

Opinions

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Clerk's Corner

Town of Lewiston news and dates to mark

Life as we have been very fortunate to enjoy, has taken a huge twist in the last couple of months. Please be safe.

•Town Hall is staffed, but not open to the public. Most town business can be conducted via mail, the drop-box located in front of Town Hall, or by special appointment. Please call 754-8213 to discuss what is needed and we will do our best to accommodate you in a safe manner for both you and the staff.

TOWN CLERK'S CORNER



Donna R. Garfinkel

•Parks and Recreation Director Mike Dashineau notified the board that all recreation programs are canceled for the month of June. The baseball/softball season runs from May till the first week or two of July. This too will not occur. If allowed to open, it will be a modified program.

•The Town Building Department is staffed. If you have plans to install a pool, put up a fence, build a shed or replace your roof, please call 754-8213, ext. 227 or 245. Permits are necessary for these and many other projects. If you're not sure a permit is necessary for your project, please call to inquire.

•All board/commission/

committee meetings for the town have been canceled for the month of May. June scheduled meetings will be reviewed and a decision to hold or not to hold the meeting will be made. This information can be found on the town website, www.townoflewiston.us.

•The New York State Department of Transportation is starting a culvert replacement project at Pletcher Road and Creek Road on Tuesday, May 19. Pletcher Road will be closed, except to local traffic, between Creek Road and Calkins Road. A detour will be in place for approximately three weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Highway Department

at 754-8218.

•If you notice a street light is out or flickering, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at 754-8213, ext. 222 or 256, or enter the information on the town website, www.townoflewiston.us under the comment drop-down. The following information is necessary in order to report this to National Grid: pole number, closest house address and closest street intersection to the pole.

•Town residential garbage pick-up for May 25 will be suspended one-day and collected on Tuesday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.

•Town offices will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. The regular

Town Board meeting for May will be held at 6 pm. Thursday, May 28.

•Town water bills have been mailed. If you have not received it, call 754-8213, ext. 235 or 236.

•The Niagara County Department of Health, in cooperation with the Niagara County Veterinary Society, has scheduled a free rabies immunization clinic from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, June 6, at the Hyde Park – Oasis/Centennial Pavilion. As of the writing of this article, it has not been canceled. As the date approaches, call the Niagara County Department of Health at 439-7511.

Congratulations to the graduates! How will you write your story?

Sitting here musing away on how life has changed during this COVID-19 era, I feel for all the graduates who will miss the last few months of their years in high school or college ... all the fun of throwing their caps in the air, hugs, and tears with friends they may not be seeing as they venture into the world – and, of course, the prom and collecting autographs in yearbooks. I remember it so well, but time goes on and on, and, hopefully, it will get better and better for all of you.

We know some will miss graduation exercises and senior proms, but you have all made it through!

We congratulate you on your accomplishment, and now begins a new chapter in your book.

A great deal of your story was in place on the day you were born. You didn't have the opportunity to choose your parents, the year you were born, your country of birth, your DNA, nor the color of your eyes, your hair, your skin color or your height at full growth. But now, as you graduate, you are the author in charge of continuing to write your story with a whole world of possibilities. We are trusting that you will become your own wise author, editor and publisher. Now it's time to write on.

You can change your hair

color, your address, your email, your style and even your name. You can change your major and eventual job(s), your friends and relationships and even change your mind ... often!

But even with all these changes, you will still be "you!" And how you write your story from here on has a lot to do with your own personal decisions and choices.

You can be hopeful, persistent and brave, or fearful, cynical and stubborn. You can be a loner or a joiner.

You can decide which habits, good or bad, will dominate your life, and what type of friends and relationships you seek that bring

out the best in you – this is a big one!

Most importantly, remember this is your own personal story. Write it with an open and loving heart, always seeking wisdom beyond yourself. Hold tightly to the values you know are worthy. They will see you through.

So now, with your graduation, you will step up one more important rung on the ladder of life. Look back on your earlier years and see what you have already accomplished, and feel proud of living through a variety of all the ups and downs, including what we are experiencing now with COVID-19.

Lastly, remember that a really

good story has some mystery, quirky adventures, unexpected curves and challenges, and even some big obstacles. Sometimes taking advantage of a fork in the road, even the wrong one, can prove to be right in a totally unexpected and amazing way. This will depend on your "attitude," which will guide you always to a good place. Keep writing a great story for yourself – one you will someday enjoy reading to your grandchildren. We're counting on you to make it a best seller!

Congratulations, graduates! From a long, long ago graduate, now Lewiston resident.

Barbara Vrooman
Lewiston

Catholic Charities continues to provide necessary services

BY BOB GOODS

Catholic Charities Niagara County District Director

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, Catholic Charities has been committed, now more than ever, to serve as a beacon of hope to our neighbors in need. In the last eight weeks, we have provided 6,081 services to more than 3,900 individuals and families throughout Niagara County.

Our emergency financial assistance staff continues to work with community members

seeking help on a case by case basis to determine the appropriate level of support, including to provide information and referrals to available community resources helping with access to food, household items and personal care items. We are also helping where we can with utilities and rental assistance and other related basic living needs.

We have also been working with our community partners, such as Niagara Organizing

Alliance for Hope, Family Violence Initiative, Salvation Army, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Health Home and the Niagara County Department of Social Services, to identify and contact those who may need additional help.

We also understand the impact this ongoing public health crisis can have on one's mental health and well-being. Our dedicated counselors are continuing to provide services, via teletherapy,

for all ages, including a focus on youth and adolescents through our children's clinics in Niagara Falls, Lockport and North Tonawanda. We are accepting new clients.

In addition, the Women Infants Children (WIC) nutrition and education federal program for lower income families has also continued and is seeing more families who are eligible now than before the pandemic.

If you or someone you know

needs assistance (even if you have never needed it before) in Niagara County, call us directly at 282-2351, or you can reach the Catholic Charities

COVID-19 helpline at 218-1419.

It is a challenging time for all of us, but thanks to our generous supporters, these crucial Catholic Charities programs continue now when they are needed most. If you can help, please visit ccwny.org/donation for more information.



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IN THE NEWS

Niagara County still has face coverings

On Wednesday, the Niagara Coun-

ty Center for Economic Development noted that, "as Niagara County and Western New York prepare to reopen, it is vital that all businesses

have a reopening plan, which implements guidelines and protocols to ensure the health and safety of all employees and customers.

"One important component of such a plan is make sure that an adequate number of face masks are available. Niagara County Emergency Services was able to acquire cloth face masks through the NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services several weeks back, and still have some available free of charge."

Those interested in obtaining masks through Niagara County Emergency Services can email ncem@niagaracounty.com. Masks will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis; supplies are limited.

LEWISTON-PORTER CHURCH DIRECTORY

Lutheran Church of the Messiah

915 Oneida Street, Lewiston
Phone: 754-4944 Fax: 754-0903
www.messiahlewisston.org

The Reverend Ashlin Marchese, Pastor
The Reverend Thomas R. Mason, Pastor Emeritus
Sunday Worship Service 8:15am & 10:00am

Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 9:00am
2nd Sunday in September to third Sunday in May (Dates can vary)

Messiah Lutheran PreSchool Rose Alojan, Director

Share Your Message Call us at 773-7676