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Warren's Village Hardware for sale



BY JOSHUA MALONI
 GM/Managing Editor

In Lewiston, the answer to "Who you gonna call" isn't Ghostbusters. It's Warren's.

For more than a decade, the hardware store has been an invaluable source of recommendations for anything and everything mechanical, or related to construction or major appliances. That's in addition to a wide range of in-store products available to those DIY-inclined.

But that might change when owner Bill Warren sells his store. He is ready for a well-deserved retirement.

"A couple of years ago, I had a health issue. And ever since then, my wife's been hoping that I might slow down a little bit. So, now's the time," he said. "It'll be 11 years in springtime that we've been here. We built the business up to where it belongs, we feel. It's time to let somebody else take it over – take it to the next level."

Though his daughter, Ashley, is well-qualified to take over, Warren said, "She's going to pursue her own interests. She has a culinary degree. She knows the business inside and out, but she'd prefer not to operate it."

Both the business and the

building, at 185 Portage Road, are for sale. In the meantime, "We're not closing," Warren said.

"We're going to stay here. Ashley will be here. I'll be here. We'll run it until it's sold."

Though it will be up to the new owner to determine the building's future use, Warren said, "To me, it's a turnkey operation. But that would be up to the next person."

"We don't anticipate selling the business for it to be other than a hardware store. That just makes too much sense in the village. And there really isn't a second location for this type of operation down here."

While that's true, it's not just the uniqueness of the products that makes this business stand out. Warren acknowledged his store has become a go-to source for information.

In 2016, the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce recognized Warren's Village Hardware as the Lewiston Business of the Year. At that time, President Jennifer Pauly wrote, "Nothing can compare to the staff's firsthand knowledge. With the electrical and cosmetic design experience of the owners, customers receive personalized service from the moment

they step into the store.

"Customers range from local residents to contractors. Word of mouth is the best form of advertising for Warren's Village Hardware. New customers are often referred by homeowners who completed their renovation projects with help from the store staff – securing supplies as needed."

Warren said, "It's a neat feeling. It really is. I've always been in the service business. And here, it's still a service business, with a retail component. We're here to help people – as much as anything else."

"I'll miss it. That's for sure."

And customers, undoubtedly, will miss speaking with Bill and Ashley.

"It's the kind of thing where we really owe a debt of gratitude to the community for coming back and supporting us these last 10 years – it wouldn't have happened without them, for certain," he said. "We've made a lot of friends. Customers have turned into friends. We'll value that for a long time to come."

"But it's time."

The property is for sale through Coldwell Banker Integrity Real Estate and agent Courtland "Vandy" Van Deusen.

Town of Wheatfield provides update on water line break

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

Monday's Wheatfield Town Board meeting began with updates regarding a burst water line that occurred last week on the corner of Sy Road and Niagara Falls Boulevard.

The board authorized its Water/Sewer Department, town supervisor and town attorney to proceed with emergency rehabilitation/repairs to the intersection's 18-inch water main following a water line failure, which resulted in water loss and reduced water pressure to some residents.

"We had a little excitement last week," Water/Sewer Superintendent Richard Donner explained.

"A surprise blowout on the Boulevard ended up being a bigger job than what my department could handle. So we needed some help from Mark Cerrone Contracting and a little help from some area water departments to get the proper parts and stuff together. ... I gotta commend the guys. They did a good job on the work we did."

Donner said, overall, the outage lasted less than 24 hours. When asked about the cause, he said, according to records, the affected pipe had been installed by the manufacturer in 1958. The problem stemmed from a repair that was made over 30 years ago.

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Lakeside improvements moving in Town of Porter

Work includes shore rehab work, improvements at POTL



Lakeside improvements by the town include new benches and bike racks in the Fort Niagara Beach neighborhood, along with erosion control work along the shoreline. (Photo by Terry Duffy)

BY TERRY DUFFY
 Editor-in-Chief

Waterfront improvements are underway and continue in the Town of Porter.

Earlier this year, the town completed a \$348,000 shoreline rehabilitation project in its Fort Niagara Beach neighborhood. Work included stone reinforcement

work on the lakeshore areas that had fallen victim to severe erosion, and the installation of benches and bike racks along the town-owned shoreline. The project came about, partly from funding from the state's Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative intended to assist lake communities that had

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