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Lewiston begins police reform

Newly formed ad hoc committee considering online survey

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

The Town of Lewiston ad hoc committee on police reform has begun its series of meetings in the community.

Town Supervisor Steve Broderick, a retired Niagara County Sheriff's Office lieutenant who serves as its manager, heads the committee. Members include Councilman John Jacoby, town attorney Alfonso Marra Bax, Lewiston Police Chief Frank Previte, Lew-Port Superintendent of Schools Paul Casseri, Niagara-Wheatfield Superintendent of Schools Daniel Ljiljanich, Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch and Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt, Jennifer Pauly of the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, and James Bissell, representing the Tuscarora Nation.

Formed in response to Section 203, an executive order approved and signed into law by Gov. Andrew Cuomo last June in response to the police-involved death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and the resulting national protest, the group is charged with reviewing LPD's current deployments, strategies, policies procedures and practices. It is then called to "develop a plan to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, for the purposes of addressing the particular needs of the communities served by such police agency and promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy, and to address any ra-



At the request of Gov. Andrew Cuomo, police departments across the state – including Lewiston – are tasked with reimagining law enforcement.

cial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color."

Broderick described the group's work thus far as "very preliminary."

"We had one meeting, we distributed the manuals, it was real short, a half-hour meeting. We asked everyone to take a week and read the manuals. We're going to get together again and that will be more meat and potatoes." Broderick said its goal "is to abide by ... what the governor says we're required to do; make some changes in our community and respect everybody."

He said thus far the committee is considering an online survey to gauge to community's sentiment.

"(That) is what Middleport and Hartland (did)," Broderick said. "They put together a survey and they put it online. Anyone

who wants to fill out the survey (could do it.)

"I don't think we're going to have a public hearing, but we're going to do the survey route."

Once developed, Broderick said the survey would be on the Town of Lewiston website (www.townoflewiston.us) as well as the Lewiston Police home page and the Tuscarora Nation website. He said N-W Schools Superintendent Ljiljanich has offered to assist in its online development, adding that, "us as a group will put together the questions."

Of the anticipated input from the committee members, he said, "We're trying to get different aspects from the Town of Lewiston. Everyone has a different relationship with law enforcement – through the schools, the festivals, our schools.

SEE LEWISTON, on Page 8

Village of Lewiston

Negligent restaurant owners headed down slippery slope

Board votes to add grease trap penalties to municipal code

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

For more than a decade, past and present trustees in the Village of Lewiston have complained about inadequate grease traps in restaurants – and, even worse, eateries without any grease trap.

On Tuesday, the board voted to adopt a local law wherein a negligent restaurateur will be responsible for Department of Public Works fees related to grease backups.

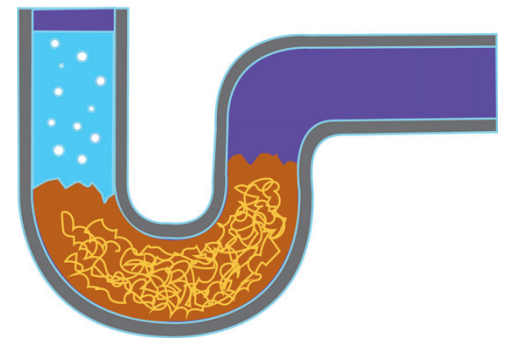
"Every time it happens, it costs us money to go and clean out his lines and our lines," Mayor Anne Welch said.

She explained, "We had wording that we're going to add to our code. ... We have a lot in our code already that takes care of the grease and the lines and stuff, but just to add this one little section. It says, 'Sewer backups and plugged sewer lines caused by the discharge of grease into the sanitary sewer lines from businesses, the owner will be charged for the cost of the grease removal and cleaning of the sewer lines.'"

Fees could be as little as a few hundred dollars, or as high as \$2,000, depending on the level

of work required to unclog the lines. Additional fines could be levied should court action be necessary.

On Wednesday, DPW Superintendent Larry Wills said, "What happens with grease in the restaurant is ... from the dishwasher



ers and the sinks, the grease is warm. ... It's hot and flowable. So, once it runs down their sewer, and it starts to hit our main – or maybe downstream in the main – then it starts to solidify and starts sticking to the inside of the pipes. The sewer main pipes. It starts to build up and then it causes blockage going back up the street."

The DPW has to clean out the grease and any debris it collects.

"The Town of Porter, the Town of Lewiston and the Village of Lewiston, and the Village of SEE MAY, continued on Page 5

North Tonawanda: Snowflake Ball canceled

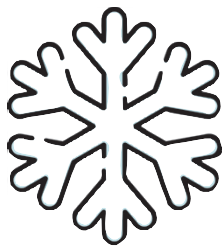
From City of North Tonawanda Mayor Arthur Pappas:

Due to the uncertainty of the restrictions going forward for COVID-19, unfortunately the Mayor's Charity Snowflake Ball will not be held in February. Since masks and social distancing are in effect, as well as groups no larger than 25 people gathering, the ball seems impossible to host this year.

In addition, it is difficult to ask

the local businesses of the area to make substantial donations as they have in the past since they are struggling to keep their businesses going through this pandemic.

Therefore, we are asking you to support those businesses, which have been so gracious in donating for



the past years. They include Sherwood Florist, Market in the Square, Roman Café, Panes, Dockside, Webster Bistro, Submasters, Hide Away Grill, Say Cheesecake and Platters.

The organizations who received proceeds previously were the YWCA, Boy Scouts, Twin City Community

Outreach, Niagara Community Action Program, Nor-Ton Red Jacket Club, Stephen Sikora Post, Boys and Girls Club, Twin City Meals on Wheels, and the Vietnam Veterans WNY. All were most appreciative of the contributions.

Every sponsor and donor made the night a festive event enjoyed by all attendees, and we are saddened that this year the event reluctantly is canceled like

so many other wonderful events. Mayor Art Pappas and wife, Linda.

Former mayor and current New York State Sen. Rob Ort began the ball in 2010. Pappas has carried on the tradition for the past six years. Many local not-for-profit organizations have been helped by the financial assistance created by the event.

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