

New HAL book asks, 'Is there hidden treasure at Artpark?'

Answer: Maybe!

The Historical Association of Lewiston has published a new hardcover book titled "The Gully Treasure." The book details several aspects of treasure lost during the French and Indian War and how it may have ended up in Lewiston. It was written by local author Lee Simonson and is formatted as a letter to his grandson.



"It started out as historical fiction but, as more research and facts came to light, the stronger the possibilities became there is hidden treasure here," Simonson said. "Add to that the revelation there is a secret tunnel near Artpark, and things started to come together.

"The reason we can't find more solid leads is because corruption was rampant within the French forces at the time and a lot of the bounty just disappeared. The question is where did it go? Lewiston, and the Artpark gully area in particular, provides one of the most plausible locations."

The book examines the history and background of the area in the 1700s when the French controlled the region. Several treasures were lost but no one knows where they are – with the possible exception of one being discovered in 1882 in Pennsylvania. There are also reports of lost treasure off the shore of Grand Island in Burnt Ship Bay.

"This is a new and intriguing look at all the possibilities," Historical Association President Ken Slaughenaupt said. "It's a beautiful 8-1/2-by-11-inch book that is sure to be an eye-opener for many people – especially local residents who have walked by the Artpark gully without ever realizing it was there. As one of the most historic landmarks in North America, this will shine a new light on the area for everyone from adventure seekers to those who love the Artpark area and are interested in learning more about its fascinating history. It will certainly raise some interesting conversations, even if the book is just sitting on the coffee table."

Copies of the book, which will make a unique gift, cost \$30, including sales tax, and are available by calling the Lewiston Museum at 716-754-4214 or going online to the museum store at historiclewiston.org. Locals can pick it up at the museum, while out-of-towners can have it shipped out for an extra charge. Only 100 books are currently available.

Slaughenaupt said the book is being released not only as a fundraiser but to also detail the area's fascinating history.

"The French and Indian War is confusing, but this lays it out in a simple and straight forward way that enables everyone to understand and appreciate the important role our area played," he said. "This is the perfect gift for anyone in the family who has an Indiana Jones sense of adventure, a curiosity about the unknown, and enjoys local history. Few people realize that what happened here in the 1700s shaped the future of North America. Is there treasure here? I hope so, but only time will tell."

1 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Accepting Applications Barker Commons

1889 Quaker Rd. Barker, NY 14012

For information or application, please call (716) 795-3921

62 years of age or older, Disabled, regardless of age.

Income qualifications, 30% of adjusted income when rental assistance available.

Also accepting Section 8.

Accessible Units • Off Street Parking • Laundry on Premises

Appliances & Carpeting • Community Room • Professionally Managed

We maintain landscaping, trash removal, common area cleaning & snowplowing.



Q&D Management • 800-848-8569

800-662-1220 • TTY • NYS Relay Line 711



Youngstown Village Square Apartments

90 Lake St., Youngstown, NY 14174 • (716) 745-7302



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

For 2 Bedroom Apartments

PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED:

We maintain landscaping, trash removal, common area cleaning and snowplowing

Accessible Units • Off Street Parking • Laundry on Premises

Appliances & Carpeting • Professionally Managed



Call Q & D Management • 800-848-8569

800-622-1220-TTY • NYS Relay Line 711



Lewiston Recreation Department to offer youth fishing program

Board reiterates its opposition to TON asphalt facility

BY TERRY DUFFY

Editor-in-Chief

As recreational activities continue to rebound from COVID-19 restrictions, Lewiston Town Board members learned more Monday of a new fishing program on Lewiston's waterfront planned for children.

Recreation Director Michael Dashineau apprised Town Board members via Zoom of the project that, once underway, would see young anglers equipped with new start-up gear and introduced to the joys of fishing area waterways by the experts.

"We looked into and started to create a new fishing program here in Lewiston," Dashineau said as he sought the board's support. "This is going to be a volunteer-based program. The money for the program itself is (already in the budget). We're going to be purchasing tackle boxes and beginner fishing poles for any kids that register for the program."

Dashineau said the Recreation Department has teamed up with charter captains who work the Niagara River to develop what he anticipates to be a six-week fishing program for kids.

"We're working with a couple of the charter captains here in Lewiston. And Joe Oliverio, who sits on our Recreation Advisory Committee, came up with this nice, six-week program for the

kids to introduce them to fishing on the river," he said. "What we'd like to do is have six weeks of training courses for them, once a week, and safety courses, and allow them to go into the river and learn how to fish."

Councilman Bill Geiben offered his support for the new youth fishing program. He said the Recreation Department has sufficient funding in its budget for the program and much effort has already been put into its planning.

"I think it's an excellent program. I sat in a couple of times when they had their meetings and they're enthusiastic," he said.

