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Halloween will be 4-night event in Village of Lewiston



The Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce debuted its "Pumpkin Spectacular" in 2020. (File photo)

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

If you're into creepy and kooky, mysterious and spooky, or all together ooky ... well, you're in luck.

At a work session Monday, Village of Lewiston trustees approved an extended Halloween celebration – building off events held in 2019 and 2020.

The Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce was

given permission to use Hennepin Park for its second annual "Pumpkin Spectacular." Over the course of four nights, decorated jack-o-lanterns will line Hennepin Park.

Community members are invited to drop off their carved pumpkins beginning Thursday, Oct. 28. The Chamber of Commerce will provide battery-operated lights to illumine the festive gourds starting at 5 p.m. daily.

Following the meeting, President Jennifer Pauly said, "Last year, we were trying to think of ways to get the community involved in an 'off' event year. We had almost 40 pumpkins decorated for Halloween weekend in 2020, and it was great seeing the designs and the park lit up!"

"This year we hope for 60 pumpkins!"
SEE VILLAGE, continued on Page 9

ROLL FOR INITIATIVE: New tabletop gaming store rolls into Town of Niagara

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

Whether a would-be adventurer is looking to delve the deepest dungeons of the mythical Land of Faerûn or traverse the Outer Rim evading Darth Vader and the Galactic Empire, one thing is for certain: They'll need to stock up on good equipment, supplies – and lots and lots of dice.

Fortunately, for those near the Town of Niagara, Red Dragon's Hoard, a new tabletop gaming store at 2105 Military Road, has them covered. From card games like Magic the Gathering, to popular role-playing games (RPGs) like Dungeons and Dragons (D&D), Pathfinder and Shadowrun, one can find just about anything they need to play, including books, cards, painted/unpainted minis, preprinted settings and terrain, maps and, of course, dice.

Originally opened at the tail end of August, the store was only recently emblazoned with fantastic signage out front (commis-



Red Dragon's Hoard (Photos by Michael DePietro)

sioned from Buffalo Signmakers) featuring the store's logo, a little red dragon drawn by owner Rich Mease, and lettering done by his wife, Nadezdea.

For Mease, the store is something of a dream come true. He's been an avid fan of role-playing games like Dungeons and Dragons since the first time he played
SEE RED, continued on Page 10

LPD officer rescues elderly resident from fire

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

Call it being in the right place at the right time.

Late Tuesday evening, Lewiston Police Department Officer Jonathon Smith lived up to the billing of first responder as he was among the very first to respond to a Niagara County dispatch report of a working garage fire at a residence at 1345 Swann Road.

According to LPD and various

news reports, when Smith arrived, he found a garage on the property fully engulfed and slowly spreading toward the rear of the residence that is home to two elderly residents. The husband was able to flee the residence, but the man's wife remained inside.

"There were multiple people outside the home when I got there," Smith said. "I immediately questioned if there were other people inside the home. ... There

was one inside the house."

It was then Smith joined with a family member on scene in an attempt to rescue the woman. Smith was able to pull an elderly female resident out through a first-story window and free her from harm before fire responders arrived.

"At that point, she made her way to the living room where we were able to get a window open ... and pull her out of the window. Everyone was safely removed and no-

body lost their lives," Smith said. "Everyone just came through and we took care of business."

LPD Chief Frank Previte said the officer's brave actions are typical of what the men and women in the law enforcement community do on daily basis in their service to the community.

"When these things happen, we're usually the first ones there to help. So, I'm just glad my officer made the difference," he said. "I

think it's a positive thing not only for him, but it says a lot for the department itself."

Fire responders, including Lewiston No. 1 Fire Co., Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co., Upper Mountain Fire Co. and the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station FAST response unit were on the scene soon after to extinguish the blaze.

No damage estimate was immediately available. An investigation into the cause of the fire continues.



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