

ART IN ACTION



The Lewiston Council on the Arts was busy Friday afternoon touching up "Tango," the sculpture that dances in front of the Lewiston Senior Center on River Road. Volunteers painted a metal preservative on the artwork.



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Riviera, local officials advocate for safe reopening of live music venues

The Riviera Theatre held a press conference last Thursday afternoon with New York State Sen. Robert Ortt and other local elected officials to urge Gov. Andrew Cuomo to reopen live music venues.

Ortt said, "The Riviera Theater has worked extensively with the Niagara County Health Department and has developed a plan to ensure a safe way to reopen the theater for shows and concerts. The governor has no problem reopening NBC studios in New York City – a COVID hotspot, yet, he continues to crush small community cultural centers like the Riviera Theatre with his broad executive orders. Unfortunately, Democrats in the State Legislature refuse to stand up for small theaters' best interests in the communities they represent. The executive orders keeping live music venues closed should be lifted, and local municipalities should work with local businesses to reopen safely."

Riviera Theatre Executive Director David Fillenwarth said, "We represent an entertainment industry which accounts for the loss of 12 million jobs nationwide to the COVID-19 virus. There is the real possibility that 90% of all independent venues may close permanently.

"In New York state, we were led

to believe that when phase four of reopening arrives and the curve has been flattened, there will be a plan in place. Needless to say ... we're still in the dark.

"I've reached out to Gov. Cuomo and his team twice in hope of receiving funding for the arts or some insight for reopening procedures. As I stand here in front of you, there still is no response.

"Today we are here to announce that the Riviera Theatre has developed a safety plan and are joined in support from the Niagara County Health Department and area elected officials, including State Sen. Robert Ortt. This safety plan to reopen has been modified and approved based on recommendations from the Niagara County Department of Health. We will implement this plan on Sept. 25-26 when local favorites, The Chicago Authority, will perform live on our stage at 25% capacity.

"We can no longer be ignored. We need answers on reopening or funding for the entertainment industry. It's time to turn on the lights."

The Chicago Authority member Rick Johnston said, "Live music is not incidental. Live entertainment is vital to a healthy society. Live performances allow people to escape, to forget about their troubles, and hopefully

smile and laugh for a few hours. For the people who work in the live entertainment industry, it is also a matter of survival. We musicians and technicians in the Chicago Authority band are very fortunate, because we don't have to rely solely on income from performing. We all live and work right here in Western New York. But for hundreds of thousands of musicians, technicians, and others in the live event industry in New York state – including thousands in Western New York – that is not the case. Almost all of these people have been out of work since March, and many have not had any income at all since the end of July.

"Music venues are open and operating according to safety guidelines in Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts and other states. We believe that it is now time to reopen live music venues in New York state – properly supported by advertising and ticket sales – so all of the people who make their livings in the live event industry can get back to what they love to do, and to again enable them to provide for their families. We are looking forward to helping the Riviera Theatre prove that live entertainment can be presented safely, and within the guidelines established and approved by the Department of Health."

Goo Goo Dolls debut music video for 'Autumn Leaves'; holiday album set for release

With fall now officially upon us, multi-Platinum, four-time Grammy-nominated rock band Goo Goo Dolls have released the music video for their song "Autumn Leaves" today. The slow-burn track initially appeared on the

band's 12th studio record, "Miracle Pill" (Warner Records), quickly becoming a standout among fans. Directed by artist Matt Mahurin, the visual depicts multiple generations of people traveling through natural landscapes and

explores the dramatic, yet awe-inspiring effect time inevitably takes on all life. Watch the video at www.wnypapers.com.

Following the changing of the autumn leaves, Goo Goo Dolls will embrace the winter season next with the release of their first holiday record, "It's Christmas All Over." Due for release Oct. 30 via Warner Records, the album is comprised of cover renditions of famed holiday songs such as "Let It Snow" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," several rarities, as well as two new originals that capture the warmth and nostalgia of classic Christmas favorites.

The album was recorded during lockdown this year and produced by frontman John Rzeznik alongside the band's frequent collaborators Brad Fernquist and Jimmy McGorman. "This Is Christmas," the first official single from "It's Christmas All Over," will debut Oct. 2. Preorders for the record will also be available beginning that day, while complete track-listing information can be found now on the Goo Goo Dolls' website.

"It's Christmas All Over" will arrive on the heels of this summer's deluxe edition release of "Miracle Pill." In addition to "Autumn Leaves," the special iteration features the trio of brand new tracks ("Just A Man," "The Right Track" and "Tonight, Together"), as well as the title hit "Miracle Pill." Available now on digital streaming platforms everywhere, "Miracle Pill" is an engaging body of work that remains as timely as ever with themes that explore our need for human connection and the constant change we go through as people.

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