

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

October 16, 2020 FREE 20 Pages Vol. 29 / No. 44 • Vol. 33 / No. 35



Next steps revealed in Academy Park makeover



Renderings by Giusiana Architects, courtesy of the Village of Lewiston

BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

Plans are in place for the bandshell in Academy Park to move from the northwest corner of Center Street and Portage Road to the southwest end across from Syros Restaurant and Warren's Village Hardware at Portage Road and Cayuga Street. The stage will face the field.

Mayor Anne Welch updated the Historic Preservation Commission and the Planning Board during Tuesday's monthly meetings. She said Tops owner Anthony DiMino will finance this project, which is expected to happen before the end of the year to take advantage of the harder ground.

"When we looked at the master plan for Academy Park ... we wanted to move the bandshell into a better location, so it services the whole park," Welch said. "We came up with the idea to move it into that corner."

HPC alternate board member David Giusiana of Giusiana Architects presented drawings for the bandshell, which will sit ground level – no more risers – and be expanded to accommodate greater backstage needs. The stage itself also is longer, and a new overhang is shown on Giusi-

ana's renderings.

DiMino originally paid for the bandshell, which was dedicated to his late father, Alphonse.

He did not attend either meeting, nor did he respond to a request for comment.

"At his cost, he's going to move the bandshell," Welch said. "We're hoping to get it done this fall, before it gets too bad (outside). Because in the spring we'd have to wait so long because the ground will be wet from spring. It's probably better to do it now than to wait."

Giusiana agreed.

"It's going to be physically picked up and pulled across the park, and that's not going to work well in the spring," he said.

"This is at great expense to Anthony DiMino," Welch said. "It's going to cost him quite a bit to do that for us. We appreciate his willingness to do this."

Most notably, the Kiwanis Club of Lewiston uses the bandshell each September during the Peach Festival weekend. Dance schools, musicians, competitive eaters and Peach Queen pageant contestants all have on-stage events during the four-day fundraiser.

SEE WHAT TO DO, continued on Page 19



Niagara Wheatfield alumni Gary Strenkoski, left, and Dan Wendt line up on the spiffy new field. (Photo credit: Dan Wendt)

NW's new athletic field stirs Falcon pride for a pair of alumni

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

Interim Tribune Editor

Recently, Niagara Wheatfield High School celebrated the completion of its new multipurpose athletic field. The project, which was estimated to cost \$7.6 million, included an all-new synthetic turf field and is able to accommodate football, baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer and field hockey. The project also included new bleachers (able to seat 2,000 home and 500 away fans), scoreboards, lights, fencing and backstops.

Additionally, renovations and repairs were done to various features of the existing athletic field, including leveling and resodding of the old field, repairing and replacing the running track, and other remediations to better accommodate shot put, pole vaulting and other track and field events.

The athletic renovations were just one piece in a number of capital projects for the district totaling \$30 million. Other capital projects, some of which are set to begin this summer, include extensive paving at the middle and high schools, roof-



Photo courtesy of NWCS

ing work at Colonial Village Elementary, and numerous repairs and replacements to school HVAC systems.

It also includes Smart Schools projects that will implement safety upgrades including new security camera and automated lockdown systems.

Niagara Wheatfield School Superintendent Daniel Ljiljanich was excited to talk about the project and discussed some of the problems that the new amenities will solve. Among the biggest benefits he mentioned: the new field will allow both baseball and softball games to be played at

SEE PROUD, continued on Page 9

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