

Village of Lewiston reconsidering July 4 fireworks

Pending NYS OK, board reinstating annual Independence Day ceremony

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

As it turns out, fireworks might light the night sky July 4 in Lewiston.

In a Monday morning conference call with the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, Mayor Anne Welch said she reignited contract talks with Skylighters Fireworks NY.

"We're just waiting to see how things go, to see if we should actually have it," she said.

Welch added, "Hopefully, we can have a little bit of normalcy come back. I think people are looking forward to it. So, hopefully. That's the plan right now - hopefully we can have the Fourth of July fireworks."

The Village Board opted out of its initial contract with Skylighters. Welch was not in favor of having fireworks, for fear they would attract large crowds from around Western New York. In meetings earlier this spring, she expressed concern over public safety and event costs.

As to overcoming that first issue, the mayor said she has consulted with Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Pauly on how to create 6-foot social distance circles within Academy Park for families to watch the event together - while separated from other spectators.

Pauly said, "Hopefully, you know, fireworks kind of institute more of a stay-in-your-car, social-distance type of event. So, hopefully that will be able to happen."

As to the Skylighters' \$9,000 fee, Welch said, "(Lewiston Tops

owner) Anthony DiMino and (businessman/developer) Jerry Williams are very generously offering to pay for the fireworks. They're going to split the cost of the fireworks."

Fireworks are in Phase 4 The Village of Lewiston will need state approval to hold a fireworks ceremony.

Western New York is still coming out of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's "PAUSE" shutdown of nonessential businesses and events. On Monday, the governor said public gatherings can increase from 10 to 25 people for regions in phase three of his "New York Forward" reopening plan.

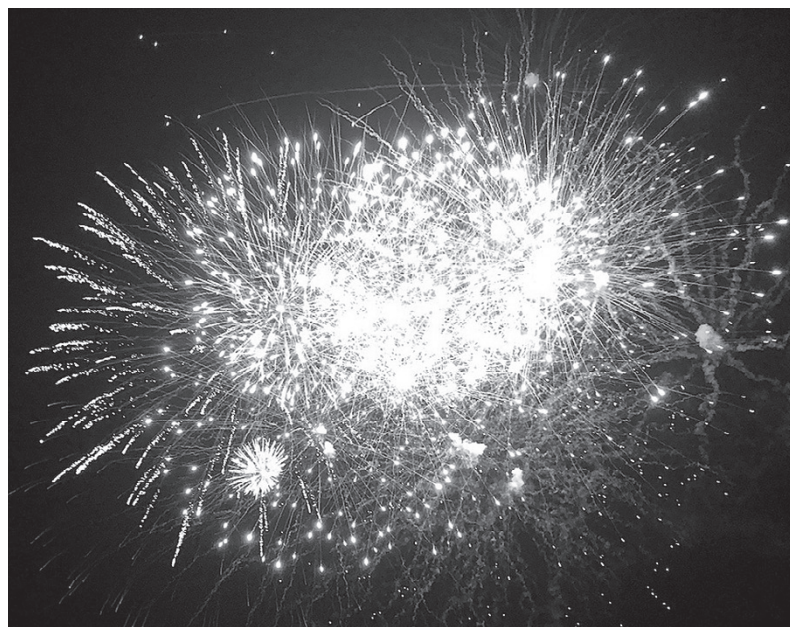
Western New York will enter that phase on Tuesday. Fireworks are expected to be permitted when a region enters phase four.

If the local coronavirus infection rate stays around 1%, which is Cuomo's new metric of choice, then phase four could begin here on June 30.

Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh said, "As far as fireworks, phase four, of course, we've gotten no guidance whatsoever out of the state yet. You know, as has been the case all along, they don't put that out until just a few days before. So, I do wish that I had some input to offer as far as fireworks. But we really are not hearing anything out of the governor's office just yet."

Wydysh is part of the Western New York regional reopening control group.

She told Welch, "I think it sounds like you have a good plan.



July 4 fireworks have become an annual tradition in Lewiston.

And if you can wait until closer to pull the trigger, then that is a good thing.

"It sounds like you're thinking about the social distancing - having people stay in their cars and doing it the right way. That's really all we can ask at this point.

"So, I agree: If we can have some normal options like that for the summer - I know everybody just needs to get out and about, and enjoy the weather and their families, and see people. It's been very good for the soul these last few weeks, to be able to get out and go to dinner again and things like that."

Trustees In Favor of Fireworks Welch explained her new plan in greater detail at Monday night's Village Board meeting.

"Because of the way everything

has been going in the county, we're really starting to be in a good place. The numbers have come down. Hopefully, the last we're ever going to see of (the coronavirus)," she said. "But because the numbers are coming down, I thought that maybe we would be able to hold the Fourth of July fireworks."

