

Mural will keep Musselman downtown all year

By **DAVID L. SHAW**

dshaw@ftimes.com

GENEVA — Run, swim, bike and ... paint by numbers.

The city Planning Board Monday approved a Musselman Triathlon mural for the city-owned concrete wall in the Seneca Street parking lot.

The mural plan was presented by Anthony Validzic, the city's deputy director of public works and engineering. He said City Council gave its blessing to the design at its May 5 meeting.

"The Musselman organizers want something that emphasizes the permanent nature of the Musselman event in Geneva," Validzic said.

The mural depicts a cartoon character involved in the three event legs — running, swimming and biking. The names of the participants in the main triathlon

will also be posted on a section of the wall each year.

The planners approved the mural for a State Environmental Quality Review Act review, determined there were no adverse environmental impacts and approved it.

Validzic said the city will maintain the mural, working with the Musselman Committee.

"I think the mural is going to be fantastic. It's public art, something for all of Geneva to enjoy for years to come as they stroll downtown," said Jeff Henderson, chairman of the Musselman Committee.

"All of this is an attempt to tie the race more intimately into the community of Geneva and downtown. We want to make participants feel welcome, and we want citizens to

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Submitted photo illustration

A Musselman Triathlon mural featuring a cartoon triathlete will be painted on the city-owned concrete wall in the Seneca Street parking lot in Geneva. The names of triathlon participants will also be posted on the wall each year.

MURAL

To date, a record 1,676 athletes have registered

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enjoy them being here," Henderson said.

This summer's Musselman will be the biggest yet, Henderson said, with 1,676 registrants to date. The Musselman first came to Geneva in 2004.

The artist scheduled to paint the mural is Jef Mallett, a syndicated cartoonist from Michigan and creator of the comic strip "Frazz." He participated in the 2006 Musselman.

Henderson said Mallett designed the T-shirt in 2006 and agreed to do the mural. He said Musselman Triathlon participants will be asked to color in a small section of the mural according to their race bib number, making it one of the world's largest "paint by number" murals.

In other action, a Geneva man was unsuccessful in getting the board's approval for his plans to convert a long-vacant

restaurant at 140 N. Exchange St. into a deposit can and bottle redemption center.

Rakesh Patal first sought the board's approval in April to convert the building into the redemption center.

He was told he had to address eight issues regarding the property, ranging from the parking lot to the exterior to a storage shed and Dumpsters.

Patal came back this week with lawyer Bradley Prozeller with new plans and drawings they said addressed those concerns.

The plans include uniform siding on the main building, replacement of some doors and windows, installing a gutter, installing a gravel parking lot with a small blacktop pad near the door, new electrical service, lighting, a single stand-alone sign, placement of a new shed and removal of the old shed

and landscaping.

The six board members present said the new plans appeared to meet the criteria but only minimally, and there wasn't enough support to approve the plans. Board member Joan Murphy said they are trying to make North Exchange Street more attractive as a gateway to the city from the Thruway.

Several said they felt more could be done to make the project something they could approve.

Board chairman Jeffrey Rokow said improvements could include a new roof, a paved parking lot, enclosing the two Dumpsters from view and other aesthetic upgrades.

It was decided to schedule a meeting of four board members with the owner and his builder, John Davoli, to see if the issues can be resolved for approval to be possible at the June meeting.