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# Thanks Lewiston Garden Club, Beautification

Dear Lewiston Garden Club and Beautification members:

I am writing this letter to extend my sincere appreciation to the Lewiston Garden Club and Beautification for your hard work beautifying our village. This has been a very challenging time during the pandemic but, because of your

continuing service and dedication, Lewiston looks beautiful.

Your thoughtful weeding and planting of the gardens, flowerpots and planters truly enhances Lewiston. Thanks to you, the village is more charming and inviting and much more enjoyable for residents and visitors alike as they walk,

bike or sit quietly on a bench. During this pandemic, we have seen more people walking and biking and enjoying our parks, and I am sure this has had a calming and peaceful effect on them.

For years, your gardening knowledge and experience has greatly benefitted our village and

we are grateful for your commitment to our community.

Thank you once again for sharing your time, talents and energy with us!

Anne Welch  
Village of Lewiston Mayor

# 'In the Loop': Lew-Port students return to campus

BY JODEE RIORDAN  
Board of Education President

Lewiston-Porter students, grades pre-K through grade 12, are now back on campus five days per week. Elementary students have been back full time since April 26. Secondary (middle and high school) students returned this week.

It was like "the first day of school" all over again – with that level of excitement – as the hallways filled with students Monday morning. Both schools reported excellent attendance (98% at the middle school and 96% at the high school). We cannot thank everyone enough – our faculty and staff, administrators, Lew-Port students and families – for seeing this year through, and we could not be happier to have everyone back. The return of all students to campus, every day of the week, has been our goal since March 15, 2020.

With students at all grade levels now back five days per week, the hybrid model has been phased out. However, Lew-Port continues to run the 100% remote model, with 292 students (grades K-12) choosing to stay remote through the end of this year. We look forward to welcoming all students back to campus this fall.

Of course, Lewiston-Porter must wait for state and federal guidance

as to what the 2021-22 school year will look like, but the district is optimistic we will be back in all grades for a full five days of instruction.

At this time, we remind the community the pandemic is not yet over, and we encourage everyone to remain vigilant and informed. All information relating to education and school operations during this crisis can be found in the COVID-19 communication and information center on the L-P website ([www.lew-port.com/domain/842](http://www.lew-port.com/domain/842)).

At Monday's Board of Education meeting, the oath of office was administered to new board members Julie Donnelly and Anika Fetzner, each elected to the board in the May 18 election. The term for each began immediately, as they fill the two vacancies on the board. Julie fills the seat of Gemma Fournier (who moved out the district mid-May) until June 30, then begins her own three-year term (2021-24); Anika serves the remaining term (2021-22) of Anne Orr, who died suddenly in April.

Reelected was incumbent Jennifer Klemick. Her current term runs through June 30 and she will be sworn in for her new three-year term (2021-24) at the annual organizational meeting Thursday, July 1.

Thank you to each of these women – including Charlotte

Huebschmann, elected last year – for stepping up to lead the district in the midst of the incredible challenges of a global pandemic.

Monday's meeting was open to the public for the first time this year and also marked the return of Lew-Port building administrators to the boardroom. Principals reported out to the Board of Education in person for the first time since February 2020. It was fantastic to hear all the ongoing initiatives and exciting events planned to celebrate the end of the school year, from the butterfly release at the Primary Education Center to the upcoming senior prom (June 18 at the Wurlitzer) to graduation (June 25 at Artpark). Stay tuned for details on transition events and celebrations throughout the district via "In the Loop."

The board will meet Monday, June 14, for a work session. The final meeting of the 2020-21 school year will be held Monday, June 21. We encourage the community to join us. Going forward, Board of Education meetings will continue to be livestreamed, to allow the community to engage from the comfort of their own home.

Missed a meeting? You can find recordings and transcripts of each meeting on the L-P website (go to the Board of Education page, then "Virtual Board of Education Meet-

ings"). Videos are also found on Lew-Port YouTube channel.

Also of importance this week, the Niagara County Department of Health held a vaccination clinic at the Lewiston-Porter Community Resource Center on Tuesday, with 193 vaccinations administered. Thank you to the NCDOH, Director Dan Stapleton, and the countless volunteers who have worked tirelessly throughout Niagara County to get our community vaccinated.

The district will be closed in observance of the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 31, following an extended Memorial Day holiday recess. As previously discussed here, the extended recess (May 27-31) resulted from the inclusion of "snow days" into the instructional calendar.

Please enjoy the weekend, and take time to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by so many of our servicemen and women in defense of freedom throughout the history of our nation.

As the Lewiston-Porter Alumni Association Veterans' Memorial will read, "Freedom is Not Free." Dedication of the memorial is targeted for fall, prior to Veterans Day, and will the honor and sacrifice of all L-P alumni who served our country in war and peace.

# Cuomo: All New York state schools to reopen in September; announces additional vaccination perks

Based on current COVID-19 trajectory, all schools set to reopen for full in-person learning

Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Monday announced that, based on current COVID-19 trajectory, all New York state schools will reopen for full in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year beginning in September.

"Our children lost so much as COVID struck our state. A year of socialization, a year of memories, and even more," Cuomo said. "While teachers and school administrators

did an incredible job pivoting to remote learning with virtually zero notice, there's no denying the discrimination students who did not have the right equipment faced. With the way our COVID numbers are currently trending, there is no reason why our students should not get back to in-person learning as usual, and we look forward to welcoming them back. If there is a change in

the trajectory of the virus, we will revisit the decision."

In response, New York State United Teachers President Andy Pallotta stated, "Educators know that being in person is the best way for students to learn and for teachers to teach. We support offering full-time in-person instruction five days a week and await formal guidance for the fall on how districts, working

with educators and parents, should craft their plans to bring all students back to the classroom."

New York State United Teachers is a statewide union with more than 600,000 members in education, human services and health care. NYSUT is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and the AFL-CIO.

## CORRECTION

The Ransomville Flag Day parade celebration will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 12, on Youngstown Lockport Road in the hamlet. Last week's paper contained the incorrect date for the annual event. The Tribune Sentinel apologizes to its readers for any inconvenience.

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