

# Construction begins at Lewiston playground

Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch reports volunteers arrived bright and early last Friday morning to begin work on the new inclusive playground located in Marilyn Toohey Park behind the Red Brick Municipal Building.

“Construction workers for a day” included members of the Board of Trustees, Village of Lewiston Recreation Department, Lewiston Police Department, Niagara County Sheriff’s Office and M&T Bank, plus local residents. Gallo Restaurants and Tim Hortons provided food for the dedicated crew.

Niagara Falls general site contractor Mark Cerrone Inc. is overseeing the project alongside Central New York’s Parkitects.

At about 14,000 square-feet, the playground will provide a welcoming recreational area for children of all abilities. Plans call for enhanced safety and shading features; sound, motion/movement and sensory-sensitive areas for kids with special needs; musical instruments; “buddy” swings, We-saw seesaws and wheelchair-accessible slides; a seated zipline; open green space to interact or just stretch; and eventually a splash pad. Rides will sit on top of a protective rubber surface designed to absorb the impact of a fall.

The playground is situated behind the basketball courts.

For more information, or to make a donation, call the mayor’s office at 754-8271; email recreation@villageoflewiston.net; stop into the clerk’s office at 145 N. Fourth St.; or mail Attn: Village of Lewiston Recreation Department, P.O. Box 325, Lewiston, NY 14092. Checks can be made out to “Village of Lewiston Recreation Department.”



## Welch thanks community for playground build

Last weekend, community members gathered behind the Red Brick Municipal building to work on a very special project. Mayor Anne Welch thanked them at the end of Monday’s Village Board meeting. She said:

It was a beautiful weekend in the village! We had a great turnout of volunteers to assemble the playground equipment for the new all-inclusive playground at Marilyn Toohey Park.

I want to thank John Toscano and Mark Cerrone Inc. for their continued construction; Ben, Nathan, Sara, Lynn and Andy from Parkitects and Landscape Structures; Fox Fence for the construction fence; Dave Webb for the concrete installation; Sheriff Mike Filicetti and the Niagara County Sheriff’s Office; Chief Frank Previte and the Lewiston Police Department; M&T Bank for their large team of volunteers; Krellcad Landscaping; Jim Fittante Architects; Niagara University students; Lewiston Service Guild members; Historic Association Curator Tom Collister; and many village and town residents that are too numerous to name; Town councilmen Rob Morreale and John Jacoby; and our Village Engineer Mike Marino and his engineers; the village DPW; village trustees

Vic Eydt and Claudia Marasco; and, of course, my husband, Bob Welch, who was voluntold. I’m sure I missed someone.

Also, a big thank you to Bob Burns of Tim Hortons for generously donating the coffee and Timbits each morning; and to Mike Hibbard for donating the delicious lunch from Gallo.

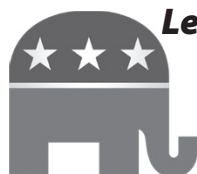
And a huge thank you to Brendan McDermott for all his hard work organizing and coordinating this event. He was the first one here working all day both days, and the last to leave.

This was not a “walk in the park” – it was hard work. The weather was hot, the equipment was very heavy, and there was a million parts to put together. All the equipment had to be cemented in the ground by hand. At the end of the day on Saturday, it looked like a playground. There is still more work to be done but, without the community build, we would not have this great start. I am truly grateful that this dream is becoming a reality.

*Eydt noted the community build saved the Village of Lewiston \$110,000.*

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