**Jazz Fest**

The village has been kept busy in the last couple of weeks to say the very least. With the carnival two weeks ago being a rousing success, last week we were treated to the sounds and sights of the annual Webster Jazz Fest.

The weather had been gloomy most of the day, but the crowds were as large as usual, packing Main Street to the gills to listen to the talented groups on the docket. The clouds had been looming, but the night was warm and the music was wonderful. Not to mention the food and drink options surrounding the area to appease anyone’s palate. No one thought much of it when a few stray drops started falling just after the Bill Tibiero Band had finished their set.

About an hour after those drops, however, the rain began coming down heavier, causing the audience to quickly dwindle. Still, particularly dedicated jazz fans stayed, and Prime Time Funk played on. Nestled under their umbrellas, the audience was able to take advantage of the newly-opened seating close to the stage, and the show was so lively the drums could be heard even past Phillips Road.

Weather aside, the 2018 Jazz Fest was a rousing success, and I for one am proud of the community sticking it out even through the inclement weather. Mark your calendars for next year, since this is an event not to be missed, rain or shine.

**Waterfront Art Festival**

This weekend, Webster is once again going to be playing host to the 45th annual Waterfront Art Festival, held at North Ponds Park.

Started in 1973, the festival was originally held on the Canandaigua City Pier. The move to Webster was actually fairly recent, this year only being the fourth that the festival is being held here.

The festival itself is a fine arts and craft show where the artwork is the star. The event offers music, demonstrations, tastings and a food court, but at its core is the celebration of the artists from all around Western New York and the Finger Lakes who are sharing their work.

Stands line the scenic and nicely shaded walkways of North Ponds, displaying the most incredible variety of craft items and other art in an equally wide range of price points. With over 80 artists participating this year, I expect there to be something for everyone there.

This year there will also be a tasting tent featuring Lakeland Winery, Deer Run Winery, Zugibe Vineyards, and reportedly more options to come as well. The festival will be backed by music over the course of the day from Hanna PK and The Cool Club & The Lipker Sisters on Saturday, and Mike & Julie and Adult Supervision on Sunday.

Art, food, music, and the scenery of North Ponds Park. All in all, there’s nothing not to like about the festival, and you’re definitely going to want to go and see what’s available if you can.

It’s going to be held on Saturday and Sunday July 28th and 29th, from 10:00 to 5:00 both days. There is plenty of parking available on-site, there will be signage along the 104 access road to point you in the right direction. Plenty of handicapped parking will be available in North Ponds’ parking lot as well. Admission is $3.00, and is free for children 12 and under.

If you’re looking for something to do on a warm weekend afternoon, definitely make sure to go see the works of art on display.

**Reclaimed DIY Studio**

There appears to be signs of life coming back into the empty storefronts on the East side of Main Street, and one of the new arrivals is taking a hands-on approach to their business.

Reclaimed DIY Studio has officially moved into the back half of the old Singh Mart storefront (which beforehand was home to Mac 5 Bikes). There was a wall put up in the building to split the store in half, and the front half is currently home to the new Press on Main, another new business you should definitely check out if you can.

The studio is owned and operated by husband and wife David Zoyack and Tracy Brucato, who have been working to remodel the space since May. They are looking to provide Webster with another place to find new art pieces, but this is art that you’d make with your own hands.

Reclaimed lives up to its name in its use of recycled pallet wood to create rustic pieces of art the likes of which you might find in department or home goods stores. Rustic decor has also become popular decoration for events like weddings and baby showers, so this presents an interesting opportunity to those looking to add an even more personal touch to those festivities.

Tracy is skilled in using these pallets to create pieces of higher quality than those you might buy in a store, due to store-bought pieces sometimes being on much flimsier wood or simply poor craftsmanship for the price. So she took matters into her own hands. Having taught herself to create similar higher-quality pieces, she decided to start teaching others how to do the same.

The studio does have a small retail aspect, but the main goal is to act as a studio for groups of people are welcome to come in for pre-scheduled classes or private sessions. Participants in these classes will learn how to prep and stain their wood, and the other processes that go into making their own piece of personalized wooden art. Guests are even encouraged to bring their own drinks and appetizers, to boot.

Classes are two hours, giving participants an opportunity to be creative and have fun with some friends, and at the end of it all they get to walk out with a unique piece of work they created themselves. No two are going to be the same.

At its core, Reclaimed is a DIY Studio, where everyone has a chance to let their creative side out for a little while. It sounds like a prime opportunity for a fun night out with friends, or something for parents and kids to do together to get out of the house as the summer winds down.

Reclaimed is looking to open its doors in the first week of August. For more information you can check their website at www.reclaimedstudiodiy.com, and they are also on Facebook under Reclaimed Studio Webster.

**Village Bakery**

For a bout of happy news with nearly two years of buildup, it appears the Village Bakery finally has a formal opening date!

I’ve been hearing about the bakery for a while now, even before I started work on this column, and have been waiting with bated breath to finally be able to check it out. Come July 31st, it appears that Webster will be able to visit the new location at 44 East Main, in the same block of storefronts as Roc and Soul Fitness.

The Bakery has always been known for its fresh baked goods, along with a full breakfast and lunch menu. The lower half of the building is now a central location that bakes the breads and pastries for not only the Webster location but the other three locations for the Bakery; one in the village of Pittsford, and locations in the Culver Road Armory and Eastview Mall.

The Village Bakery is part of a project to continue developing the space in the new “North 43” development, which is host to Roc and Soul, along with other new businesses I know I’ll be investigating in the near future.

For now, I’m simply excited to see what the Village Bakery is going to be bringing to our little neck of the woods. After all, who isn’t a sucker for fresh bread?

**So, What’s New?**

There’s obviously a whole batch of new businesses and faces making their way into town, and I’ve been doing my best to keep an ear out as best I can, but I’m curious.

Do you have any news you want to share? Anything new going on in the village you think I need to know about? New (or old) places I need to check out before the summer’s through? Let me know! I love hearing happy bits of news from members of the community, so please don’t hesitate to send me anything and everything you’d like to share. webstervillagebeat@gmail.com.