

# Village of Lewiston identifies new bike trail connections

## Village of Lewiston updates (cont.): **ACADEMY PARK & BANDSHELL**

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Marasco said festival organizers have recently discussed moving festivals – in part or in whole – to Academy Park. The benefits there would be extra space to accommodate social distancing, more widespread access to parking and businesses (with Center Street open), and a new bandshell.

Specifically, Marasco said the Lewiston Council on the Arts, in particular, is considering this location. In permitting the LCA's event requests, trustees also voted to approve Academy Park as a substitute.

"If we have that alternate site, some of these festivals may be able to take place up there," Marasco said. "At least we keep that in mind; be hopeful for something."

Lewiston Tops owner Anthony DiMino has agreed to pay for relocating the Alphonso DiMino Memorial Bandshell – named for his late father – from the northwest park corner (across

from the Hibbard's plaza) to the southwest side adjacent to Syros Restaurant and Warren's Village Hardware. It will face the field, and is expected to have a larger staging area with new design aesthetics. DiMino financed the original bandshell build 20 years ago.

"He's put a lot of money into it," Welch said.

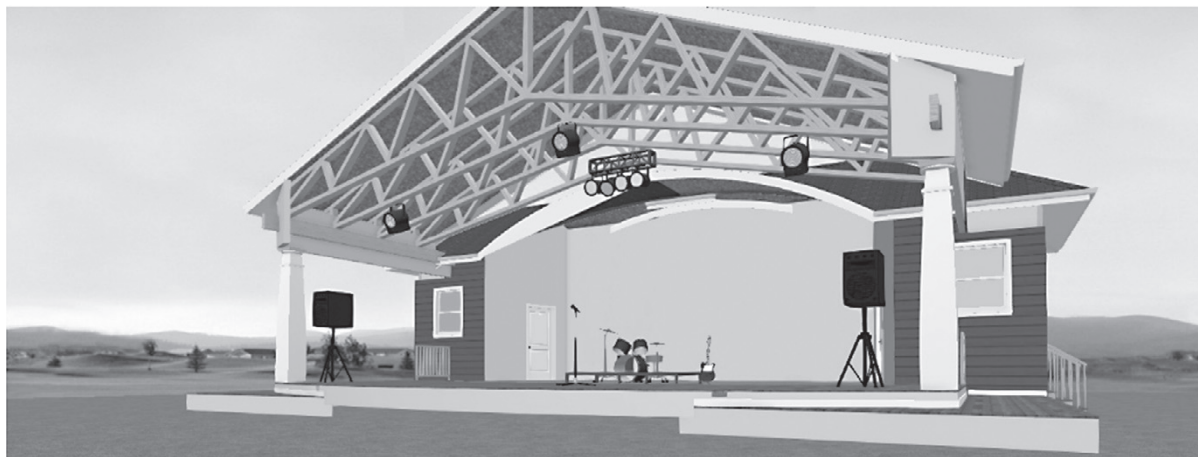
"It's really amazing what he's done," Marasco said.

"Quietly, he does a lot for the community," Welch added.

On Wednesday, DiMino said, "The only thing I can guarantee is we will be done before Memorial Day, if everything turns out right. That's the date that I'm looking to get it accomplished. That means moved, and construction started and finished."

DiMino noted he's fine with festivals and events using the bandshell.

"That's the point of actually making the bandshell bigger, or moving it, is to actually utilize it,



A rendering of the new Alphonso DiMino Memorial Bandshell courtesy of Giusiana Architects.

because they weren't utilizing it as it was," he said. "I don't own the bandshell. The bandshell will be gifted to the village, just like the last bandshell."

"My stipulation is that, from now on, it will be called the Al DiMino Memorial Bandshell."

Marasco said the new bandshell would be "three times larger."

In terms of dimensions, DiMi-

no explained, "The old bandshell is going to be the middle; and then we're putting an addition on the back of it, which will make the staging area for people in the back twice as big; and then we're extending the stage on another remodel, which is going to make it twice as large on the stage end."

He wouldn't speak to specific project costs, but said, "I know it's

not going to be cheap.

"It really don't make a difference, how much it cost for me to move it and to make it larger. My only stipulation is ... as long as we make the sacrifice of saying that the bandshell is the Al DiMino Memorial Bandshell, I don't care what the cost is. It's a tribute to my father, and all the things that he's done for the Village of Lewiston."

