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PO BOX 277  
YONGE FALLS NY 13768-0277



172ND YEAR - 49 LOWVILLE, NY 13367 FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 19 - 25, 2002 28 PAGES - 75 CENTS

## Empire Zone transition proposal approved by Administrative Board

By YVONNE HOUPPERT  
Journal staff reporter

The Lewis County Empire Zone Administrative Board passed a proposal Monday morning that would allow for the EZ to be turned over to the county. The Empire Zone currently is managed by the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce with a part-time administrator.

The proposal still needs the final approval of the Lewis County Board of Legislators, which was expected to vote on the issue Tuesday night. The result of the vote was not known at the time of this publishing Tuesday afternoon.

The chamber office took on the Empire Zone duties and responsibilities beyond their regular scope of service in the mid 1990's. Several weeks ago, county Planning Committee chairman and legislator Gary Rosiczkowski (R-District 4), stated that the county was interested in taking over the administration of the EZ program. According to past comments by Mr. Rosiczkowski and Eric Virkler, chamber president, the committee and the chamber had been discussing the development of a transition plan to present to the zone administration board.

According to the proposal, because of the increase of zone benefits and the work load associated with it, the chamber is not able to put its full attention on its

membership and tourism promotion. County government needs to make a greater commitment to the economic development of the area to improve the county, the proposal said.

With this in mind, a proposal was established to turn the EZ staffing responsibilities over to the county effective Jan. 1, 2003. The chamber will continue to run the operations of the EZ through the first six months of the fiscal year, July 1 through Dec. 31, and during this time the chamber is authorized to spend 50 percent of a state EZ administrative grant and the county's monetary commitment. The two total \$79,500, of which the chamber is allowed to spend \$39,750. Once the county assumes control over the

EZ, the remaining money will be used to set up an office, purchase necessary supplies, hire a full-time zone coordinator and a part-time administrative assistant. The new coordinator will be required to work directly with the county planning office.

Although the board approved the proposal by a 9-0 vote, the decision was made with some discussion.

"It's great to offer the world," said Lowville mayor and EZ board member, Danny Salmon, prior to making a motion to accept the proposal, "but we can't break our backs doing it. All this change will fall back on the taxpayers in the village. I don't want to see us

EZ continued on page 13.

## Sheriff's Department investigating ATV theft

The Lewis County Sheriff's Department is investigating the theft of two all terrain vehicles that occurred over the weekend.

On Friday evening, June 14, an unknown subject removed an ATV from a Route 12 residence in the Glenfield area. The ATV was found Saturday morning, a short distance from the residence, as it wouldn't start.

Sometime Sunday night a yellow 2002 Honda 400cc-EX was stolen from outside a residence on Main Street in Greig. The ATV has a NY Plate number of 49XK01. Vin number 478TF230824206833.

Anyone with information should contact the Lewis County Sheriff's Department at 376-3511.

## 2 injured in ATV accident

Christopher M. Hazelton, 28, Deptford, N.J., was traveling south on Salmon River Road, Town of Montague, when he lost control of the 2001 Yamaha ATV he was operating. The ATV went off the left side of the road, ejecting Mr. Hazelton and his passenger, Francis R. Messner, 28, also of New Jersey.

Both Mr. Hazelton and Mr. Messner were taken to Lewis County General Hospital by Lewis County Search and Rescue where Mr. Hazelton was treated for broken ribs and a possible ruptured spleen. Mr. Messner was treated for a broken scapula and released.

Blood was drawn from Mr. Hazelton and he was arrested for driving while intoxicated, failure to keep right and no helmet on an ATV. Mr. Messner was ticketed for no helmet on an ATV, also. Both will answer the charges in Town of Montague court at a later date.

## Hospice memorial service scheduled

The Hospice Memorial Service will be held at the Hospice Memorial Garden located behind the bandstand in Veteran's Park, Lowville, June 30 at 2 p.m.

All people in the community who have died in the past year will be remembered. The public is invited to attend. The loved ones need not have been a patient of Hospice for their family and friends to attend this religious remembrance service. It is recommended that guests bring a lawn chair to the service. In case of rain, the service will be held at Lowville United Methodist Church, State Street.

For more information, please call 376-5230.



Photo by Jerry Waskiewicz, special to the Journal and Republican

## Constable Hall holds Father's Day arts/crafts event

Lynne Von Packal, and Ruth Kinnville view some stoneware pottery from Thea Wolf of Lowville at the Constable Hall Father's Day Arts and Crafts Show Saturday. For more scenes from the Constable Hall event, and more Arts and Entertainment news turn to pages 12-B and 13-B.

