

## Former stage performer leading group interested in returning site to glory days

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about the atmosphere inside the park," he explained. "You want to feel safe and you want to have fun. It must be family-oriented. There is a recipe for that, and these guys have it. They just need the capital to get started."

"I am a hands-on operator and I have had great success in each of the parks I have designed and installed rides at. But you need investors to get started and give them working capital. This could almost be set up like a hedge fund with local investors saving the park and then getting something at the end."

Meyers, of Alliance Property Services, knew all about the history of Fantasy Island and said the model DiPietro established when he owned is one this new group should follow if it obtains the park.

"That gentleman knew every inch of the park and how to fix things when they broke. He put his heart and soul into it, and that is what you must do to be successful in this business," Meyers said.

"It will be very expensive to bring this park back, and meeting all of the state regulations and with the big unknown of what this world will look like after the COVID-19 pandemic," he added. "You need investments

for investors who will come in with a vision to recreate a park in this wonderful community."

Whitney is hopeful Empire Adventures is successful in saving Fantasy Island.

"I would love to see a group come in to save this park," he said. "It has been here since 1961 and it is part of the fabric of Grand Island. We had some great times going there as a child."

New York State Sen. Chris Jacobs, who represents Grand Island, also visited the park as a child.

"I have such fond memories of going to Fantasy Island as a kid; it would be so great if future generations could have the same fun-filled and wholesome Fantasy Island experience - that is why I am so supportive of this reopening proposal."

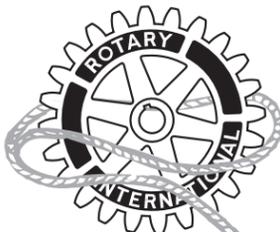
Wilcox said Empire Adventures' vision is to create a "family-friendly, safe amusement park that will be fun for the entire family and that brings back a lot of what Marty DiPietro had when he owned it."

"Fantasy Island needs to come back."

For more information about Empire Adventures, visit its website at [www.empadventures.com](http://www.empadventures.com).

Rotary Club of Grand Island

## Miller sworn in as new president of Rotary Club



### ROTARY Roundup

Sherry Miller, a member of the Rotary Club of Grand Island since 2015, was sworn in as its newest president by Robert "Bob" Artis, governor of District 7090 during the club's virtual meeting Wednesday evening.

She follows Richard Earne, a former District 7090 governor and three-time club president who served as president for the past two terms. Artis also swore in Michael J. Billoni as the club secretary for the 2020-21 term along with renewing the terms of Treasurer Dan Flaim and directors Kyle Clayton, Brian Graham and Christine Learman. Hank Kammerer, a former club president, will serve as executive secretary, an ex-officio position, and Earne will be past president on the board of directors.

Miller, who graduated from RIT



with a degree in print technology, held various project management roles in the Western New York print and banking industry for 40 years before she retired in 2017. She is now focused on giving back to the community and spending time with family. Her daughter, Samantha Miller and granddaughter, Kinsey Dailey, reside on Grand Island.

As a Rotarian, she has been a liaison with the Grand Island School District's Rotary sponsored clubs: EarlyAct and Interact (High school and middle school) and was chairperson of its Undie Sunday promotion this year. Outside of Rotary, she established the Grand Island Clovers 4-H club last year. She also

has interest in furthering natural habitat, gardening, supporting local agribusiness and response to climate change. She is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church.

The Grand Island Rotary Club's next virtual meeting, which is open to the public, is on July 8 at 7:15 a.m. and the speakers will be Michelle Lockett and Pat Sullivan, the in-coming District Governor from the Niagara County Central Club.

Lockett, who resides on Grand Island, is the community engagement manager of the Niagara Greenway Commission. She is spearheading a Youth Stewardship Program and will speak about her initiatives with local high schools in getting students involved with the Greenway Commission programs that ensures the WNY community and visitors have a beautiful and clean space to share. To receive an invitation to join the Zoom meeting, email [smiller04it@yahoo.com](mailto:smiller04it@yahoo.com)

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