

County announces youth employment grant

The Niagara County Workforce Development Board (NCWDB) was awarded a \$250,000 grant through Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Gun Violence Prevention Initiative to focus on providing permanent jobs to Niagara Falls youth ages 18-24. Niagara Falls is one of 20 cities receiving these funds in partnership with the New York State Department of Labor.

"The goal of the program is to prevent gun violence by helping the young population find meaningful jobs and careers," said Bonnie Rice, the NCWDB's executive director.

The NCWDB, in conjunction with Niagara County Employment & Training Department, will use the funds to provide a 90% wage reimbursement to local employers who hire and train the young people selected for the initiative. The young workers will also receive work readiness training, career coaching, and short-term training as needed. Assistance with transportation costs, work outfits, and other employment barriers may also be available.

"We're very excited to provide

this opportunity for young people in Niagara Falls," Rice said. "Our local youth need jobs, and businesses need workers. This funding will help to lower the hiring and training costs for businesses while providing jobs for youth. It's a great way to meet both needs simultaneously."

Employers who may want to be part of the program should visit www.niagarawdb.com. Interested young people between the ages 18-24 who live in the City of Niagara Falls should call 278-8108. Information will be updated regularly.

Questions arise over Townline Road solar project

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

Monday's regular meeting was a busy one for Lewiston Town Board members. Newsmakers included a planned state Department of Transportation improvement project for Hyde Park Boulevard; a favorable 2020 town audit report from Drescher Malecki LLP; Lewiston Police traffic concerns (see related story); and new questions arising over the Townline Road commercial-grade utility solar project by Saturn Power.

Focusing on the solar project that saw more than a few complaints lodged by residents at last month's public hearing, Town Supervisor Steve Broderick reviewed one matter over a nearby National Fuel gas line as well as landscaping and coverage concerns voiced earlier.

With regard to a National Fuel line as to its location, Broderick said he found no major concerns and went on to suggest placement of 10-foot trees bordering the project (versus an earlier 6-foot height proposed by the developer) to address the landscaping and coverage issues. He then directed the Town Board to begin the approval process with the Saturn Power developer toward declaring a negative declaration.

It was then that a Townline Road resident stepped in.

"Before you vote on that, I'd like to ..." an unnamed woman said.

Before she could continue, Broderick said the project's concerns were aired at last month's public hearing. Still, the resident went on to cite an issue over a barn construction project already started, and of anticipated conflicts with the planned solar farm construction nearby. She said Attorney for the Town Alfonso Marra Bax was supposed to get back with her and that has yet to happen.

"You didn't answer my question at the public hearing. A lawyer was supposed to get back with me, and no one ever got back. My barn is already started," she said.

The board moved to approve the procedural negative dec. with Saturn Power without major comment. It then went on to hear the resident's concerns.

"So I asked, what would happen with this project since my building permit was already approved to put the barn in. We already started," the woman said. "Will they still have to move an existing distance back off our property to build their solar power, or will they be close and we'll have to go back into variance for this?"

Following some discussion among the board and Building Inspector Tim Masters, it was found the resident's building permit for the barn was, in fact, approved ear-

lier. Town officials then realized adjustments needed to be made.

"I'm not expecting there to be any additional inconveniences to you. But we'll meet you halfway on your property, make sure we'll get that all worked out," Bax said.

"Well, what do I do? Do I continue building a barn? I don't want my animals on top of a solar farm," she said.

"Understood," Bax replied. "We'll talk to you right after this."

On a question from Town Councilman John Jacoby on whether the resident's concern would affect the just-approved negative dec., Bax said no. It was then found, after further discussion among members, the barn construction matter was brought up at the earlier Planning Board meeting.

"I remember listening to it," Jacoby said. "I do seem to think that we had promised a response to her."

"I'm not going to move my barn," the woman replied to a question posed by Bax over location. "I'm not going to put my animals on top of a solar farm."

Responding, Bax said, "There was a comment made at the public hearing about a barn. My assumption had been that, because it requires a permit, that those two (issues) had been engaged together, considering where her barn is in reference to the solar farm, and that they were addressed at the appropriate time."

Masters said he felt all issues concerning setbacks and the barn construction were addressed at the earlier Planning Board session. "I guess the question that comes into play is that in the meantime

from when this came to Planning and now the Town Board, which is quite a distance away, somebody comes in and does a barn in that setback. Is the burden now (on) the solar farm before their approval can move ... or is the barn (already constructed) so they can't?" Turns out, the question over the actual distance found a 78-foot difference existed when factoring in the barn construction, the town learned.

