

# Tin Pan Alley receiving support from community

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off. And I'm also going to be doing drink specials that day, too. Probably some Kentucky Derby drinks. Probably like a mint julep and then a couple other drink specials to pair up with it. And I'll probably do some drinks and just shot specials; maybe a couple frozen drink specials, as well, for that day."

Of course, the "Run for the Races" was postponed, making this the first time a Kentucky Derby is taking place in September.

Those looking to play OTB can get a voucher from a Tin Pan bartender, or one can go directly to the machine located next to the front door.

"And if they win, they get paid out here - they don't have to go to (a standalone OTB). Up to \$600," Castiglione said. "It's like playing the Lotto. ... We're the only ones in Lewiston that'll get it, because it is regioned off. And a lot of people down here told us they'd rather not go up the hill, if they didn't have to."

Obviously, guests don't have to place a wager in order to come in and enjoy a meal at Tin Pan.

Castiglione II said he's now back to serving a full menu - including homemade Italian dishes on Thursdays, fish fry Fridays, steak and cheese subs, and the restaurant's signature pot roast.

The chef also is offering one low-carb meal a week.

"I know people are looking for that kind of stuff nowadays," Castiglione II said. "So that starts actually next week - that starts on Monday. Every week they could look on our web-



Pictured are the OTB screens inside Tin Pan Alley.

site, see what meal of the week it is, and there'll be a low-carb. We'll have all the ingredients listed - calories, carbs, all that stuff.

Aesthetically, "There's a lot of things I changed when we were shut down for the COVID. The whole place has been completely repainted," Castiglione II said. "I redid the bathrooms; spent a lot of time cleaning, sanitizing; I got a lot of new kitchen equipment; the kitchen was completely repainted and redone."

Though eateries are at limited capacity, Castiglione II said it has helped to have one of the largest outdoor dining spaces in Lewiston.

Operating during the pandemic, "With my patio as big as it is, it actually - surprisingly - hasn't been (awful)," he noted. "I mean, it's been hard, because just with the new regulations and everything; it's hard when you get people that want to come in and just sit on the patio and have a drink. It's hard, you know, to tell people they have to order food first. It's a challenge; but we've accepted the challenge - and it's actually been going really smooth, to be honest with you.

"It's terrible that summer's almost over, but with that being said, it was a good summer. I mean, I missed all the festivals in Lewiston. That was huge to lose out on that kind of stuff. But all in all, with all the regulations and everything, it still was a pretty good summer."

Castiglione II said Tin Pan, like other Lewiston small businesses, has benefited from increased local patronage.

"I think with the festivals and Artpark and everything, yeah, it brought in a whole different clientele. But, with that being said, on a Tuesday night - like if it was a concert night - we're still almost a full patio full bar," he said. "So, the locals are really coming out to support the local businesses, that's for sure."

His father added, "That's a good thing. I think everybody in their own regions are feeling the same way - to support local businesses - and it's very important at this point of the pandemic, because who knows where we're going to go from here."

Tin Pan Alley is located in the mini-plaza at 775 Cayuga St.



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## Town Board (cont.)

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benefit credit from the power generated at Moore Road.

"(That power) is sent to the electric grid, where it is tracked and metered and (would be) translated into a monetary credit (under a new billing arrangement created for the town with Ampion)," Buzby said. "That monetary credit appears as a new line item on the town utility account's electrical bills, in lieu of costs. So it reduces the amount owed to the utility, and then Ampion bills you in arrears for those credits, but at 90 cents on the dollar always.

"So, (as) an example ... you received \$500 worth of credits, a brand-new line item, right on the electric bill, minus \$500. In one month in arrears, we bill you for those credits at 90 cents on the dollar. So your bill from us would be \$450. It works exactly the same way for the municipality as it would for any residents, small business or nonprofit."

Currently, the town participates in a retail energy supply services arrangement with Niagara County that would remain separate under the Ampion plan. Buzby said any partnership by the town with Ampion would only focus on the delivery costs.

