

Lewiston-Porter Sentinel

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RIVER REGION STILL **OPEN** FOR BUSINESS

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

In the interest of public safety, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has severely curtailed the ways in which people can gather together. Restaurants and bars are limited to takeout and delivery; movie theaters, bowling alleys, shopping malls and hair salons are temporarily closed; events are cancelled; and nonessential businesses have to reduce workforce 100%.

This is a difficult period of time, as the world contends with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Centers for Disease Control has said "social distancing" is one of the most effective ways in which the spread of the coronavirus can be limited. New York's elected leaders have echoed that statement, and closed municipal buildings and other indoor spaces.

Essentially, the public has been asked to be diligent and work toward some form of social isolation.

At the same time, locally owned businesses still have bills that are due and workers who need to be paid. They cannot afford to close for weeks at a time.

In the River Region, merchants are getting creative with ways in which to serve the public and maintain some level of income.

Though eateries are closed to the public, many are offering takeout, delivery and curbside pickup options.

"The Village Bake Shoppe: We are baking; we are open; we are here 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.," owner Michael Fiore said.

"I am trying to stay open as long as I can get supplies.



Lewiston restaurants are offering takeout, to-go and curbside pickup options.

Supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, food delivery service to remain open

Gov. Andrew Cuomo is mandating all nonessential workers stay home. That does **NOT** include supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, banks, health care operations, laundromats or food delivery service. Garbage collection and postal delivery also will continue. Find more details on The Sentinel website, www.wnypapers.com.

Monday, Thursday, Friday, 6:30 a.m. till 10 a.m. No Saturday at this time. Please stay safe," Jane's Café Express owner Jane Kusmierz said. Her business has a drive-thru window.

Casa Antica, known for its oversized dinners, has come up with a special menu of portable items.

It's "the meals that are everyone's favorites, and subs due to the fact that we are serving at lunchtime," owner Angela Soldano-Bellanca said. A larger, pizza-included package can be purchased, she said, for larger families that "may want to have leftovers."

Several small business owners are offering services without having to open their brick-and-mortar locations.

"Inspirations on Canvas is available for sales by phone.

be able to discover a library of fitness classes and yoga practices – with the instructors you know, trust and love!" (Find the link on The Sentinel website).

A list of restaurants offering takeout and delivery can be found inside today's paper, courtesy of the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce and Modern Disposal.

Chamber President Jennifer Pauly compiled a list of open businesses, which can be found both on the chamber website, www.niagarariverregion.com, and on The Sentinel website, www.wnypapers.com.

Local business owners are encouraged to reach out to Joshua Maloni at josh@wnypapers.com, or connect on social media @joshuamaloni.

Village of Lewiston encourages residents to be smart, stay safe

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

At Monday's Village of Lewiston Board meeting, Mayor Anne Welch reiterated a message the clerk's office sent out earlier in the day regarding COVID-19.

"We just want everybody to be smart, and stay healthy, and stay safe," she told a room where the three audience members were seated

at a distance from one another, as part of the Centers for Disease Control coronavirus guidelines.

Welch said, "Our office is still operating; we just don't want the general public to be coming in."

On Wednesday, she announced the Red Brick Municipal Building is closed to the general public until further notice.

Welch said this is in compliance

with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's state directives on "social distancing" and limiting public gatherings.

"It's beneficial to them, and us, if everybody just keeps their distance," she said.

Municipal departments making changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic include:

Lewiston Police Department
"We've been very busy," Lew-

iston Police Department Chief Frank Previte said. "We are changing our practices a little bit, as far as limiting access to the building. So, if you do have anybody who calls, please encourage them, for non-emergency situations, to call.

"We have a protocol now. The officers will take the report over the phone, as opposed to respond-

ing in somebody's house, instead.

"For emergency calls, things will remain the same; no change." Previte also said officers will be equipped with masks.

Clerk's Office

Clerk Shannon Fundis, Treasurer Stephanie Myers and Deputy Clerk Donna Vazquez are working from home.

SEE LPD, continued on Page 12

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