Welch said, "I figured by ... the end of this month that we should be able to know for sure if we can have fireworks. ... I think that the people, the public, would like to see something positive. I know I would."

Trustee Claudia Marasco asked, "Are people going to actually get out of their cars?"

"That's entirely up to them," Welch replied. "If they sit in Academy Park, they will sit (6 feet

away from you, and socially distance, wear a mask."

Trustee Dan Gibson said, "It's a good thing. We need to get some normalcy in our life."

Municipal counsel Joseph Leone said the village would have to insist onlookers social distance and wear masks when around other people.

"You need to make sure that's going to happen, because what you don't want is a village-authorized gathering of people where these rules are not going to be followed," he said.

Lewiston Police Department Chief Frank Previte said his squad would assist where possible, but cannot practically check each group of people to see who's family and who's not. He said the circle idea "is a step in the right direction."

Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt suggested the LPD use its digital signs to remind people of the safety protocols.

"I think everybody kind of gets it, so hopefully we can have this event and it'll go smoothly," Welch said.

Trustees voted to reinstate the contract with Skylighters.

A final decision on fireworks is expected in about two weeks.

Other Lewiston business owners also reportedly offered to pay for the Fourth of July fireworks.

Wheatfield Enhancement Volunteers announce July 4 'Boulevard Beautification' event

Show off your "red, white and blue" for the Fourth of July in Wheatfield from June 24 through July 8.

The Wheatfield Enhancement Volunteers invite residents and businesses along Niagara Falls Boulevard to celebrate this country's independence by decorating for July 4. The goal is for the boulevard to be decorated red, white and blue.

A press release said, "During this time of upheaval in our country, the Town of Wheatfield Enhancement Volunteers have worked to come up with a positive event to display Wheatfield's proud heritage of support for the country we love and those who

made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom."

Since Niagara Falls Boulevard is the main thoroughfare through Wheatfield, fliers are being distributed to residents and businesses along Niagara Falls Boulevard encouraging them to display an American flag and/or use their creativity to show their love for this great country. The town will be leading the effort by placing flags in the garden area at the intersection of Nash Road and NFB. The new sign directing people to the Town Hall campus will also be given the red, white and blue treatment.

Whether one lives and works along Niagara Falls Boulevard

or not, they're welcome to join in expanding this effort throughout the municipality.

Special notes:

✓ Participants on the north and south sides of NFB would have to decorate on their own property.

✓ Participants on the north side of NFB who have Sawyer Creek in front of their property must only use their property (north of Sawyer Creek).

✓ New York State Department of Transportation right-of-way is off limits for this purpose.

Participation is voluntary. Feel free to share pictures on social media with #BlvdBeautification.

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SBA (cont.)

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"The updated loan forgiveness application is a great way to make forgiveness more achievable for borrowers of all sizes," said SBA Buffalo District Director Franklin J. Sciortino. "The easy-to-understand questions collect the necessary information while ensuring even more small business owners can apply for forgiveness."

Details regarding the applicability of these provisions are available in the instructions to the new "EZ" application form. Both applications give borrowers the option of using the original eight-week covered period (if their loan was made before June 5) or an ex-

tended 24-week covered period. These changes will result in a more efficient process and make it easier for businesses to realize full forgiveness of their PPP loan.

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Bicycling and back pain

It is fairly common for avid cyclists to complain of back pain. **The good news is that fixing the problem may be no more complicated than adjusting the bicycle seat.** According to a report in an issue of the British Journal of Sports Medicine, tipping the front end of the bicycle seat down by 10 to 15 degrees reduces the angle formed by the spine and pelvic bone and relieves back strain. The study assumed that back pain arose among cyclists when the angle is too large. Among the 40 cyclists whose seats were adjusted in this study, 37 reported an improvement in back pain.

Women should be aware to purchase a bicycle seat with a wider saddle to accommodate the larger distance between the pelvic bones. A bicycle shop can help you select the one that is right for you and adjust it properly.

If riding a bicycle is part of your regimen and you suffer back pain, adjust your seat, but if it persists call Rose Chiropractic for a spinal evaluation. Thinking your back pain will resolve itself opens the door to worse problems down the road as undetected spinal misalignments cause further wear and tear on the joints leading to arthritis and potential pinched nerves.

Remember to replace salt and potassium and drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration when being active in summer's heat.

Rose Chiropractic, P.C. is a natural health care practice focusing on health restoration through designed clinical nutrition and chiropractic, located at 435 Ridge St., Lewiston. Call 754-9039. New Patients are welcome.