

## NEED TO READ

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► Community Missions Announces 11th Annual Interfaith Community Prayer Service for Mental Illness Recovery & Understanding is Oct. 5

► USA Niagara announces RFP for redevelopment of Old Falls Street site

► PPP milestone: In less than 2 months, 1 million borrowers apply for forgiveness

► Higgins on extension of northern border shutdown: 'completely unnecessary & unexplained'

► Niagara County announces 'Rise Above the Occasion' campaign

► Niagara Falls City Market now accepts SNAP

► \$150 million in heating utility assistance available for consumers



► Bed and breakfast, reuse of rathskeller eyed for Frontier House

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# SBA loans available to help businesses, individuals impacted by flooding

Back in July, I wrote about the terrible storms and flooding that did tremendous property damage across Niagara County. The torrential rainfall hit in a line from Lewiston to Lockport, wreaking havoc on many areas below the escarpment. Thank you to everyone who took time to file damage reports with Niagara County Emergency Services.

Now, I want to make sure all residents impacted by the July 20 storm are aware that they may apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. In making the announcement, SBA Administrator Isabella Guzman said, "SBA's mission-driven team stands ready



Becky Wydysh  
Chairwoman

to help Niagara County small businesses and residents impacted by the July severe storms and flash flooding. We're committed to providing federal disaster loans swiftly and efficiently, with a customer-centric approach to help businesses and communities recover and rebuild."

This is certainly an important announcement that will hopefully provide some measure of relief for those whose insurance will not cover all the damage.

Here's what you need to know about the SBA disaster loan program. There are three different types of loans:

✓ **Business Physical Disaster Loans** – Loans to businesses to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, nonprofit organizations such as charities,

churches, private universities, etc., are also eligible.

✓ **Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)** – Working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most private, nonprofit organizations of all sizes meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster. These loans are intended to assist through the disaster recovery period.

✓ **Home Disaster Loans** – Loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate and personal property, including automobiles.

The loan program is designed with very favorable terms. Interest rates can be as low as 1.6%, and terms can be up to 30 years. Like any loan, SBA will look at credit history and ability to repay.

Applicants may apply online, re-

ceive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela>. Applicants may also call SBA's customer service center at 800-659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Please note, the filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 8, 2021. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 9, 2022.

Clearly, there have been numerous weather events and natural disasters across the country that have rightly garnered a lot of attention. So I want to acknowledge the efforts of our state and federal leaders who worked hard to make sure our community was not overlooked by getting SBA to offer disaster loans to Niagara County residents.

## Can You Help?

### Fundraiser to aid hit-and-run victim

On June 29, Dan "Dambo" Gravelle of Niagara Falls was involved in a hit-and-run accident while riding his motorcycle. A SUV pulled out in front of him, making a left-hand turn, which cut him off and he "T-boned" the SUV.

Dan sustained multiple injuries due to the accident, including a brain bleed that required

a drainage tube; and a crushed rib cage on the right side, which later caused his lung to collapse. In addition, Dan's right arm was shattered requiring surgery; he sustained a fracture to his upper right thigh/hip; the tip off his sacrum broke off; and he has suffered from infections.

At this time, Dan remains hos-

pitalized at Erie County Medical Center.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, friends and family will hold a benefit/fundraiser for Dan and his wife, Crystal, at 2410 Cudaback Ave., Niagara Falls.

The event will include a basket raffle, 50/50s, and food and drinks by donation. All are wel-

come to attend.

Dan is a City of Niagara Falls employee and faces a long recovery ahead of him. The fundraiser will help offset bills that have been accumulating while he has been hospitalized.

For more information, contact Lucia at 799-5437.

## 'In the Loop'

### Preparing students for success at Lewiston-Porter

BY DANIELLE MULLEN

President, Lewiston-Porter Board of Education

This past week, Lewiston-Porter held its last two open house events for the 2021-22 school year. The Primary Education Center and high school welcomed families into their buildings to explore classrooms and get to know their children's teachers. It is hard to believe September is almost over. October at Lew-Port will feature the return of homecoming events for our students.

The third and final focus area of the district's strategic plan is "Redefining Student Success." This component of the plan will help Lew-Port students to better define their own success with the help of personal goal-setting measures supported by staff, teachers and administrators. Students will work on practicing or improving on their own personal goal-setting skills.

Setting goals will help students focus on areas that are important for them as individuals. It will also allow students and their families the opportunity to see how much growth can take place over time.

This area in the strategic plan is also charged with helping to create a new districtwide report card. This report card will highlight measures beyond the academic benchmarks normally used to define success.

A major project nearly complete in this facet of the strategic plan is the creation of a "Journey of a Lew-Port Lancer." This guiding document, which seeks to define traits important for success at Lew-Port and beyond, has been in progress for over a year and will be finalized this year. In order to create a document that was reflective of the views of the whole school community, numerous stakeholders were in-

involved, including teachers, parents, students, administrators, partners from higher education, and community business members.

What is the "Journey of a Lew-Port Lancer?" The strategic plan states, "The Journey of a Lancer incorporates all of the foundational traits that we believe will prepare every student for success. Along the way, students will build upon these foundational traits to chart their own path and achieve their own personalized goals."

The traits of the Lew-Port Lancer are separated into three clusters that are the foundational markers along the Lancer Journey: Pathway Explorer, Pathway Partner and Pathway Guide. Pathway Explorers are curious and purposeful. Pathway Partners are collaborative, inclusive and effective communicators. Pathway Guides are account-

able, independent and balanced.

Under the pathways, each trait will have different expectations at the PEC, IEC, middle school and high school. For example, the expectations for what it means to be an effective communicator will be different for a kindergarten student versus a 12th grade student. However, this document will provide a common language that will be used across the whole campus.

While only in the second year of the current strategic plan, plenty of positive progress has been made in each of the three different interdependent sections. The strategic plan will continue to be a central focus of the district for the next four years.

If you are interested in more information, please check out the strategic plan on the district website, [www.lew-port.com](http://www.lew-port.com).

Have a great week Lew-Port!

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