

# Academy Park bandshell move, design approved by Village Board

BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

The Village of Lewiston Board of Trustees approved a plan to move the Academy Park bandshell, and expand the structure's capabilities, at its monthly meeting Monday night.

Elected leaders echoed positive sentiments offered a week prior by Historic Preservation Commission and Planning Board members.

The bandshell will move from its current spot in the northwest park corner (across from the Hibbard's plaza) to the southwest side adjacent to Syros Restaurant and Warren's Village Hardware. It will face the field.

Architect David Giusiana pitched the idea of a new overhang with trusses, as well as a larger stage, while noting the bandshell will be ground level.

"I like it myself," Deputy Mayor Vic Eydtt said. "I think it looks great."

"It's nice," Mayor Anne Welch noted.

Lewiston Tops owner Anthony DiMino had the structure built almost 20 years ago. He has agreed to cover the cost of its relocation, as well.



Bandshell rendering by Giusiana Architects, courtesy of the Village of Lewiston.

Speaking Tuesday, DiMino said he expects the bandshell to be moved in the winter.

"I talked to my architect and my construction manager this morning. ... We're going to try to do some things now. But, to be honest, we're probably not going to move the bandshell until the middle of the winter, because it's really too late now," DiMino said. "We have to pour footers and do some things ahead of time. And by the time we're done with that,

we're going to be in November – and it's going to be so mushy that we won't be able to do that.

"So, we're thinking about at least pouring the footers and stuff that we need to put the new bandshell on. And then move the bandshell hopefully sometime in the wintertime when we don't have to worry about pouring the footer. The ground should be hard as a rock. We'll move the bandshell then. And then complete construction during the spring,

when it's advantageous; and then hopefully be done by – if COVID doesn't screw everything up – we figure that we'll be ready to go by, hopefully, Easter."

The bandshell is most notably used by the Kiwanis Club of Lewiston, in conjunction with the Niagara County Peach Festival. Kiwanians build a stage extension for concerts, dance routines, competitions and pageants.

DiMino said permanently enlarging the stage will open the

door to additional opportunities.

He noted, "It was something I wanted to do for a long while, because my original plan – almost 20 years ago – was to get the stage big enough for the Buffalo Philharmonic," he said. "It never was big enough for that type of venue. It should be now."

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

DiMino explained, "The problem with the bandshell is like saying Academy Park is just a park. We call it Academy Park. That bandshell was dedicated as the Alphonso DiMino Memorial Bandshell. That's what it should be called. Just like we call it Marilyn Toohey Park. When we refer to the bandshell, we should be referring to it as the Alphonso DiMino Memorial Bandshell.

"So, if I'm going to make sure that it's still dedicated to my father, I felt that it was my responsibility to make sure it is the best possible bandshell in Western New York."

## Stella Niagara outdoor education program shines



In 2016, when Stella Niagara Education Park decided to integrate outdoor education into its curriculum, educators had no idea how fortuitous this decision would be.

The board of directors made the decision after reviewing research that showed students who learn outdoors are happier, healthier and perform better academically. Members said this unique approach provides children with a personal experience of the Sisters of St. Francis' Franciscan values and teaches them how to lead healthy and balanced lives with respect for Earth, the environment and biodiversity.

A press release further stated, "With the current pandemic, medical experts are recommending schools teach outside as much

as possible and, because Stella Niagara already has integrated the outdoors into all subjects, the students are able to learn math, ELA, science, social studies, art, music, religion and gym on the school's 104-acre campus. While the outdoors has already been integrated into all subjects, our teachers collaborated with our outdoor educator over the summer to make sure that we were using the most of our campus."

A few examples of outdoor learning since school returned include Montessori pre-K students performing their morning work in an outdoor classroom; Montessori students going on a nature hike in the woods, where found a fuzzy caterpillar, turkey feathers and falling leaves; kindergarten through eighth grade students learning outside; working in the children's garden; and even enjoying lunch outside.



**ADELPHI NEW YORK STATEWIDE BREAST CANCER HOTLINE & SUPPORT PROGRAM**

**40 YEARS STRONG**  
CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER

**Contact us**

- Find out how to get a free or low-cost mammogram.
- Find out about breast cancer programs in your community.
- Talk to someone who can help.

**800.877.8077**  
breast-cancer.adelphi.edu

Due to COVID-19, our services are available over the phone and online.

**SUPPORT COUNSELING REFERRALS OUTREACH EDUCATION ADVOCACY**

CELEBRATING **40** YEARS 1980 - 2020

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, YouTube, Instagram icons.

**★ 2020 ★**

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

**YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE**

**MAKE IT COUNT**

**Need work done?**

Check our **SERVICE DIRECTORY** inside back page or on our web site [www.wnypapers.com](http://www.wnypapers.com)

To place an ad or for info. Call 773-7676

BLACKTOP CAR WASH/DETAIL CARPETS & RUGS COMPUTERS CONCRETE WORK DANCE ELECTRICAL FENCES HEATING & AC HOME IMPROVEMENT LANDSCAPING PAINTING PLUMBING POOLS POWER WASH ROOFING SEWER/SEPTIC STORAGE TREE SERVICE MORE...