


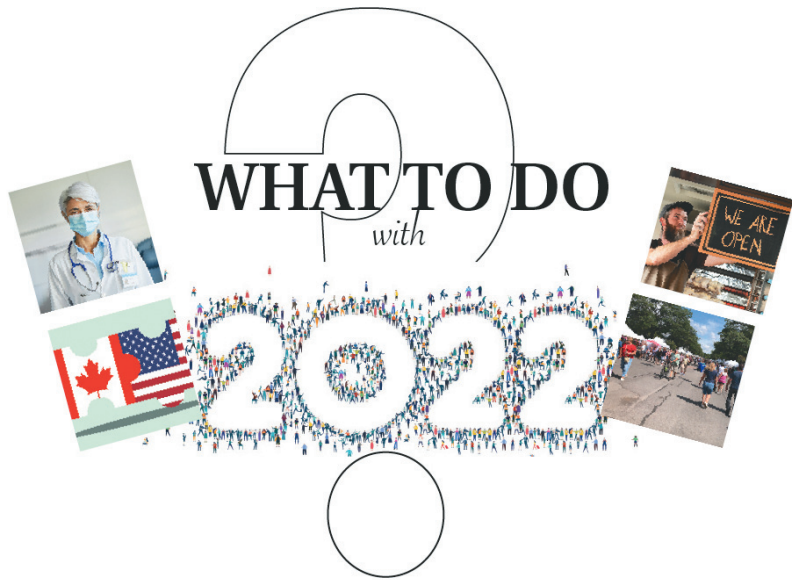
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Local leaders encouraged by what 2022 might bring (back)

PART 2

No one expected a global pandemic to shut the world down in 2020. A horrific virus infected millions – taking far too many lives – while causing businesses to shutter, a loss of income, and myriad canceled moments (proms, graduations, weddings, festivals, concerts, etc., etc.). But as the calendar turned to 2021, most people had a confident expectation that the new year would bring back the events – if not the personal freedoms – of the pre-COVID world.

While more gatherings and activities took place, thanks in part to a coronavirus vaccine, 2021 wasn't exactly as advertised. In fact, as the holiday season wrapped, variants led to a record number of positive coronavirus cases in Western New York.

So, what is the mindset for 2022? Will it be hopeful – that even more can be recaptured; that people will be freer to move about and enjoy events; that infection and hospitalization rates will plummet? Or will it be pessimistic – that in-person will once again be replaced by virtual; that already hard-hit merchants will face more restrictions; that people will just stay home?

We asked local leaders to weigh in on this topic and share their expectations – and plans – for 2022. This is part two of our series.

Of course, we'd love to know what you think, too. Feel free to send us your thoughts.

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Find part one online at www.wnypapers.com.

City of North Tonawanda Mayor Austin J. Tylec

The City of North Tonawanda is starting 2022 full of energy and expectations for a great year.

During the first few months as mayor, our office will be focusing on creating greater access to government for our residents and businesses, upgrading our IT services throughout municipal buildings, supporting our accounting office so we can improve our budget process, and start engaging the public for project selection with the \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant we were awarded through New York state.

We have many challenges ahead of us this year, and I would ask residents to follow our efforts by joining our weekly newsletter (email atylec@northtonawanda.org to join) so we can inform the public about all city matters.

As the newly elected mayor, my goal is to bring everyone in City Hall and our community together for the betterment of North Tonawanda. We want to expand beyond our city boundary and look to other communities for new ideas and collaboration.

Feel free to call our office and make an appointment – our door is open for all to visit and share their ideas and suggestions.

SEE LEADERS, continued on Page 5

Residents request Lewiston board rename roadway 'Sutherland Street'

BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

Lewiston lost one of its strongest champions when Bruce Sutherland passed Dec. 27.

Three days after the former deputy mayor's death, Tom Deal of Deal Realty suggested a portion of South Sixth be renamed "Sutherland Street." Bruce would often hold court from his house, and he and his wife, Jackie, were popular among neighbors.

The idea netted 69 "Likes" and a dozen positive comments on Facebook – including endorsements from current and former state and municipal leaders.

Deal wrote, "Bruce and his wife literally own the entire east side of the street including their beautiful home, it would be a fitting tribute."

On Monday, he asked the Village of Lewiston trustees to consider his request.

"I'd like the board to really move forward and look into having that section of South Sixth Street – I think it's one block, basically – if we could have that



Tom Deal is leading a charge to have a portion of South Sixth renamed "Sutherland Street" in honor of the late Bruce Sutherland. The former Village of Lewiston trustee was active in the community, a fixture at the Orange Cat Coffee Co., and a staunch supporter of local history.

either named 'Sutherland Street' or even ... if we just did (an honorary marker), if people don't like it," Deal said. "One way or the other, change the street to 'Sutherland Street' or just honorarily call it 'Sutherland Street.'"

"For what Bruce did for all of

us, he was a great member of the community. He basically owned, at one time, the whole side of the street anyway. I just think it would be a nice thing to do to honor a great member of our community."

SEE BOARD, continued on Page 3

Lew-Port Community Education opens Feb. 14

Winter-spring program features 125 class programs

BY TERRY DUFFY

Editor-in-Chief

As we move along into 2022, good things continue to happen throughout the River Region and beyond. We are moving ahead on COVID-19, the masks are off (hopefully for good), and a number of neat things are on the horizon – the approach of spring, the thoughts of nicer weather, and a whole slew of exciting things to look forward to this summer.

Lewiston-Porter has some good news – right now. Its much-anticipated community education program returns Tuesday, Feb. 14, with expanded course offerings and programs to suit just about every taste. What's more, community education's return to in-person classes on the Lew-Port campus continues



to grow.

"This fall, we were able to return to in-person classes, and we were beyond pleased with the response and support," said Paul Casseri, Lewiston-Porter superintendent. "Community support

Lewiston-Porter Community Education instructor Dannelle Kohn is shown working on a rag quilt that she will be teaching in a program this semester, along with other unique sewing projects. (Submitted photo)

for the Lewiston-Porter Community Education has grown significantly. We are excited to be fully back with face-to-face classes. We will look to grow our program even further over the next few years."

Coordinator Anita Muzzi reports the winter-spring community education catalog is jam-packed with 125 class sessions to choose from. Topics run the gamut from exercise to health and wellness; music, arts and crafts; certification courses; college prep; cooking; finance; SEE LEW-PORT, continued on Page 10

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