

Frontier House developer hopeful for 2023 reopening



The Frontier House at 460 Center St., Lewiston.

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personal experience, it's a great opportunity to not end up in a branded, cookie-cutter space, but to get right into the community, and feel community, and understand what it's like.

"And I think, obviously, an opportunity of a 200-year-old building and the character that is still within this building – despite its last use as a McDonald's, the upper floors are pretty well intact. It's something that really does still convey a lot of that character. And I think it will create a unique experience for people to be able to experience Lewiston.

"And I have seen those views ... from those oval windows on the upper floor in the attic space. We do have one of the dwelling units going up on that level to take advantage of those views.

"And those two windows that are up there on the short ends of the building, those oval windows actually appear to be the only two original windows left. The others have been replacements that we're going to go through a new replacement on – historically accurate – for this rehab."

Mayor Anne Welch said she's in favor of the building having open spaces for the public to view – or stay in for a night or two.

"Absolutely. I've always wanted the public to go in it. Everybody wants to go in and see it all restored and beautiful again," she said.

Welch recalled youthful memories made inside the Frontier House and said, "That (basement) rathskeller is beautiful, with all the stone and everything. It wouldn't take a lot to put the bar back in it and make it nice. We used to go there years ago, and it was really a cool place to go for a drink or a sandwich."

Excitement Grows

Excitement for the Frontier House's future began to build last winter when those passing by the building saw crews from Abraxas Construction repointing and replacing mortar.

More recently, festival- and parade-goers noticed a new "Coming Soon" sign above the 198-year-old structure's front porch, and again the Center Street site was top of mind.

"If there has been excitement so far for the work we've done, I think that it can only grow and get more exciting for people," Fox noted.

"I think when people are going to be walking by soon, they'll be seeing a lot more work out there. What we've done, up to this point, has been really restorative – just kind of more about stabilizing certain conditions, trying to make sure that the areas that were deteriorated don't further put us in a bad position of further costs.

"There was a pretty substantial reconstruction of the front corner for some deterioration that was affecting the roof structure. So, we've taken care of that. But once we start additional exterior work and all the rehab to the front porch, and our construction of the back porch, you're going to see a lot of activity. The windows coming out, new windows go in, non-historic elements coming off the building, with historic roof rails and those things going back on.

"There's going to be a lot of activity, a lot of different trades out there."

Fox said the Frontier House team is "Wrapping up the final drawings here, getting the financing in place, really. We're talking with the Niagara County IDA on some incentives to help out with the project."

As far as estimates go, he explained, "The costs are a moving target, as you can imagine, these days with construction prices. But I mean, as our best guess, I'd say it's probably around a \$5 million project still."

While an IDA payment in lieu of taxes is possible, the project has already received a \$50,000 façade grant from Niagara County.

Hastings Lewiston Inc. sold the Frontier House – plus almost one acre of land including a parking lot – to 4600 LLC Group in February 2019. Partners on the \$800,000 transaction included Elicott Development CEO William Paladino and Lewiston developers Bill Game and Jeff and Jerry Williams.

2-day event features tractor parade, dance performers, kids fun



Just one of the many interesting items on display at the Sanborn Lewiston Farm Fest. (File photo)

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The fun begins at 8 a.m. Saturday with a pancake breakfast served by Town of Lewiston officials. The official festival opening is 10 a.m., and the day continues with a number of activities on the festival grounds, including musical and dance performances in the morning; a fife and drum performance from noon to 1 p.m.; children's activities from noon to 3 p.m.; the tractor parade at 2 p.m.; and a performance of the Parkside Brass Quartet from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Sunday activities kick off with a French toast breakfast from 8-11 a.m.; the Niagara

River Dancers from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; fife and drum entertainment, plus kids fun starting at noon. Following the 1 p.m. tractor parade, visitors will be able to partake in a make-your-own sundae serving at 1:30 p.m., and enjoy a performance of the Sanborn Fire Co. Band from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

The festival continues with basket auction winners announced, and more children's programming running to 3:30 p.m.

The festival is sponsored by the Niagara River Region Cham-

ber of Commerce and the Town of Lewiston, plus the following: Grigg-Lewis Foundation, Sanborn General Store, William Davis Insurance, Gorge Travel, Modern Disposal, Rhoney Funeral Homes, Wheatfield Pediatrics, Hoover's Dairy, Orleans Monuments, New York State Sen. Robert Ort and Assemblyman Angelo Morinello.

For more information on the festival, visit www.sanbornhistory.org or contact Bonnie at 716-957-4851.



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July 22 - Waterstreet Quartet
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July 29 - The Yacht Rockets feat.
Jerry Andres (Yacht Rock)

Aug 5 - The Taverners (Classic pop and
rock...and possibly a request or two)

Aug 12 - Bruce Wojick (Acoustic)

Aug 19 - Emerald Isle (Celtic Music)

Aug 26 - Ladies First Jazz
(Ten piece all-female orchestra)

NOTE: rain location (if needed) will be the Red Brick gym, 240 Lockport St.

The Concert Series is by generous contributions made in memory of former Mayor Neil C. Riordan by many friends and businesses who knew how much the concert series meant to Neil.

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