

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

February 19, 2021 FREE 16 Pages Vol. 30 / No. 9 • Vol. 33 / No. 52



Trust Us To  
"Make it all  
Better!"

Evening Hours  
Saturday Hours  
Same Day Sick Visits

Lewiston Village  
Pediatrics  
733 Center Street, Lewiston  
www.LewistonVillagePediatrics.com 754-7337

## Pappas gives final State of the City speech

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

On Tuesday, North Tonawanda Mayor Arthur G. Pappas gave his 2021 State of the City address. It was his last such address as mayor, with his announcement last week that he would not seek reelection.



Pappas

During his address, Pappas noted many of the construction and infrastructure improvement projects that have been completed in recent years, while also spotlighting some projects and developments that are in progress.

Some of the completed projects include construction on the Downtown Placemaking Project, which featured new curb bump-outs and street trees on Webster Street; new pedestrian safety improvements, including signals, crosswalks and ADA ramps at four intersections; an expansion and realignment of Charles Fleischmann Park; and new wayfinding signage.

Pappas also cited eight new dwellings that have been constructed; a 52-unit apartment building on Grant Street, which is now occupied; and a fiber optic facility on Erle Avenue, which is now complete. Additionally, reestablishment of the shoreline along Tonawanda Creek meant to support a higher-functioning ecosystem; and green infrastructure improvements along Main Street.

In total, Pappas said more than \$24.5 million of construction work was done in 2020 despite the pandemic.

Some construction projects still underway include the connection of the existing bike path to the Empire State Trail, Niagara Riverwalk improvements, and the extension of the bike path from Mayor's Park to

## Village of Lewiston provides updates on events, public safety, bandshell & bike path

BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

As Lewiston was dealing with its first major snowstorm of 2021, village trustees met Tuesday night to discuss plans for spring and summer. Updates also were given on several long-standing projects.

### Summer Events

#### On-Street Parking

Lewiston Fire Co. No 1. Chief Les Myers asked to have a meeting to revisit on-street parking during festivals.

"This past year, we didn't have to really worry about it, because there were no festivals. It's probably time to start now, to move forward on how we can better deal with parking near Center Street," he said. "The intersections are real bad when the cars are parking right up to the side streets. The big, red fire trucks can't turn onto those side streets."

He noted existing laws are in place to ticket people who park illegally. But Lewiston Police Chief Frank Previte said the penalty is too low.

"The problem is people don't care," Previte said. "Unless you're going to talk about removing vehicles, or towing them - which is an option - people are willing to pay those fines."



Village of Lewiston elected leaders and Garden Club members are hopeful GardenFest will return in 2021. Pictured is a scene from the previous festival, in June 2019.

He explained, "They'd rather pay the \$25 or \$30" to park where they want, because that's the comparable price of parking for events in other parts of Western New York.

Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch told Myers, "I think you, me and the chief, and some of the board members, should get together and map out a plan. If you have certain intersections

that you want left open, just put it all in writing so we know to take it from there during festivals."

She suggested notifying each Center Street event organizer in

SEE STREET, continued on Page 2

## Pecoraro to run for mayor in North Tonawanda

North Tonawanda City Council President Bob Pecoraro announced his candidacy for mayor of North Tonawanda. Pecoraro said he would seek endorsements of the Republican and Conservative committees.

"North Tonawanda is on the upswing as economic development can be seen across our city, and our efforts at revitalization are paying off," Pecoraro said Wednesday. "I believe I am the right candidate to continue this renaissance while also bringing fiscal discipline to City Hall."



Pecoraro

Pecoraro devoted over 30 years of his life serving the U.S. Air Force on active duty, and commanded units from squadron and group levels. During his military career, Col. Pecoraro found himself in places such as Grenada, El Salvador, South Korea and the Persian Gulf, where he was in charge of executing key missions on behalf of this nation's military strategy.

Because of his exemplary leadership, Pecoraro was awarded 11 decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, awarded for his execution

of the air plan to defeat the Iraqi Republican Guard in Operation Desert Storm. Pecoraro also was awarded the Aerial Achievement Medal for his 100% mission success rate in Operation Southern Watch to uphold sanctions against Saddam Hussein's regime. He was twice awarded his highest medal, the Legion of Merit, for his "exceptionally meritorious conduct and outstanding services and achievements."

Pecoraro said, "I take the same approach to my government career that I did in my military career, which is examining the facts, gathering information, and then making the decision I believe is the best way to go. I don't make decisions for political reasons or

by considering how they might impact a future political career. I have never been beholden to anyone other than those I am elected to serve."

Pecoraro said every local government will be challenged financially as society begins to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, and focusing on providing the necessary services to city residents while keeping the budget under control must be the priority.

"People depend on city government to provide important services, from trash pickup and recreational services to parks and senior centers," he said. "We need to provide these services at a cost

SEE PECORARO, on Page 6



840 SENECA ST., LEWISTON  
**754-2199**

**ABBI'S TOY CORNER**  
Melissa & Doug

TOYS \* GAMES \* ART  
PUZZLES \* ROBOTS

**INGROUND POOL SALES, SERVICE & INSTALLATIONS**  
OPENINGS, CLOSINGS & WEEKLY CLEANING  
**EVERYTHING FOR YOUR POOL OR SPA**  
STORAGE SHEDS, GARAGES & CABINS  
CUSTOM BUILT & DELIVERED or BUILT ON SITE

STOP BY NEXT DOOR & CHECK OUT  
LEWISTON REDEMPTION BOTTLE & CAN RETURN

**ORDER NOW FOR SPRING ONLY**  
\$100 DEPOSIT or "RENT TO OWN"  
STARTING AT \$79. PER MONTH



**VENTRY INSURANCE**  
Auto • Home • Business • Life

Frank Ventry

Office: 371-0567  
Fax: 371-0566  
2049 Military Road  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Call Us For All Your  
Insurance Needs  
We Represent  
Multiple Carriers

Office: 957-3520  
Fax: 957-3522  
2153 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
Amherst, NY 14228

Serving Niagara  
For Over 84 Years

**GEORGE'S**  
APPLIANCE  
AND TELEVISION

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

**1422 PINE AVE.**  
Rte. 62A & 15th St., Niagara Falls, NY

www.ShopGeorges.com • 282-2121

Call Your Local Farmers Agent  
to Insure Your Home, Auto,  
Life & Business Today.

WE ARE INSURANCE. WE ARE FARMERS.™  
**716.405.7420**

PAUL HUTCHINS  
Your Local Agent  
245 PORTAGE RD  
LEWISTON, NY 14092-1710  
PHUTCHINS@FARMERSAGENT.COM



Auto | Home | Life | Business