## Local women's health groups receive funds to fight cancer

The state will release \$13.7 million in awards state-wide to support enhanced availability of breast and cervical cancer screening for women, said a recent press release from Gov. George Pataki's office.

Sen. Raymond A. Meier, R-C, Western, said in a press release last week that the Healthy Woman Partnership in Jefferson and Lewis counties will receive \$387,713 of the total award. A similar organization in St. Lawrence County is to receive \$174,224 according to reports from the governor's office.

Healthy Women Partnerships have been established in every county in the state, said Sen. Meier. They have been created to

help ensure those women who are uninsured or underinsured are able to receive screening to detect these deadly cancers.

New York State now dedicates more than \$21 million each year to the fight against breast cancer, compared to just \$7.5 million in 1994-95 — an increase of more than 280 percent, said the press release.

"Since 1995, we've made tremendous progress in the effort to combat breast cancer and provide enhanced health care services for women," Gov. Pataki said. "We've expanded access to Medicaid coverage for women battling breast and cervical cancer, enacted the 48-hour Maternity Stay Bill, ap-

proved legislation banning drive-through mastectomies, and created a tax-checkoff to fund breast cancer research. With the grants to local health care providers we are announcing today, we reaffirm our commitment to enhancing health care services and the quality of life for women throughout New York State."

Gov. Pataki also announced a Request for Applications (RFA) totaling \$1 million that will go to fund community-based organizations statewide for support services for people with cancer, including respite services, transportation, child care, caregiver support, support groups, and hotline ser-

VICES. The RFA will be issued later this month and funds will be awarded this fall.

In addition, \$1.9 million, including \$900,000 in new state dollars, will be made available for colorectal cancer screening and prostate cancer education. The funding will support approximately 15,000 screenings and prostate cancer education initiatives.

The 2002-03 funding levels will support more than 60,000 breast and cervical cancer screenings for uninsured and under-insured women. Organizations were selected to receive funding based on a competitive review of proposed projects.

## Kathleen Venitelli seeks votes for 'Kiss the Pig' contest

Kathleen Venitelli, Turin postmaster, announces her candidacy in the Kiss the Pig Contest for Literacy. Her entire family does a lot of reading and has benefited significantly from the education that reading has provided. Mrs. Venitelli expressed a deep interest in Literacy and a willingness to assist with fund raising efforts for Literacy Volunteers of America Jefferson/Lewis Counties.

Mrs. Venitelli is married to Roy Venitelli. They have three 18-year-old children; triplets Andy, Zeah, and Sonya. All three are seniors at South Lewis High School graduating in June. Zeah is this year's valedictorian. Mrs. Venitelli thinks her family will be real assets in her campaign.

The Venitelli's have two dogs, a sheep and a rat. The rat is a refugee from son Andy's Vet Science class. When the kids leave for college in the fall, the pets will help battle empty nest syndrome. Mrs. Venitelli enjoys gardening and taking care of her animals in her free time.

In the past the Venitelli's have raised a



Kathleen Venitelli

few pigs to fill the freezer. Mrs. Venitelli said they had to stop because they became way too attached to the pigs and hated to see them go. They treated them too much like pets. Mrs. Venitelli has no reservations about kissing a pig for the fundraiser. She said she kisses her dogs 50 times a day.

Mrs. Venitelli has been postmaster in Turin since 1990. She has worked in the US Postal Service since 1973. She started her postal career at Dunellen, N.J., and transferred to Lowville in 1982. She has lots of relatives in Lewis County and wanted to be near them. Mrs. Venitelli became postmaster of Beaver Falls in 1984. She served as postmaster in Croghan before

coming home to Turin.

She hopes you will vote for her. Her competitors are Thomas Duffo, postmaster of Glenfield, Dale Bernard, postmaster of Port Leyden, Dr. Daniel Root, Dr. Daniel Pisaruello, Dr. Lynn Stacy, attorney Kevin McArdle, nurse Mary Bellinger, director of nursing David Wood, and director of Veterans Service Agency Derek Davey.

Ballot boxes are available at Lewis County Hospital, banks, Lewis County Courthouse and area businesses.

Contributions will be used to help adults improve reading, writing and math skills. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer tutor, or need help to improve your own skills call 376-8188.

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