

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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Shown is a scene from a recent Olcott Lions 'Swim for Sight' event. (Olcott Lions photo)

Olcott Lions 'Swim for Sight' returns this Sunday

Lakeside tailgate party opens at 10 a.m.

BY TERRY DUFFY

Editor-in-Chief

Joining a growing list of activities back on the scene from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Olcott Lions Club will host its 53rd annual "Polar Bear Swim for Sight" fundraiser at Krull County Park in Olcott Beach on Sunday. The fun gets underway at 10 a.m. and continues throughout the early afternoon.

"Get ready! For 2022, we're back bigger, and better after a rather unique 2021," the Olcott Lions said. ... "We've listened to you and will be doing our famous #freezin4Reason at the historic Olcott Lions 'Polar

Bear Swim/Plunge' on Sunday, March 6."

The event was held last year on Sunday, May 23 – months from the traditional early March timeframe. Olcott Lions officials said that, like last year, they'll continue to err on the side of caution when it comes to holding this popular fundraiser, which typically draws hundreds to the hamlet.

"We delayed announcing the swim during this time when the omicron variant is the new headline each day," the club said. "We wanted to make sure we were confident that we could keep both participants and spectators safe. Being a completely

SEE LIONS, continued on Page 12

North Tonawanda: Tylec establishes financial advisory committee



North Tonawanda Mayor Austin Tylec has created a financial advisory committee intended to improve the city's budget process, support its accounting department, facilitate communication and work between elected leaders, and to serve as a resource for the community.

His team said, "As a city alderman, Tylec was known for his government transparency and his data-driven vision for North Tonawanda."

Tylec said, "If there is one thing I am proud to say regarding my legacy as alderman-at-large, it's that I've always fought for transparency and critical thinking. I pushed for better finance management for the city, and I'm proud to say that this board will carry out that goal."

The mission of the board is to review and monitor the progress the city has made since the last management letter from Drescher & Malecki auditors; continue with each of the future management letter responses; and to make recommendations to help ensure the city is in compliance with its purchasing policies.

The citizens who volunteered to be on this committee are William J. VanDewater, Michele Golding, Jeannette Toth and Timothy Pieper. Tylec's team said, "Combined, these citizens have extensive backgrounds in municipal budgets, accounting practices and financial planning. These members are dedicated to aiding the city, and there is great confidence the board will be a valuable resource going forward."

"These individuals have volunteered their time and experience to help our city, and they should be commended," Tylec said. "Their experience in public finance, business management and statistics will greatly bolster our city's efforts to provide a balanced budget for our residents."

The financial advisory committee is currently in place. Inquiries to the board can be sent to the chairman, VanDewater, at WVanDewater@NorthTonawanda.org.

From left: Pieper, Toth, Tylec, VanDewater and Golding. (Submitted photo)

Lewiston marks two years since shutdown with return of 'Sip. Shop. Eat!'

BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

When the coronavirus hit Western New York in March 2020, it was hoped the resulting shutdown would only last two weeks. Of course, businesses were shuttered for months – and COVID-19 is still a part of day-to-day planning nearly two years later.

But the virus hasn't stopped residents from supporting Lewiston merchants.

In fact, residents have rallied behind retailers and restaurateurs to such levels that, even

without a steady influx of tourists, some merchants recorded record sales in 2020-21.

Noble intentions notwithstanding, what has appealed to these people about local products and services?

Well, store owners hope you'll see for yourself next Saturday, when they'll present the third iteration of "Sip. Shop. Eat!"

The event was originally scheduled for February, but was postponed due to COVID-19 positivity rates and stricter safety/masking protocols in place at that time.

Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce Director of Membership Chuck Barber said, "Historically, they started this event to be near Valentine's Day, because

SEE LEWISTON, on Page 6

Crowds looking to "Sip. Shop. Eat!" in 2019 could do all of the above at Inspirations on Canvas. Pictured, from left, are artist Kathy Pignatora, Niagara Craft Spirits distillery owner Todd Snyder, Dr. Neal Pignatora, Buffalo's Pat Monroe and Wheatfield's Gigi Boyd. The event returns to Lewiston on Saturday, March 12. (File photo)





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