## Village of Lewiston updates (cont.): **BIKE TRAIL**

Welch said the Village of Lewiston has an alternate plan for continuing the Empire State Trail/Niagara River Greenway bike pathway through the village.

The existing route, which begins at Seneca and South Ninth streets, will head to Academy Park and then down Cayuga Street.

"We're still working on the bike path. We couldn't do it on Center Street; there wasn't enough square-footage to do it," Welch said. "So, we decided to come out of Academy Park and go down Ca-

yuga Street – which all the streets lead up to Center Street, to the business district. They'll still be able to go up to the businesses.

"It'll just go along Cayuga Street to Fourth Street. It'll go through the historic district. We plan on putting signage – and (Historic Preservation Commission board member) Rita Geiben has been working on a grant to redo the historic district with the antique lights and the signage. We're trying to enhance the historic district.

"But the bike path will come

down Cayuga Street to Fourth Street; from Fourth to Center; it will come past the (to-be-built inclusive) playground here (at the Red Brick Municipal Building) or down to the waterfront. There's going to be signage along the way for people to bike. And then it will go out River Road" to Fort Niagara in Youngstown.

Marasco asked, "There's no designated bike lanes (on Cayuga Street)?"

"No," Welch said. "Ours is just going to be striping on the road,

with signage on the stop signs showing the business district and the arrows to continue on the bike lane."

Welch added, "We'll also still have the Mohawk Street bike path," which exists right now, and connects from North Ninth Street.

Last year, Greenway Executive Director Greg Stevens pitched the idea of having a new, dedicated bike track on Center Street. Following a series of community conversations with local business

leaders over the summer, that idea was nixed. The proposal was not well received, and ultimately deemed impossible due to the cycle track's proximity to underground drainage.

The Empire State Trail was designed to connect Manhattan to Montreal – and, as it pertains to Western New York, Buffalo to Youngstown. Stevens said the \$200 million multiuse trail is estimated to annually bring 8.5 million bike riders to Western New York.

## Village of Lewiston updates (cont.): **WATER PRESSURE FOR FIGHTING FIRES**

Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt said now is the time for the board and Engineer Mike Marino to look into low-interest bond anticipation notes that could provide new firefighting tools for Lewiston firefighters.

"There's money out there" for water pressure improvement projects, he said.

"When we met with our (certified public accountant), he said interest rates are so low that now is the time to take a BAN out to do that project," Welch said. "I talked to Mike to get going on the plans."

"The problem is getting the water across the parkway – and I want to get that done," Eydt explained.

Following last spring's fire at

the Brickyard Brewing Company, members of Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 strongly encouraged the Village Board to take proactive action in battling future blazes.

In late-July, a surcharge and budget line was established to seed the Department of Public Works with funds to repair and eventually replace aging water lines.

Welch said then, "We only get like 40 pounds worth of pressure coming into the village, because anything larger than that blows your lines. This would allow higher pressure for when we do have a fire – that it would be more helpful."

Myers responded, "We wouldn't be able to (increase) the pressure until all the lines were changed."

When the fire broke out at the BBC, "We proved that we had a need to put some money into the infrastructure," he said.

Following the fire, Myers met with Eydt, DPW Superintendent Larry Wills, Town of Lewiston and Niagara County leaders to discuss ways to improve access to water and increase water pressure in the village. Group members also spoke of adding a new water supply, possibly from Ridge Road.

Wills said then, "The main line that feeds the village is just about 100 years old. So, if something happens to that, the only other way for us to get water immediately is up Fifth Street – which there

is not enough (pressure) from Fifth Street to feed anything up to Center."

Eydt called for a meeting with Myers, Marino, Wills and Trustee Nick Conde "to get this thing rolling again."

"I want something on the shelf, ready" for when monies become available. "I don't want to be waiting," he said Tuesday.

•The Village of Lewiston Board also voted unanimously to approve a fire contract with the Town of Lewiston and Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1.

Per the agreement, the town provides fire protection services through contracts with municipal

fire companies, while the village maintains adequate and suitable apparatus equipment and training for the furnishing of fire protection services. The town compensates the village, with a small portion of funding going to insurance (\$7,000), recruitment and retention (\$4,000) – plus service awards – but the vast sum of money (\$323,601 in total) is set for fire protection services.

The Village of Lewiston also has to maintain liability insurance of no less than \$1 million for personal injury claims, and the same amount in automobile insurance for injuries arising out of the operation of emergency vehicles.

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