

Village of Lewiston: Bike paths in planning stages

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch has had several meetings recently with Niagara Greenway Commission Executive Director Greg Stevens regarding extending the bike path now entering the village from the Niagara Scenic Parkway on-ramp. Plans call for the incorporation of trails, bike rentals and a new comfort station at Academy Park adjacent to the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce office; and a path (or paths) to be incorporated next year when Center Street is repaved and spruced up by the state Department of Transportation.

"I am very excited about the proposed bike trail that will connect with the existing bike trail along the Niagara Scenic Parkway entering the Village of Lewiston at Seneca Street and continuing along South Ninth Street through Academy Park," Welch said. "Bicyclists can choose their route from Academy Park, down North Ninth Street to Mohawk Street, and pick up the Town of Lewiston wooded trail along the parkway to Pletcher Road; or bike through Academy Park to Portage Road and continue on the proposed bike lane on Center Street where cyclists can visit shops, restaurants, scenic waterfront attractions and hotels. Hopefully in the near future, the bike trail will continue along River Road to Youngstown and along Lake Ontario.

"More people are biking, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. People are spending more time biking with their families and we have seen a major increase in cycling. It's fun, it's healthy, and it's a great mode of transportation."

"We are currently working on the proposed plans and I'm looking forward to this project."

A main feature of the Greenway Trail connecting Buffalo to Youngstown is a bike path. Stevens has said 8.5 million bicyclists are projected to visit Western New York annually to traverse the Empire State in this way.

In late June, he told local leaders, "For the last six months, we've been working on a plan for what we call the lower Niagara trail and green space concept for the future development. We've never done this before, but now that the trail has come down the escarpment, we've arrived in the Village of Lewiston, and the very best part of the whole Greenway system is from here up to Lake Ontario."

A pair of public information sessions took place just prior to the pandemic.

"It's become very clear as we've put this map together that there's no single path that makes the most sense, from here up to Fort Niagara and Four Mile; so, we're looking, really, at a network of trails – different kinds of trails. We'd like to have off-road trails, nature trails, as well as sort of the conventional 12-foot path on



Niagara Greenway Commission Executive Director Greg Stevens shares bike trail ideas with local leaders.

the side of the road like we have for the Scenic Parkway trail going north.

"We're hoping to be able to offer many kinds of activities, but the primary emphasis is on creating a connected cycling and walking system where people feel safe."

"Clearly, the narrow sidewalk on Lower River Road is not a place for bicycles. That's not safe cycling. Riding out in Center Street is not safe cycling. The kids going downhill on the sidewalk on Center Street, the Chamber of Com-

merce, the Center Street business association, have been very clear that that's not what they want. So, we're looking for a significant improvement in the connectivity and the safety of cycling and walking so that more people will visit Lewiston by bike and by walking instead of everything being car-based.

"The services, the shops, the stores you have here are perfectly designed for cycling tourism and active recreation; so, we're very excited about tying this all together, connecting it to Youngstown

and the rest of the system. But there's a lot of choices to be made here, and we want to make sure that we've involved the community and you all have a chance to talk and think about what we're trying to accomplish."

Stevens noted funding for the bike paths would require a combination of state funds, municipal contributions and grant monies, to be applied for, collected and used over the course of this decade.

The bike study is online at <https://lowerniagaratrailstudy.com>.

IN THE NEWS

Welch asks Village of Lewiston residents to participate in census

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline to complete the 2020 census is postponed until Oct. 31, 2020. It is very important that every person in our village responds and everyone counted.

The results of the 2020 census will help determine how grants and federal funding is awarded to every community for the next decade. The village has received many grants that have enhanced the community and improved the quality of life for our residents.

This fiscal year, the Village of Lewiston is faced with the loss of sales tax revenue due to the interruption and closing of Niagara County businesses. This is a significant part of our budget. By completing the census, the more sales tax revenue we will receive. This helps keep your village real property taxes down. So, please complete the 2020 census!

Please use the following

link to complete your census: <https://2020census.gov/en/community-impact.html>.

Thank you
Mayor Anne Welch

'Food Truck Thursdays' resume at NF Train Station

"Food Truck Thursdays," the weekly lunch series now in its third season, has resumed for the summer, at the Niagara Falls Train Station (825 Depot Ave. West, off Main Street). The series runs from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each Thursday through Sept. 10. It features a different local food truck each week.

The food truck schedule (subject to change) is as follows:

- ✓ July 30: Dirty Bird Chicken 'N Waffles and LuGia's on Wheels
- ✓ Aug. 6: Steaksters
- ✓ Aug. 13: Fat Bob's Smokehouse
- ✓ Aug. 20: PizzaAmore "The

- Wood Fire Way"
- ✓ Aug. 27: J&L's Boulevard BBQ Truck and LuGia's on Wheels
- ✓ Sept. 3: TBA
- ✓ Sept. 10: J&L's Boulevard BBQ Truck

The series is presented rain or shine, with socially distant seating provided both inside and outside the Niagara Falls Train Station. Parking is free.

"The City of Niagara Falls is happy to welcome back these fabulous food truck vendors for another fun summer in Niagara Falls," Mayor Robert Restaino said. "Come and enjoy some great food in our great city!"

Guests are encouraged to visit the Underground Railroad Heritage Center, which reopened over the weekend, and experience the colorful new murals along neighboring Main Street while they are eating.

Some of the weeks will feature local live music (to be announced). Guests are asked to fol-

low COVID-19 safety guidelines, which will be posted at the event. Masks are required while ordering and receiving food. Guests are also asked to bring their own hand sanitizer and follow the 6-foot social distancing guidelines.

"Food Truck Thursdays" is presented by the Niagara Falls Office of Planning and Economic Development and sponsored by Blue Cardinal Capital and Rainbow Air Inc. Scenic Tours.

Schoellkopf visitation resumes in historic park

Schoellkopf Health Center Administrator John Durno announced last week the center met the state's requirements for the resumption of visitation – including having no new COVID-19 cases for 28 days – and would allow lim-

ited visitation by appointment.

"Weather permitting, visitation will be limited to outdoor areas, with no more than two visitors per resident at a time," Durno said. "Visits will be limited to 30 minutes and visitors under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult guardian. In the event of inclement weather, indoor visits will take place only in designated areas. Indoors or outdoors, social distancing will be required."

Upon entering the facility, visitors will be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and have their temperatures taken. They also will be required to complete a questionnaire that includes their recent travel and contact information.

Visits will be scheduled between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For information, call 278-4591.

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Oct. 20-26 - Memphis/Graceland/Nashville/Grand Ole Opry
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Nov. 10-12 - "Fest. of Light's-Oglebay Park/Wilson Lodge - Wheeling, WV
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