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Milling underway on Center St. — but businesses are open



BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

Don't let the empty parking spaces fool you: Center Street businesses are open, as usual.

Curb-to-curb milling began Monday and prevented patrons from parking along the roadway (from about Eighth Street to Fourth Street) during the day. Some degree of interruption will continue at least throughout this week, if not longer, as crews prepare to repave the road.

Merchants are making alternate arrangements for guests.

Chris Budde of Brewed and Bottled Craft Beer Shop is asking patrons to park on Ridge Street and walk to his store. The same goes for his neighbors at Battle Flag Tavern, Mad Hatter and Sgt. Peppers Hot Sauces, Etc.

Leandra Collesano said, "For Lewiston Love and retailers next to us on the north side of the 400 block, there is plenty of parking in the Frontier House parking lot – accessed via Ridge Street. It's just a beautiful walk through the Peace Garden (in full spring bloom!) to get to the store."

Laura Mann Falsetti of You & Me boutique said, "You & Me, Spicy Pickle, Hurtin 4 Curtains – we have a parking lot behind our building."

KeyBank's Kyle Heath said the "Bank lot is open; come in off

Plain if needed."

Jamie Symmonds said, "Giuseppina Architects is open; park on South Seventh Street."

Michael Broderick said, "Orange Cat has a parking lot in the rear and public parking on the side of South Seventh that is available to use."

Michael Fiore of the Village Bake Shoppe, and his neighbor, Sara Liberale of The Rose Hanger, said customers can use their shared parking lot on Plain Street.

"No Parking" hours are posted as 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

When able, people were back out and camped in front of their favorite restaurants Monday evening.

Though work extended to Ninth Street on Tuesday, cars were permitted to park in more areas during the day. Of course, they'll have to move again once paving begins.

Center Street is expected to remain open while the milling continues (milled surfaces can be driven over and parked on). "No Parking" areas and lane adjustments will be marked, as necessary.

The New York State Department of Transportation is removing the top layers of pavement in preparation for a new topping this month. Work is supposed to wrap by June 1.

Artpark looks to prove different is better in 2022

**PREVIEW BY
JOSHUA MALONI**
GM/Managing Editor

By now, you probably know Artpark's summer season will look a little different than 15, 10 and even five years ago. Heck, more than 50% of a promotional two-sided event flyer focuses on events other than concerts.

What you might not know is why.

Not long after Sonia Kozlova Clark was announced as Artpark & Company's president, she opined about what an already award-winning venue could become – if it was allowed to showcase all of its attributes.

"How do we connect outdoor/indoor? How do we play with the space itself? Can we flip it?" she asked. "Can we find different relationships between the stage and the artist, and just an experience that goes more naturally with the way we operate right now; the way we think?"

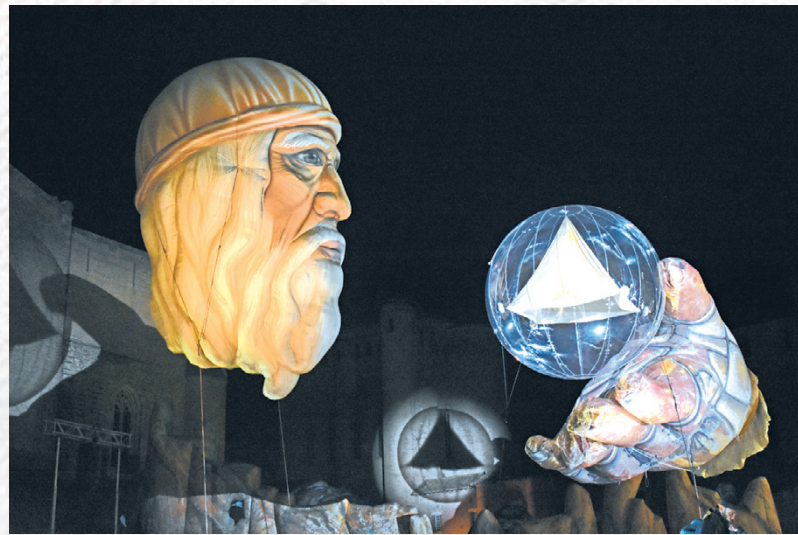
She immediately began to dust off some of Artpark's original intentions – namely, a mission to promote art, nature and culture. Concerts, of course, would remain a key

people (and profit) driver, but they would have to share the stage with educational and enriching programming.

When board member John Camp introduced Clark, he stated, "Her significant experience presents a unique opportunity to expand our offerings with an international flavor, which further enriches Artpark and Lewiston as a destination equal to our other cultural assets on the Niagara Frontier."

Over the past half-dozen seasons, Clark has meticulously carried forth her vision.

Consider just a few of these examples:



Plasticiens Volants returns with "Leonardo, Dreams & Nightmares."

•**Art:** "Niagara 1979" – also known as the late Gene Davis' "Painted Parking Lot" – was recreated in 2017 adjacent to the red brick road.

√ Rob Lynch and Matt Sarguney (aka The Solo Roths) teamed with Cynthia Pegado and the "Artpark Bridges" community outreach program to add more mural art – this time to the main parking lot – in the summer of 2020.

√ Last fall, Artpark unveiled interactive installations "Murmuration" by SO – IL studio and "Unity in Diversity" by Muhammad Z Zaman.

•**Performance art:** French street theater group Plasticiens Volants absolutely wowed audiences with the 2017 debut of "Big Bang" in Lewiston. The troupe then topped that with a jaw-dropping, giant balloon-led performance of "Pearl" in 2019. Plasticiens Volants returns this summer with "Leonardo, Dreams & Nightmares."

•**Culture:** The Strawberry Moon Festival debuted in 2019 and served as an opportunity to forge strong ties with the local Native American community.

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Cirque will be on display this summer at Artpark. (Photo by Jordan Oscar)



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