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LOCAL FAMILY OWNED & INDEPENDENTLY OPERATED

Ali Price celebrates 'treasure' that is Youngstown



Ali Price of Grand Island is pictured with her Anchor Spirits mural in Youngstown.

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief
Photos by Wayne Peters

Over past months, the Village of Youngstown – like countless other places – has weathered the COVID-19 pandemic. And there have also been fresh positives.

Driving through the village on Lockport Street – Youngstown's second "main drag," if you will – one finds not one, but two, very eye-catching, distinctive murals.



Heading east from the Main-Lockport intersection just to the left beyond the Stone Jug, one is found on the west side of the Village Laundry building at 134 Lockport St. And approaching the Main-Lockport intersection, just across the street looking slightly west, you will see yet another on the east side of the Anchor Spirits Liquor Store owned by proprietors Mark and Cheryl Butera at 113 Lockport St.

SEE YOUNGSTOWN, continued on Page 9

Project H.O.P.E. gives a fresh paint job to local homeowners in need



Pictured above, from left: Steven and Cindy Kureczka with Jesse Gooch, owner of Painters Plus. (Submitted) At right, volunteers of all ages contributed to the cause. (Author photo)

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO
Interim Tribune Editor

Last weekend, Jesse Gooch, owner of Painters Plus, several of the company's employees, and a handful of volunteers washed, primed and painted the house of Steven and Cindy Kureczka of Zimmerman Street in North Tonawanda, the chosen winners for the 10th annual Proj-



ect H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Paint Exteriors). The project is an annual city wide contest that offers a free exterior home paint job to homeowners in need.

"This project is very special to me. I started (Painters Plus) about 20 years ago and about 10 years ago I wanted to think of a way to give back to the community,"

SEE H.O.P.E., continued on Page 18

Bike track: Lewiston Business Group prefers 2022 Center Street repaving



Where this Lewiston bike trail will continue has been the subject of much debate this month.

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

The Lewiston Business Group assembled Wednesday morning to share concerns about a conceptual Center Street bicycle track recently proposed by Niagara River Greenway Commission Executive Director Greg Stevens and Mayor Anne Welch.

Village Bake Shoppe owner Michael Fiore said, "I've been talking with a lot of people who are not in favor of this bike path for reasons of snowplowing in the wintertime, parking issues, safety issues – you know, the street is cramped enough."

He noted, "Everyone wants what's best for the village, the mayor, the chamber, the businesses, obviously."

In two municipal meetings this month, Stevens said the DOT will mill down and repave Center Street next spring. He explained that would be the ideal time to add in a two-way cycle track in between the southside curb and parked cars.

The multi-multimillion-dollar Empire State Trail was designed to be the largest multiuse trail in the country, connecting bikers from Manhattan to Montreal, and utilizing the Greenway Trail from Buffalo to Youngstown. Lewiston would be a welcome center/hub for a projected 8.5 million cyclists.

Welch emphasized the proposal is conceptual. Since it was released to the public, "We felt that the 10-foot bike lane was way too wide, and shrinking down the lane, and the parking, was not a good idea; so, we revised the plan. We talked to Greg and said we would like to resize the bike lane to 7 feet, and then add all that other foot-

age back to the lanes and the parking. And also, to take out the meridian completely, because of snowplowing concerns and festivals."

She noted, "There isn't going to be any change from curb to curb. There's still that same amount of roadway, it's just that 7 feet of it will be designated for the bike lane. And also, the lanes that we have now are larger than the DOT standard."

Moreover, "We are petitioning the state to reduce our speed limit down to 25 miles an hour, and, hopefully with the narrowing of Center Street and the speed limit being decreased, it'll cut down on a lot of the fast traffic that we see now."

Welch said cyclists will boost Center Street businesses while providing a safer alternative to biking on sidewalks or on the roadway.

SEE BIKE, continued on Page 13

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