

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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## Lewiston Family Ice Rink 'on hiatus for 2020'



Lewiston Family Ice Rink file photos.

### COVID-19 concerns among reasons for cancelling season

**BY TERRY DUFFY**  
 Editor-in-Chief

Town of Lewiston Parks and Recreation Director Mike Dashineau announced this week the Lewiston Family Ice Rink will not be operational for the upcoming holiday season.

"It is with great sadness that the Lewiston Family Ice Rink will not be open with winter," Dashineau said.

The rink typically opens in the days leading to the Lewiston Christmas Walk in early December and remains open through the holiday season to mid-January.

While the Lewiston Town Board "worked very hard" to make it happen, he said having to overcome a number of "obstacles and hardships" brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic convinced the board to put the rink "on hiatus for 2020."

Chief among the concerns is the prospect of not having a warming house available throughout the season – and the revenue that comes from such an operation. "It became clear that the rink would have to operate in 2020 without the warming house tent," Dashineau said. "The tent is completely sealed every year in order to keep it warmed enough to prevent ice from forming on its roof. Without proper ventilation and circulation, the fear would be that the tent would not be able to meet CDC and state guidelines for gatherings and indoor events."



Dashineau said that, without having the warming house available, the town would be left scrambling for funding to sustain the rink's operation.

In addition, "The Village of Lewiston has plans for further construction this winter" at Academy Park," Dashineau said.

"All these factors contributed to the decision made by the Town Board," he explained. "The Town Recreation Department is already in the process of presenting a plan for the rink operation in 2021, as we all hope to continue to bring this tradition back next year and beyond."

"We hope to see you soon," he said.

## Falls nonprofits rewarded

**BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO**

After three years of hard work and sometimes hardship, a pair of Niagara County social service organizations was awarded more than \$1 million in federal grant funding.

On Wednesday, Congressman Brian Higgins and City of Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino joined Pinnacle Community Services, Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, the Homeless Alliance of Western New York and other community partners to announce over \$1.22 million toward the coordinated community effort to address youth homelessness in Niagara County.

The federal award was made through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Youth Homeless Demonstration Program. Over the next two years, Erie and Niagara counties are set to receive a total of more than \$3.59 million from the program.

"This is a highly competitive grant program," Higgins said. "Pinnacle Community Services and Community Missions were selected to lead the effort to help youth that are homeless, or at-risk of being homeless, here in Niagara County. ... A familiar proverb reminds us, 'It takes a village to raise a child,' and the collaboration exemplified here represents an impressive and inspiring community alliance to help children and young adults in need."

"These federal resources will help build a stronger support system toward the goal of making sure that Niagara County's young people have a safe place to call home."

Underscoring the competitiveness of the grant process, **SEE HIGGINS, on Page 6**

## Center Street projects moving along, part II

### Owners of Brewed and Bottled, Sgt. Peppers, Mad Hatter look forward to reteaming, reopening on Center Street



Pictured are images of the exterior construction work at the future home of Brewed and Bottled, Sgt. Peppers and the Mad Hatter. As shown here, quite a lot has been done to the outside of the building in just the past few weeks.



**BY JOSHUA MALONI**  
 GM/Managing Editor

Center Street construction projects were delayed last spring by the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent "New York State on PAUSE" executive orders. As summer approached and some restrictions were lifted, people expected to see a rush of activity on the village's main thoroughfare.

However, domestic travel and border-crossing restrictions – not to mention people at home with more time on their hands, eager to renovate – made it more difficult to obtain building materials. There

also was the issue of unemployment and how readily available laborers were to resume work.

As such, a lot of activity has taken place behind the scenes in recent weeks – not necessarily in big, showy places or ways for the public to take notice.

In part two of this series, we continue to look at where some of the largest construction projects stand:

**442-444 Center St.**  
 (Future Home of Brewed and Bottled, Sgt. Peppers, Mad Hatter)  
 A trio of Lewiston's most popular small businesses will move **SEE LEWISTON, continued on Page 2**



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