"This program is totally separate from a retail energy supply company. Our program wouldn't touch that at all, because you guys are what is called dual-billed. You get your supply bill and you get your delivery bill; our program would be just for the delivery bill," he said.

Of the Ampion proposal for Lewiston, Busby continued, "We're hoping to be able to work with the town and work with Niagara County. Again, if the town is dual-billed we wouldn't be doing anything with the supply bill that you are already on. This would be to offset the National Grid charges with utility bill credits. So, the bill credits you get first, they hit the National Grid invoice in real costs, and then we bill the town for those credits at 90 cents on the dollar.

"So I like to say there's no liability. The credits appear, they reduce the costs, we bill on those credits at the discounted rate. And it's always 90 cents on the dollar."

"The agreement that subscribers actually sign is to purchase the credits at 90 cents on the dollar," he said. He noted the program is open to municipalities as well as residents.

"So, it's a 10% savings on the delivery of our electric bill?" Councilman Al Bax asked.

"Correct," Buzby replied. He said that, for town accounts that use less than 25 KW at peak demand on one type of contract, it might be different. "It's 10% across the board; it just depends on how they're bucketed on our end. And we might only be able to serve those accounts that are less than the 25KW to start."

He noted higher electrical users such as the town's water treatment plant would likely fall under a different scenario.

Buzby said that, for individual residents, the Ampion plan could be even more attractive.

For homeowners, the 10% savings "would be on the whole bill," Buzby said, "as long as their supply (is) consolidated on the whole bill. You would be hard-pressed to find a homeowner that's dual-billed, because it's usually larger entities (such as municipalities) that are dual-billed.

"For homeowners, it'd be 10% on the whole bill. ... They can sign up now, it's available. It's a 90-day trial; if the homeowner doesn't like it, they can get rid of it."

"It works the same way - a \$100 credit on the National Grid bill; reducing the bill by \$100; we bill them at approximately one month in arrears at 90 cents on the dollar," Buzby said.

Supervisor Steve Broderick said the town is continuing to review the Ampion proposal and assemble town usage accounts for the company's review. He indicated the board would take further action at its September meetings.

For more information on Ampion Renewable Energy, visit [www.ampion.net](http://www.ampion.net). In other news from Monday's session:

•The Town Board held a public hearing for final plat approval of phases 4 and 5 in the Oak Run subdivision and received no comments. The board

went on to later approve various PIP requests covering sanitary sewers, storm sewers, water lines and pavement and curbs associated with the project, as well as storm water ponds associated with lots 23 and 24 in the subdivision.

•Engineer Robert Lannon said work is continuing on the town's extensive waterline replacement project.

"If anyone has driven down Creek, Pletcher, Lower River Road, Mayflower, Sweethome ... the water line project is fast and furious," he said. Lannon indicated the Creek Road phase would be done by Sept. 1 (minus full restoration work), and crews would be moving to Pletcher Road.

"The plan is to have each area that they do, within 30 days followed by a restoration. ... We'll go area by area. We went down Creek, we'll continue west on Pletcher. Once they hit Lower River, that crew will go north and they'll have a crew going south on Lower River from Pletcher," he said. "They hope to have all of the main line (work) in on Lower River by Nov. 1. That is the plan; they've been making some pretty good progress; some areas they get 450 feet (of water line) a day in, some areas on Lower River ... with existing infrastructure, they get 200 feet a day. It's a mix ... we expected that."

Lannon said water line installations would halt for the winter after Nov. 1 and resume once spring hits. He said actual hookups to residences would be in the last phases of the project.

•Wrapping up, Lannon said land clearing is continuing on the Essex Homes subdivision on Bronson and Upper Mountain roads above the hill, with a number of administrative items still to be done by project contractors Savarino Construction. Included are survey line issues, property line easements, water line service issues, and drainage easements of various properties.

Lannon said Essex developers are hoping to get started soon with man hole/sewer construction, but that various infrastructure-related delays continue.



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