

# Memorial Day luncheon cancelled; parade and ceremony on hold

**BY NORM MACHELOR**

Chairman of Lewiston's Memorial Day Remembrance Committee

Lewiston's Memorial Day Remembrance Committee (LMDRC) announced that our Memorial Day free town and village community luncheon has been cancelled for 2020. Of course, the reason is the coronavirus. The governor has required that we not gather in large groups, and serving 500-700 people lunch under a huge tent certainly looks like what he was talking about.

We also felt that our principal providers of this meal should not be burdened by being asked to donate thousands of dollars in prepared free food while they are under severe stress to their businesses because of the shut-down caused by the virus. We greatly appreciate their continued willingness to do so. So, thank you to the Brickyard Companies; Tops for the essential water and ice; and Hibbard's Custard for your contributions to these events for several years to feed this commu-

nity after our ceremonial remembrance of our honored military dead.

The LMDRC gathered by conference call on Saturday the 21st and decided to postpone a decision on also cancelling our town and village parade and community celebration at the Veterans Memorial at Academy Park. This will be discussed at our conference call on April 4. These decisions by the committee will depend on the then-current virus situation, government regulations, and also on the decisions of each of the parade participants regarding their willingness to bring their groups to a public parade.

If you are normally a Parade Participant, we ask you to contact me at 866-6880 and discuss your unit's possible participation in this year's parade and main ceremony. Your input will help the executive committee reach an informed decision. Thanks.

The LMDRC has been completely responsible for the Memorial Day parade, main ceremony

and the luncheon since 2015, with the VFW Post providing the wreath-laying part. The VFW Post commander stated that the post would do its portion of the ceremony at 11 a.m. on Memorial Day if the LMDRC is forced to cancel the parade and main ceremony. The VFW will notify the public of their plans in the newspapers.

LMDRC will also be contacting our donors to ask each of them if they wish to have their donations returned or if they will agree to "roll them over" to 2021's events. Flags and other items purchased for this year's event will be used next year.

We are sad that this decision and the future decisions on the parade and main ceremony have to be made. We won't repeat all the things we have heard again and again about this virus. Truly, we are all in this together. We are optimistic that things may get better sooner than we think. Thank you for your continued support of these community events.

## Online kindergarten registration at Lew-Port

From the Lewiston-Porter Central School District:

If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in September 2020, we are delighted to welcome you and your kindergarten to our program. The first step to the kindergarten adventure is the registration process.

For the first time the Primary Education Center will offer an online registration option beginning Monday, March 30. Parents may register children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2020, online at [www.lew-port.com](http://www.lew-port.com) on the new student registration page and at a link on the Primary Education

Center home page.

Please note the information you will need to upload to officially have your child registered for kindergarten

- Student proof of age: original birth certificate and/or passport
- Parent photo identification: driver's license and/or passport
- Proof of residency: two of the following: vehicle registration, vehicle insurance card, utility bill, medical insurance card, homeowners insurance statement, payroll document, \*lease, \*purchase offer, \* letter from builder-must be on builder's letterhead (the documents with a \* must be signed and include your name, district address, closing date, and/or certificate of occupancy)
- Record of immunizations

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# Modern Disposal acquires Republic Services' WNY operations

Family-owned company grows jobs, customer base for future

Modern Disposal Services, a family-owned company founded locally in 1964, recently announced its acquisition of the Western New York operations of Phoenix-based Republic Services, the nation's second-largest waste-disposal company.

The transaction, for which terms were not announced, is expected to close in approximately three months. Modern is headquartered on Model City Road in Lewiston, and Republic's local operation is based out of 2315 Kenmore Ave., Town of Tonawanda.

Modern's acquisition includes Republic's local headquarters, all its hauling, and recycling operations in Erie, Niagara and Orleans counties. That includes all trucks, maintenance facilities and equipment, containers, sorting machines and buildings.

The transaction does not include a landfill visible from the 190 expressway off Porter Road in the Town of Niagara, or a closed facility on Indian Road in Depew, for which Republic retains ownership.

Republic has about 2,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers and nearly 100 employees in Western New York. Many of those employees will have the opportunity to apply for jobs at Modern as it expands to handle a larger customer base.

"This is a good-news story for Modern's growth, but it's also a substantial benefit for the whole Western New York region," said Modern CEO Michael P. McInerney. "While competition remains strong in the region among dozens of other collectors, this combination means increased local ownership, on-site management, job retention, and economic growth here."

Modern currently has more than 600 employees in Western New York and Southern Ontario,

some 350 trucks, and is a leading local recycler of mixed residential materials. Modern handles collection and recycling for municipal waste, including the City of Buffalo's recycling program. With facilities in Model City, Blasdell and on Elk Street in Buffalo, along with operations in Niagara Falls and Smithville, Ontario, the company has more than 10,000 commercial customers and 250,000 residential customers.

Modern's plans are to integrate the Republic customers into its current operations. Modern officials will begin contacting Republic customers to assure them of uninterrupted service by Republic until the deal closes, followed by a seamless transition to Modern.

Under state law, Republic filed a WARN notice earlier, notifying its employees of the company's exit from the market in approximately three months.

"My message to our employees, and to all Modern and Republic customers, is that there will be seamless continuity, continued commitment to safety, and dedication to continue as an employer of choice in the industry," Mc-

Inerney said. "For now, we want people to know that in the face of unsettled news around the globe, they can count on Modern as a growing, local company with our region's best interests in mind."

### More About Modern Corp.

In 1964, Steve Washuta incorporated Modern Disposal Services as a way to expand his seasonal paving company into a business that could provide a steady source of income for his family. As the region's industrial base grew, Washuta's dedication and strong work ethic helped his new business develop from a humble two-truck operation in Western New York into the 20th largest waste removal company in the U.S.

Today, Modern is still a privately owned waste removal company. It employs over 600 people in Western New York, as well as Southern Ontario. Modern is committed to the most innovative and responsible methods of materials management and recycling. Modern received the 2017 Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation Award from The Association of Fundraising Professionals Western New York Chapter.

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