Bax commented, "It would be indifferent to this solar application, because it (the barn application) would be an application that came after this was in the process to be approved."

Following an executive session among town officials to discuss the matter, Broderick returned and stated, "We feel comfortable at this time moving forward in our decision."

With that, the board went on to approve a revised Saturn Power site plan application with five requirements added. They include: submission of a fully funded de-commissioning bond that is acceptable to the town attorney and engineer prior to issuing a building permit to remain in compliance with town solar codes; execution of an agreed-to PILOT agreement with Saturn Power and the town; that the solar project would be in compliance with Agriculture and Markets stipulations concerning solar energy construction on farms; and that it would include the landscape buffering of 10-foot trees on the screening area and a bee-friendly groundcover.

The resolution was then approved and the matter closed.



Mad Hatter Tea House opens on Center Street

The second tenant to open in attorney Alfonso Marra Bax's building at 442-444 Center is the Mad Hatter Tea House. Owner Barbara Gray said the Lewiston space, which faces the road, is a combination teashop and Shawn's Gate Art Studio.

Inside the store, tea and tea products are for sale. In the fall months, Gray said hot tea, coffee and soup will be offered in-store. She also has a line of CBD products.

Shawn's Gate offers art classes - which are already booked. Gray said customers can feel free to come in and not worry about disrupting lessons.

Following a soft opening, the Mad Hatter Tea House is expected to be open from 10:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

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Backpack Concerns

As the old adage states, "As a tree is bent, so it grows", this is true of our children too. An increasing number of them are beginning to complain of pain in the neck, back, shoulder and arms from the weight of their backpack. The top of the shoulder, where the straps of the backpack rest, has many nerves and blood vessels that serve the head, neck, arms, hands and back. An additional problem is the way some children carry their packs, slung over one shoulder. To complicate the matter, many are looking down at their phones for extended periods of time, adding undue stress to the upper back and neck.

Students should carry only 10% of their body weight in their backpacks, but typically carry up to 30-40%. As a result, a student's growing and developing spine and body are susceptible to any or all of the following ailments: *strained muscles, worsened posture (forward head/rounded shoulders), neck spasms, tingling hands, headaches, dizziness, numbness in hands and arms, shoulder and lower back pain and aggravated curvature of the spine (scoliosis).*

Be alert to these warning signs that indicate your child needs to be checked by a chiropractor. Regular spinal checkups and the right backpack can mean the difference between a healthy spine or a lifelong battle with chronic pain and poor posture. Scoliosis can be improved with specific chiropractic procedures available at our office.

Rose Chiropractic, P.C. is a natural health care practice located at 435 Ridge St., Lewiston. Call 754-9039 for complementary spinal exam for your child (Valid until August 31, 2021).

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Presbyterian Church for
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ON ADVENTURE ISLAND!**
August 9th-13th: 9 AM- Noon

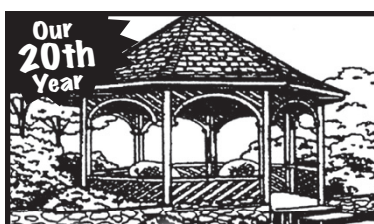


We will be enforcing masking for all participants.
COVID-19 precautions are subject to change.

Pre-Registration Required. Register online
(youngstownpres.org) on our homepage or contact
Rev. Steve Hong: stevehong@youngstownpres.org.

Lewiston Council on the Arts
presents the 2021
Lewiston Art Festival
Sat. Aug 14 • 10am-6pm
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Center St., Lewiston, NY

ArtCouncil.org



Village of Youngstown
FREE Concerts 2021
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July 30 - The Jerry Andres Band
(Music for all Ages)

August 6 - 2nd Time Around
(Vintage Rock)

August 13 - Joe & the Shmoes
(Classic Rock of the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's)

August 20 - Mackenzie Highlanders Pipes and Drums
(Celtic Bagpipes)

Concerts are free to the public, but donations are graciously accepted!
NOTE: rain location (if needed) will be the Red Brick gym, 240 Lockport St.

The Concert Series is by generous contributions made in memory of former Mayor Neil C. Riordan by many friends and businesses who knew how much the concert series meant to Neil.

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