

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

October 2, 2020 FREE 20 Pages Vol. 29 / No. 42 • Vol. 33 / No. 33



## Lewiston market expanding for final weekend

BY JOSHUA MALONI  
GM/Managing Editor

Though we don't yet know if Santa Claus will fly into Academy Park this holiday season, smaller and perhaps wooden versions of St. Nick will make an appearance there next weekend.

Jamie Symmonds is bringing some of her holiday market vendors to the final Saturday of the Lewiston Artisan Farmers Market.

With festivals, concerts and events canceled this past summer – and people eager to get out of the house (added bonus: shop local/fresh) – the market has been a hit.

Normally, Symmonds would take such momentum and carry it forward into her annual holiday event at the Brickyard Brewing Company.

"This year, obviously, I'm unable to do the holiday market at the Brickyard Brewing Company, which I do every November – the week after Thanksgiving – for two reasons. One, we had the unfortunate circumstances of the BBC having their fire. But also, you

can't have more than 50 people in a space. And that's the vendors; so then nobody could walk through the door (laughs)," Symmonds said. "People kept saying, 'Will you move it some place else?' But that was the challenge: You can't have people congregating, more than 50 people at a time. So, it just wasn't gonna work this year."

"But I felt badly for these vendors. Me, having been a small business owner myself many, many years, I could not imagine the struggles with the challenges today. So, I thought, if there was a way to kind of merge the two."

Vendors of all varieties will be spread out in Academy Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 10.

"We do welcome artisans at the market, but I really opened the door to all artisans who make their products – if interested," Symmonds said.

Initially, the thought was to just have the holiday vendors join the summer merchants.

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Jamie Symmonds, right, is shown with artist Fay Bailey of Fay Bailey Designs.



## Lewiston board presented new town seal design

BY TERRY DUFFY  
Editor-in-Chief

Work continues by Lewiston Historic Preservation Commission members on development of a new Town of Lewiston seal.

Historian Marjorie Maggard said the commission has been working on the town seal project since the beginning of this year. At that time, members were reviewing matters pertaining to Lewiston's upcoming bicentennial celebration when it was discovered the town's current seal was incorrect.

"I found out that the old seal had the wrong date (1823) and brought it to the board that the real date is 1818," she said. "We discussed it and the board asked if we could have the committee work to get a new one. We brought it up to the Historical Commission and we agreed to work on it."

Over past months, commission members worked around delays attributed to COVID-19 and came up with a new design. Following months of discussions and reviews, Maggard said commission members eventually came to an agreement.

"The entire staff supplied suggestions and a graphic designer named Michelle Maggard (Maggard's granddaughter) took all the ideas and put them together," she said. "A few views were presented a couple of times until we all agreed on two (versions) to present to the board."

"The team wanted art work that reflected the Town of Lewiston. So we believe we have that in the new seal along with the proper date."

Maggard said the new design reflects two hamlets in the town: Model City and Sanborn. The re-designed work also conveys the Tuscarora Nation's influence, the area's agricultural heritage, plus the influences of history, the waterfront, the Niagara River and the Niagara Power Project.

At Monday's Lewiston Town Board meeting, members reviewed the latest designs, one a

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## Fostering communities is all fun and games at new card game store in NT

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS  
BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

Interim Tribune Editor

Attention Planeswalkers! A new gateway to the multiverse has opened in North Tonawanda.

City officials were on hand Thursday for a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the grand opening of the Mana Bar, a retail establishment specializing in hobby and collectible trading card games with a primary focus on the ever popular "Magic: The Gathering" (MtG). The store is located at 287 Oliver St.

Owners and North Tonawanda residents Amber Zientara and Andrew Magyar began the business out of their home as an e-commerce company, selling cards from theirs and their friends' collections on third-party websites. Eventually, with a focus on customer service, the online business became successful enough the couple started its own website.

Now, through the opening of a brick and mortar location, the Mana Bar is looking to



Mana Bar co-owner Amber Zientara is joined by NT officials for the store's grand opening.

expand its product offerings and, eventually, host community events.

Opening a new business is challenging enough on its own, but with the additional

challenges brought on by COVID-19, Zientara admits there were times the duo had second thoughts about opening.

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