For kids, "They're going to have tackle boxes; they're going to have different (poles and lures); they're going to have literature; what fish they're looking for this versus next week versus the following week. I'm excited (about this)," Geiben said.

He noted the first participants could look forward to having "new tackle boxes and equipment" as the program begins. As to its funding, he said that could come from Recreation Department programs that were not able to be held due to COVID-19, but still had money available in the budget.

No board approval was required.

For more on the new offering, stay tuned to the Recreation De-

partment's Facebook page for updates, or call 754-8213.

In other news from the board session:

•Councilman John Jacoby presented a second resolution, seconded by Councilman Rob Morreale, reiterating the town's stance on the asphalt facility being considered for Witmer Road. This followed an earlier resolution conveying the town's opposition to the proposed facility.

"The Town of Niagara Town Board opted to request that the New York State DEC pause any review of an interstate facility permit submitted by 4650 Witmer Road," Jacoby said. "In addition, they're (DEC) also requesting that the public comment period ... be extended pending review of the process, and an earlier application by the Niagara County Planning Board, Town of Niagara Planning Board and Town of Niagara Town Board. ...

"Rob and I are going to make this motion ... that we essentially mirror what the Town of Niagara did (in stating its opposition)."

The resolution, also backed by Geiben, went on to be unanimously approved by the board.

At this writing, Town Attorney Al Bax was expected to finalize the town resolution for submission into the DEC record.

IN THE NEWS

Lewiston Insurance Agency announces changes

The Lewiston Insurance Agency, part of Insure One Insurance Services America Inc., announced it has acquired the Stevens Insurance Agency.

The Stevens Agency most recently operated two long-time agency locations in Niagara Falls and in Lewiston. The latter location, at 728 Center St., will be the new home of the Lewiston Insurance Agency, which was previously located at 411 Center for over 30 years. The Stevens Agency's Niagara Falls location will be transferred to the Keller Insurance Group on Pine Avenue, which is also part of Insure One Insurance Services America Inc.

A press release stated, "This acquisition gives both agency's customers greater access to an enhanced assortment of insurance products and services, plus the benefit of having access to over 100-plus insurance companies for finding the best fit for each customer. We will be happy to offer you the best services for all your home, auto, business and life insurance needs."

The Lewiston Insurance Agency expects to have its staff in office by the beginning of May. Call 754-9137.

Sanborn Historical Society Farm Museum reopening

The Sanborn Historical Society will reopen the Sanborn Farm Museum for small tours of 10

or less people. It will open from 2-4 p.m. May 16 (third Sunday of May), June 20 and July 18. Masks and social distancing are required.

Other appointments may be made by special request. For more information, contact Bonnie Haskell at 990-6909. The Sanborn Farm Museum is located at 2660 Saunders Settlement Road.

Town of Wheatfield Lions Club 'LEGO's for Roswell'

The Town of Wheatfield Lions Club recently learned LEGOs can help kids pass time during their cancer clinic visits, and are seeking donations as part of a "LEGO's for Roswell Kids" donation drive. As part of the Lions Club's five pillars of service – vision, hunger, diabetes, cancer, environment – providing a modicum of comfort to children stricken with this illness is truly worthwhile cause.

All throughout May and June, community members can help out by dropping off or mailing new small and/or medium-sized LEGO kits.

Dropoffs can be made at the Wheatfield Lions Club's (front door) newspaper box at Five Senses Park, 6535 Ward Road. Donations can be mailed to: Wheatfield Lions, c/o Wheatfield American Legion, 6525 Ward Road, Sanborn. Additionally, monetary donations can be mailed Wheatfield Lions, 2800 Church Road, Wheatfield, NY 14120.

The Lion's Club motto is "We Serve." The club's mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humani-

tarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding.

Solidays funder for Chamber of Commerce

For all of May, Solidays Restaurant and Bar will donate 10% of total sales to the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas. Make sure to mention the chamber while ordering. Not sure what to order? The chamber recommends Solidays "amazing" chicken potpie.

The fundraiser couldn't be happening at a more apt time. With warmer weather ahead, the restaurant is set to open its patio up for the season starting Saturday, May 1. Coincidentally, at noon that day, the restaurant is holding its first Customer Appreciation Day and Car Show sponsored by 2 Fast Garage.

Solidays is located at 6935 Ward Road. For takeout, call 716-524-2665. For more information, visit Solidays' Facebook page, @SolidaysRestaurant

The Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas is a membership organization that provides services, support and networking for business and industry in the Tonawandas. The group vigorously promotes business and economic development to enhance the quality of life through proactive involvement with government, community and education leaders.

For more information on the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas, and/or information related to current or future fundraisers, call 692-5120 or visit www.The-tonawandas.com.