

Academy Park options expand with new bandshell location, stage options



With the Alphonso DiMino Memorial Bandshell moved to a new location this week, new options have opened up for Lewiston's Academy Park. Additional work is slated for the comfort station and a tie-in will be built with the Niagara River Greenway Trail bike path. (Photos by Terry Duffy and Joshua Maloni)

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•Gazebo:
Adjacent to the former bandshell site is a gazebo Lewiston Kiwanians have used for Peach Festival announcements. It was also used last summer for the Lewiston Artisan Farmers Market.

Unfortunately, Welch said the hut is not in great shape. She called it the "Leaning Tower of Lewiston."

"We've got to figure out what to do with that little gazebo, be-

cause it's leaning. It's got to be either structurally fixed, or we'll have to take it down," she said.

Eydt noted, "It looks in better shape than what it is."

Welch said, "Maybe we talk to Kiwanis, and maybe they get their guys together to stabilize it and fix it, and then (DPW Superintendent) Larry (Wills) can move it?"

•Roadway:
The Town of Lewiston created a stone driveway into Academy

Park to accommodate setup of an ice rink that was operated in front of the bandshell in past, prepandemic years. That attraction is not expected to return to Academy Park.

"We're going to leave the road in, temporarily, at least through the Peach Festival, and then we'll probably take that out," Eydt said.

•Comfort station:
"We're going to start on the restroom (renovation), because

we got the grant for that," Welch said. "We're getting some estimates for that; so, we're going to do that this summer, too."

•Bike path:
The Niagara River Greenway Trail bike path, which traverses the Niagara Scenic Parkway to an off-ramp at Seneca Street, will circle Academy Park, go down Cayuga Street, go up Fourth Street to the Red Brick and the new inclusive playground, and then continue down River Road

to Youngstown.

Welch said a promenade will be created in between the new bathroom building and the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce office.

•Electric car-charging stations:

The Village of Lewiston has received grant money to install a pair of electric car-charging ports. Eydt said one will be placed near the chamber office, with a second going on Water Street – likely by the fish-cleaning station.

•Art installations:
Welch has said it makes sense to celebrate Lewiston's lauded artistic community by showcasing artworks inside or on the periphery of Academy Park.

However, "We had to stop all the art (planning) meetings, because of COVID," she said. "We have to get back to doing that again, too. Mike Hibbard is trying to get his place open (the new Gallo at Center and North Fourth streets), and he's going to start with the art down there. But, yeah, I want to get the group back together and see what we can do around the village, and maybe along the walkway over there put some pieces and have art in the park."

All in all, "I think we're on the right track with redoing this park," Welch said. "I think, as you can see, it's a beautiful park; and moving this and taking the old bleachers down."

"It's just going to give it a whole new life," Eydt said.

"And this is our premier park; this is what it's meant to be," Welch said. "It's meant to be for the residents and visitors. ... Like I say, this is a big park that we can have big events."

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