

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

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## Votes are in: NFP's annual 'Savory Summer' awards top warm-weather eateries

BY JOSHUA MALONI  
GM/Managing Editor

Western New York winters are notoriously filled with cold, gray days. It's for that reason people take every opportunity to get out and eat, drink and be merry in the warm, colorful spring and summer months.

Patios and live music have become more commonplace in recent years but, at the end of the day, a diner becomes a destination because of its culinary offerings.

Once again this year, we asked readers to tell us where their favorite "Savory Summer Eats & Treats" can be found. Here are the winners:

✓ **Best Summer Dining Spot** – **Lumberjacks Patio Grill**

Second place: *The Dockside Bar & Grill*

(Total restaurants nominated: 23)

✓ **Best BBQ (ribs, chicken, pork)** – **The Brickyard Pub & B.B.Q.**

Second place: *Texas Roadhouse*

(Total restaurants nominated: 21)

✓ **Best Frozen Treat** – **De Dee's Dairy**

Second place: *Hibbard's Original Frozen Custard*

(Total restaurants nominated: 11)

✓ **Best Beef on Weck** – **Taylor's Tap & Grill**

Second place: *Wagner's Farm Market and Grill*

(Total restaurants nominated: 19)

✓ **Best Hot Dog** – **Louie's Texas Red Hots**

Second place: *Ted's Hot Dogs*

(Total restaurants nominated: 9)

✓ **Best Hamburger** – **The Wurlitzer Pizza Co.**

Second place: *Cask + Cow*

(Total restaurants nominated: 20)

✓ **Best Fries** – **Wagner's Farm Market and Grill**

Second place: *Ted's Hot Dogs*

(Total restaurants nominated: 23)

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✓ **Best Summer Dining Spot** – **Lumberjacks Patio Grill**

1000 River Road,  
North Tonawanda

One of the most unique summer eateries – both in terms of location and menu – is Lumberjack's Patio Grill. Now in its 10th year in business, the former Niagara River Yacht Club is located adjacent to Gratiwick Riverside Marina.



Clockwise: "Savory Summer" winning dishes: barbecue from the Brickyard, fries from Wagner's, and the Lumberjack's team members. Food photos courtesy of the eateries.

Patrons rave about the food. "We're a glorified hot dog/hamburger stand," owner/operator Carol Tallichet said. "Because of that, we serve beer and wine. We're noted for our curly-Q fries, which are handmade every day. We have just a great, all-around Western New York menu: fried bologna with some grilled onions, Mineo & Sapio Italian sausage; we do just about everything on Costanzo rolls."

Lumberjack's serves Wardyn-

ski's hot dogs, because "I like their tender skins, versus their competitor," Tallichet said. "We do footlongs."

Customers can enjoy the fare inside, or sit outside and take advantage of one of the best views in Western New York.

"We're located right on the water, with a wonderful patio that cantilevers over the water, that seats 163 people," Tallichet said.

"We welcome small parties," Tallichet said. **SEE SAVORY, continued on Page 18**

## Village of Lewiston to vote on reducing speed limit



The Village of Lewiston is looking into reducing the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph.

BY JOSHUA MALONI  
GM/Managing Editor

Mayor Anne Welch said the Village of Lewiston intends to take advantage of a new state law and lower the municipal speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph.

A board vote could occur as soon as the Sept. 6 work session.

"Not everybody's going to go 25, because not everybody goes 30, but, hopefully, it'll slow people down a little bit," Welch said Wednesday. "Some will abide by it, and the others that don't now, maybe they'll slow it down a little bit. It has to help more than not."

She added, "I think it's a good thing – and especially now that those (Center Street) crosswalks are gone, because people used to slow down because they were bumpy. Now they've got the straight shot, because the pavement is nice."

On Aug. 12, Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a legislative package her team said would "enhance street safety, prevent traffic-related fatalities, and crack down on hit-and-run incidents." Specifically, A.1007-A/S.2021-A allows municipalities to reduce speed limits to 25 miles per hour. A companion piece, A.3964/S.9163, intends to "deter hit and run incidents and enhance public safety by increasing fines for leaving the scene of a car crash without reporting it."

Hochul said, "Every New Yorker deserves to feel safe when traveling on our streets, whether they are driving, cycling or walking. These new laws will help

prevent senseless tragedies and injuries by cracking down on erratic and irresponsible driving."

With regard to lowering the speed limit, Hochul's team said, "Research shows that faster driving speeds correlate to more serious injuries and fatalities for pedestrians in the event of a crash. Under current law,

the default maximum speed limit throughout a city, town or village may not be set lower than 30 mph. By giving municipalities local control to reduce speed limits, this legislation will improve public safety and prevent pedestrian fatalities."

Gov. Kathy Hochul

In February 2019,

trustees voted in favor of petitioning New York State Sen. Rob Ortt and Assemblyman Angelo Morinello to sponsor bills providing a "home rule" provision for the Village Board to lower the speed limit on Center Street to 25 mph. The roadway belongs to the New York State Department of Transportation. That agency twice denied a change request, stating 30 mph is appropriate for the thoroughfare.

The matter was still to be decided when it discussed again in February 2020. Just a few weeks later, however, the coronavirus pandemic began, and the initiative was put on the backburner.

At that time, Morinello said he supported the idea of lowering the speed limit on Center Street, and would "work as hard as I can" to convince the DOT to reconsider." Ortt, meanwhile,

**SEE SPEED, continued on Page 2**

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