

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

April 1, 2022 FREE 20 Pages Vol. 31 / No. 15 • Vol. 35 / No. 6



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Parks/recreation projects heat up in Lewiston, Porter

Lewiston acquires Camp Stonehaven; Porter fitness project moves ahead



Shown is the MVP Fitness Court facility planned for Porter on the Lake town park. (MVP Fitness image)

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

News on the parks and recreation front continues to occupy

discussions among officials in both the towns of Lewiston and Porter.

Starting first in the Town of

Lewiston, the Town Board made some progress this week with continuing improvements at the

SEE JOHNSTON, continued on Page 6

Village of Lewiston Board looking to avoid tax increase

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

The Village of Lewiston intends to pass along its accrued savings to residents.

With a ballooning fund balance, the prospect of additional revenues, and a decade of underspending under their belts, trustees are expected to keep the tax rate at \$7.76 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation.

Treasurer Stephanie Longwell presented the first draft of the proposed 2022-23 budget during a special board meeting held Monday afternoon in the Red Brick Municipal Building. Longwell estimates the total budget to be \$4,489,955, which is an increase of about \$400,000 from the current fiscal year.

"I have proposed to not raise taxes and use some of the fund balance, because we have a very healthy fund balance" – said to be between \$2.5 and \$3 million – "and the state doesn't want you to have too much," she said. "It was either increase the contingent

line, and use that to use some of the fund balance; but I thought it would be better to propose to not raise taxes this year, since everything is going up for our residents."

Mayor Anne Welch explained, "The state does not like us to have a huge fund balance. We're not supposed to have that big slush."

The budget anticipates a need to pull \$623,471 from the appropriated fund balance to square the books. This has become an annual rite of passage in the Village of Lewiston: Predicting a fund shortage, but ultimately ending up in the black.

"The expenditures have been lower than what I've been budgeting, and (Department of Public Works Superintendent) Larry (Wills) and (Recreation Director) Brendan (McDermott), and the revenues have also been higher, so there's that gap money there," Longwell said. "Since I've been doing the budget the past three years ... even though we use the *SEE TRUSTEES, continued on Page 2*

NYSDOT: Start of construction on \$2.8 million improvement project on Hyde Park Blvd.

Preventive maintenance to enhance safety & extend pavement service life in Niagara County

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez announced the start of construction on a \$2.8 million highway improvement project on State Route 61, Hyde Park Boulevard, from Lockport Road to State Route 104 in the City of Niagara Falls and the towns of Niagara and Lewiston. Her team said this preventive maintenance project – scheduled to be completed in early 2023 – will help keep this roadway in a state of good repair, delaying the need for costly future repairs.

"Under the leadership of Gov. Hochul, New York state continues to make strong investments in our infrastructure while strengthening Western New York's transportation network for all users of the road," Dominguez

said. "This project on Hyde Park Boulevard will have lasting benefits for the community, saving taxpayer dollars in the long term while making a positive and immediate difference in the lives of Western New York residents and visitors."

Her team said, "The project will improve safety for both traffic and pedestrians, helping to ensure regional economic competitiveness."

The work on Hyde Park Boulevard will include milling and resurfacing 1.6 miles of pavement with a new layer of asphalt. Drainage improvements will be made within the project limits. In addition, traffic signs along Hyde Park Boulevard will be replaced. Pedestrian signals with countdown timers will be upgraded,



and curb ramps will be replaced to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

New York State Sen. Rob Ort said, "Because of the difficult winters that our region is subject-

ed to, our roads and transportation infrastructure take extensive damage and wear. These proactive and preventive measures by the Department of Transportation will help ensure that State

Route 61 remains in a safe travel condition for motorists in the years to come, saving the state and drivers money on potentially costly repairs."

Assemblyman Angelo Morinello said, "Thank you so much to the state of New York and the New York State Department of Transportation for their continuing attention to the needs of Assembly District No. 145. It is much appreciated by all."

Motorists are reminded that fines are doubled for speeding in a work zone. In accordance with the Work Zone Safety Act of 2005, convictions of two or more speeding violations in a work zone could result in the suspension of an individual's driver license.

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