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Felician order cared for kids in Barker for many years. **ABANDONED HISTORY/4A**



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Jim Conley inducted into Section VI Hall.

SPORTS/1B



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Spreading Christmas cheer with carols



JOED VIERA/Staff Photographer

A group of carolers from People Inc.'s Young Adult Life Transition Program stopped by Bling! to sing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

Carolers from People Inc. serenaded customers at downtown businesses.

BY KALEY LYNCH

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Members of People Inc.'s Niagara County Community College-based Young Adult Life Transitions program spent Tuesday afternoon spreading some holiday cheer in downtown Lockport.

A group of about 10 stopped at Scripts Cafe and Bling! in the Bewley Building to serenade customers with classic Christmas carols.

"You don't see many people going caroling anymore," Kelly McEachon, People Inc. community vocational trainer said. "We're always singing in the group, so we figured we'd bring it outside."

Last year, the group sang carols around the building at 21 Main St., where People Inc.'s Lockport office is located.

"People weren't really into

it," McEachon said.

This year, they decided to take their holiday cheer to Scripts Cafe and Bling!, both of which the NCCC YALT group visits.

Melissa Niver, owner of Scripts, said that the visit from the carolers was a complete surprise.

"We were excited," Niver said. "It helped to get our customers into the holiday spirit."

The carolers accompanied themselves with jingle bells and glockenspiels.

"I printed out a couple of songs everyone would know, and we just kind of winged it," McEachon said.

People Inc.'s YALT program offers young adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to experience life on a college campus while enhancing and developing new skills, Nicole



JOED VIERA/Staff Photographer

Selena Torres laughs with Juanita O'Harrow after singing, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" at Bling!

Forgione, People Inc. marketing communications manager said.

The program focuses on independence in the community, employment preparation, continuing learning and establishing and maintaining friendships.

Five Guys plan gets town OK

BUSINESS: Construction for burger chain will begin ASAP.

BY RIKKI CASON

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Lockport residents will soon have a new option when they want to enjoy a burger and fries.

The town planning board unanimously approved a plan Tuesday that will allow Five Guys to locate in an addition to be built onto a South Transit Road Plaza. It includes a special use permit for construction of a patio.

Since November, Benderson Development Company representatives have addressed the town planning board seeking approval of their plan to build a new tenant space at 5816-5760 S. Transit Road — the plaza that houses GameStop, White Rabbit Frozen Yogurt and Empire Visionworks. They proposed a 2,650 square-foot addition on the west side of the building, a small patio on the back, minor construction around the outside of the building and parking improvements.

Approval of the project was delayed after Glen Miller of Mihptier Company, owner of the neighboring Southtown Plaza, said the construction would block the view of his plaza at 5714 S. Transit Road.

These concerns resulted in Benderson conducting a visual study to determine how much the proposed construction would impact their neighbor. Benderson's findings showed there are five locations on South Transit Road where people can see Southtown Plaza and only one would be affected by the building expansion.

However, Miller again spoke out about his concerns that the expansion would block a portion of the view of his building from vehicles traveling north, passing Burger King. He told the planning board that it shouldn't matter how much the plaza can be seen at other points on Transit, but from the viewpoint in question.

To help address some of Miller's concern, Matthew Oates of Benderson said they will be removing about 10 trees that are currently located near Burger King. In their place, Oates said they will add small shrubs, which will help with visibility to Southtown Plaza. From April to October, Oates had said there is little to no visibility of the plaza because the trees are in bloom.

A new four-way stop will also be added, including pedestrian walkways. These will be located near the entrance to Burger King and Five Guys, which Oates said will help to slow down traffic in the area. A wooden fence will also be placed around the plaza's dumpster.

Benderson will begin construction on the building as soon as possible.

Contact reporter Rikki Cason at 439-9222, ext. 6252.

HOLIDAY HELP



JOED VIERA/Staff Photographer

Pastor Gene Wood of Living Water Community Church in Newfane carries a bag filled with Christmas gifts to a client as part of the Salvation Army's Christmas Assistance Program. The church is a satellite site for the Lockport Salvation Army. In the photo at right, volunteer Janet George gets a package ready for a client.



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