.

•The increase budget-to-budget is due, in large part, to the incredible financial burdens of operating during a global pandemic. Increased operating expenses include the cost of protective equipment (PPE), air quality supplies, barriers and additional desks. Other factors include added cleaning staff and hours, along with sanitizing and disinfecting supplies; and technology, including the cost of the remote learning program and its additional

staffing requirements.

Lewiston-Porter is grateful to the state and federal governments for the significant support realized this year to balance the increased operating expenses of the pandemic.

•A recording will also be posted to the Lewiston-Porter Schools YouTube Channel. The Lewiston-Porter newsletter, The Link, will also contain the biographies submitted by each candidate.

For a full analysis of the budget, plan to attend the 6 p.m. Monday, May 10, budget hearing via Zoom. Full budget details will then be published in The Link to be mailed to district residents on Tuesday, May 11, and also posted on the Lew-Port homepage.

For all the information and documents pertaining to the vote and election, visit the "Annual Budget Vote & Election 2021-2022" page at www.lew-port.com/page/195.

Town Clerk's Corner

BY **KARA HIBBARD**

Porter Town Clerk

Hi everyone!

Spring is now here, and you may be wanting to do a cleanup to get rid of those things that have been piling up around the house.

On Saturday, May 15, there will be a townwide bulk garbage pickup offered by Modern Disposal. Residents are asked to have three (or less) large items intended for disposal out to the roadway by 7 a.m. so that Modern crews can begin picking up your items.

Under the town's garbage services agreement with Modern, residents are provided two dumping permits per year at no charge to dispose of larger items. Simply visit Porter Town Hall, located at 3265 Creek Road, to obtain yours. The permit allows residents to bring a trailer or a pickup truck bed full of trash to the Modern landfill for disposal.

Open bodied vehicles only; no enclosed vehicles are permitted.

Residents are asked to have their license plate number ready, along with the make and model of their vehicle and their driver's license when obtaining the permits.

Brush season is underway. Starting Monday, May 3, regularly scheduled pickups include:

•The first Monday each month will target town areas from Lutts Road west; on the third Monday of the month, pickups will be those areas east of Lutts Road. A final townwide brush pickup is scheduled from Monday, Nov. 1, to Friday, Nov. 5.

Residents are reminded all branches must be free of roots and dirt, and to have branches facing the road for disposal.

The Highway Department does not pick up rocks, stumps, leaves, lawn sweepings, twigs, vines and rubbish, etc. Please do not put these items out with

your branches. Should you have any questions, please contact the Highway Department at 791-3831.

•The Highway Department notes it is still accepting applications for seasonal laborers. For more information, contact the department at the above number.

•Porter on the Lake town park located on Dietz Road is now open, and the town is taking reservations to rent the pavilion and gazebos. Call the Town Hall at 745-3730 for more information.

•The town advises residents that Porter Town Hall is open for business from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday.

Thinking of going fishing? You can purchase your fishing licenses at Town Hall. The cost is \$25 per year. For those age 70 and over, it's \$5 annually. Active duty military personnel who are New York residents and stationed outside the state are

entitled to fishing privileges at no cost while home on leave.

Those who may need of a copy of their marriage, birth or death certificates can obtain these at Town Hall for a \$10 charge.

E-ZPass tags are also available; the cost is \$25, which will then be applied to your account when you sign up.

•If you own a dog aged 4 months of age or older, it must be licensed (per Local Law No. 1-2011). There is a charge of \$18 if your pet is not neutered/spayed, and \$10 if neutered/spayed.

Should your dog become lost, or if you find a lost dog, please contact the Town of Porter during normal business hours, or the SPCA after hours, at 731-4368. If your dog is licensed

and in our system, we should be able to reunite you with him/her quickly and safely.

The Town of Porter offers complimentary Wi-Fi at Town Hall for those who may not have internet service. This offering is available 24 hours per day and you can log on from the Town Hall parking lot on Creek Road. For those you own or lease an electric car, there is also a charging station available on site.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at the Porter Town Hall at 745-3730. Again, we would be happy to help you.

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Come enjoy your local library!

SUBMITTED BY FRIENDS OF THE YOUNGSTOWN FREE LIBRARY

The mission of the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library is to support and enhance our library, its programs, resources, events and services. We recognize that funding for libraries is steadily decreasing, and we are here to fill the gap in order to offer the best possible service to our residents.

As you can imagine, this past year has had a devastating effect on our fundraising efforts as well as on the library's community events and programming that we support.

While the Village Center has remained closed these long 14 months, dedicated library staff and volunteers have made vital resources available to the community through creativity, determination and a deep love of all the patrons.

Library Director Sonora Miller initiated and implemented a stringent sanitation protocol and found a way to get

books and other media into the community's hands via curbside pick-up through mid-November, when Mayor (Raleigh Reynolds) allowed (this) to happen in the foyer of the building and in-person half-hour reservations. (She also) moved book groups, classes, and other rich content online. We are forever grateful to her for keeping the heart of the library beating, even as the Red Brick building remained closed.

We were thrilled to learn at the last Village of Youngstown Board of Trustees meeting that Mayor Reynolds intends to open the building on May 1, if all goes according to the yet-to-be-finalized-and-approved plan. We cannot wait to have access once again to our beloved library.

The library director and board created and approved a safety plan many months ago, including sanitation stations, air purification, tracking and occupancy restrictions, so you can be assured that your visit will

be safe as well as edifying and entertaining. Please come and support your local library!

Finally, we are pleased to share that the famous Friends of the Youngstown Free Library spring used book sale is happening! Thousands of titles are available and all sorted and organized. (The Friends' priority is your safety. The group will be following all CDC guidelines for cleaning and social distancing.) All proceeds go to the Friends of the Youngstown Free Library, a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to support the Youngstown Free Library.

The annual sale continues from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 30, and 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 1. The Youngstown Free Library is located at 240 Lockport St. Call 745-3555.

Thank you once again to our wonderful Village of Lewiston, Town of Porter, and neighboring communities. Now, come enjoy your local library!

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 **Tribune Sentinel**

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www.messiahlewiston.org

The Reverend Ashlin Marchese, Pastor
The Reverend Thomas R. Mason, Pastor Emeritus

Online worship can be viewed at MessiahLewiston.org

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