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Ortt recognizes Brickyard Pub & BBQ as 'Small Business of the Month' for July

New York State Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt (far left) presented his "Small Business of the Month" award to The Brickyard Pub & BBQ and owners Ken Bryan (center) and Eric Matthews.

Ortt said the accolade was based on feedback his office received attesting to the contributions restaurant staffers have made to Lewiston and Niagara County.

"We had several submissions going back several months basically recognizing Brickyard BBQ. I was certainly familiar with it but, again, far be it for me to just pick the business myself," he said Thursday morning at the Center Street eatery. "We want to hear from the community. So, whether it was your staff, whether it was customers ... or even just people being here in the Village of Lewiston that really, I think, appreciate what you do, the product you put out, your role in the community, your involvement in the community."

He commended Bryan and Matthews for fighting their way through the pandemic and said the Brickyard's success is "a testament to your brand, your customers and your workers."

"This is a small way, on behalf of the Senate and on behalf of my office in our district, to present you guys our 'Business of the Month.'"

Bryan said community support over the past 18 months – and especially after a fire damaged both The Brickyard and the adjoining Brickyard Brewing Company in May 2020 – has been "overwhelming."



"We're extremely lucky," he said.

Matthews thanked the community for patronizing The Brickyard, buying BBC beer locally (it's available at Tops and the Artisan Farmers Market), and offering words of support.

"We can't say enough about the community, and the staff we have is amazing," he said.

The Brickyard is located at 432 Center St., Lewiston.

NYS DOT details \$5.7M project to address intersections along NF Blvd.



BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

On Wednesday, the New York State Department of Transportation held a public hearing at the Wheatfield Community Center to outline a proposed \$5.7 million project meant to make some historically dangerous spots along Niagara Falls Boulevard safer.

Two of the project's main target areas include boulevard intersection points at Ward Road and Witmer Road, areas which residents and local officials have called on the DOT to remedy for years.

According to the DOT, the Ward Road intersection sees 1.28 accidents per million entering vehicles (Acc/MEV), more than double the statewide average for comparable intersections (.54 Acc/MEV). Of these accidents, rear-end crashes account for 51% of 39 accidents observed in the three-year study period. Last year, the Tribune/Sentinel reported that, according to the Niagara County Sheriff's Office, there had been 48 accidents at the intersection of Ward Road and NFB since 2016, 16 of which resulted in serious injury.

The Witmer Road intersection sees 1.07 Acc/MEV versus a statewide average of .32 Acc/MEV with rear-end crashes accounting for 58% of 26 accidents in the same three-year study period.

NYS DOT Region 5 Public Information Officer Susan S. Surdej said plans had been in talks for a while to address the problem, but the DOT has struggled to balance "needs and a limited amount of resources."

"We have a dedicated amount of funding and we have to prioritize our projects, so we go through and we rank our projects. The intersections of both Ward and Witmer have higher than the statewide average for accidents. ... So, it's time we did a project here," she said. "Hopefully, this will be a very well-received project, but we're here (tonight) just trying to get comments back from the people; taking any feedback. This is our proposed project but ... we're open to comments at this point. These are only preliminary designs. This is the time to really get feedback from the community and that's exactly why we're here tonight."

Last year, the DOT implemented a few small

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Youngstown Village Diner marks 20 years on Main Street

Co-owner Cathy Pasquantino calls diner experience 'a love'

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

You likely know it as the go-to place in Youngstown for breakfast, lunch and dinner. But did you know the Youngstown Village Diner is turning 20 this year?

Cathy Pasquantino, co-owner of this long-time village favorite, alongside husband John, proudly calls this business experience a lifetime love.

"It's been a fast, great 20 years! We've got the most amazing loyal customers and staff. We all work as a family, a team, a love," she said. "It's kind of cool to see babies that were born and now they're in college, ya know. Over 20 years!"

Cathy and John took over the former D.J.'s Restaurant in the early 2000s and renamed it the Youngstown Village Diner. Familiar faces among the Niagara County hospitality



Congrats to Cathy and John on a very successful 20 years – and all the best for 20 more. By the way, that western omelet with home fries, coffee and rye toast was awesome!



business community for decades, the two previously operated various motels and restaurants in the Niagara Falls and Lewiston areas before taking on their new business venture.

And it was there the Pasquantino's fell in love with quaint Youngstown, and the village community with them.

The Village Diner quickly became known for its delicious

SEE YOUNGSTOWN, continued on Page 8

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