

# Lew-Port senior proud of flag

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a nation that is filled with opportunities for everyone no matter their gender, race, religion, sexuality, etc. Most importantly, the American flag represents pride and patriotism. I feel proud to see the red, white, and blue waving in the wind."

With that essay answer, the Lewiston-Porter High School senior won a \$750 scholarship from Veterans of Foreign Wars Downriver Post 7487.

A check presentation took place Monday at the "Circle of Honor" veterans monument in Academy Park.

"I loved the topic and I think, especially in the world today – with everything going on – the flag is such a great symbol of our country," Auer said. "It was such a fun essay to write. I feel like I encapsu-

lated everything."

Her grandfather, Tom Dugan, served in the Army and fought in the Vietnam War.

"It's just super special to me," Auer said. "My grandpa means a lot to me, and so the fact that his sacrifice to our country was able to give me this award – I can't describe it."

In her essay, Auer wrote, "For as long as I can remember, my grandfather has had an American flag on his porch. Every day precisely at sunset, I watch my grandfather carefully roll up his flag, and bring it inside his house. The process is repeated every morning at sunrise where the flag returns to its resting place. This type of dedication to the flag is hardly seen any more. Seeing a veteran respect the flag as if it were a piece of gold, makes me believe in its symbol-



Pictured, from left, Andrew, Lisa, Alyssa and Sophie Auer; Leslie and Tom Dugan; Graciana Auer; VFW Cmdr. Gordon Spencer and VFW members Bruce Sutherland and Bill Justyk.

ism even more."

The Lewiston resident plans to attend Fredonia State College, where she will major in biology and play Division III soccer. She plans to put the scholarship money toward her education.

"I want to go into the FBI, which is going to be a lot of schooling, but this scholarship will definitely help," Auer said.

Former VFW Cmdr. Bill Justyk said scholarship funds come from poppy sales.

He also noted the "Circle of Honor" will add 45 names to its commemorative stones ahead of Veterans Day. Those looking to add another name have until July 15 to submit an entry. Visit <https://lewistonvfw.org/>.

# Scout working on dog park project

Eagle Scout candidate Liam Robinson of Boy Scout Troop 855 is working with the Recreation Board of Youngstown to transform Veterans Park field No. 5 into a dog park. This will be done through the expansion of existing fencing to create two separate areas for smaller and bigger dogs. Existing trash receptacle holders and benches will have their wood and bolts replaced and painted. After the project is approved by the local Boy Scout Council, funds can be raised to purchase the materials needed to finish the project.



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dog park be created at Veterans Park in Youngstown for his Eagle Scout project. Robinson worked with the Recreation Board of Youngstown to develop the dog park proposal and it was recently approved by the Youngstown Village Board.

We would like to thank the board for its approved financial support of the project.

Baseball field No. 5 at Veterans Park is an underutilized part of the park and will be repurposed to create the dog park. The renovations will start with the expansion of the existing fencing to

enclose the infield section of the diamond to create two separate areas. There will be a smaller, 4,000-square-foot enclosure and a larger, 12,000-square-foot enclosure. The two areas will allow families with larger and smaller dogs to both enjoy the park at the same time. Existing dugouts will allow dog owners to sit and watch as their dogs play in the new off-leash areas. The project also includes refurbishing the existing trash receptacle holders, replacing the wood on the benches, installing dog waste stations, and dog park signage.

Fundraising efforts are underway to purchase the materials needed to complete the project, which is anticipated to be completed by the end of July. The fencing materials for the dog park will be provided by Fox Fence Inc. The fence material is being provided at below cost by Trustee Mark Fox.

Youngstown's recreation director, Jeff Gruarin, said, "We're looking forward to the dog park being the first of many projects at Veterans Park. Liam's idea allows us to use old (baseball) infrastructure in a new, creative way."

The Village Recreation Board will plan a family, pet-friendly event in Veterans Park to celebrate the project's completion and debut a master plan for the park. Follow the Village of Youngstown Recreation Department for more information on the event details as they're made available.

For more information regarding this project, or to learn how to get involved, please contact Liam Robinson at [lrobinson797@gmail.com](mailto:lrobinson797@gmail.com) or Kyle Heath at [kheath67@gmail.com](mailto:kheath67@gmail.com).

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