

Collesano a 'practical, solutions-oriented leader'

Lewiston's future depends on a Village Board that listens and leads. Trustee candidate Leandra Collesano is committed to an open, transparent government that values input from residents and business owners alike.

Having been active in local affairs for over 40 years, I feel sufficiently qualified to publicly express my opinion on the upcoming village election. As such, I know Leandra to be a practical, solutions-oriented leader who

honors our rich history and appreciates the many opportunities and challenges facing the village's future.

Leandra will mark fiscal responsibility as a high priority, ensuring long-term stability and

wise use of taxpayer resources. She is committed to the review, update, and follow-through of the outdated master plan with an emphasis on sustainable growth and protection of what keeps Lewiston in the forefront of liv-

able communities.

I urge the residents of the village to vote Leandra Collesano for trustee.

Margy Toohey

Welch consistently proven; an authentic, pro-business leader

Dear Mayor Welch,

As a business owner deeply invested in the economic health and vibrant culture of the Village of Lewiston, I am writing to express my strong endorsement of your re-election campaign.

Running businesses here, including Gallo Coal Fire Kitchen, gives me a firsthand look at what it takes to keep our local economy thriving. Over your tenure, you have consistently proven yourself to

be an authentic, pro-business leader who understands that a thriving commercial district is the backbone of a strong community.

Your administration has continually fostered an environment where local businesses can not only survive, but truly grow. From championing streetscape enhancements and community events that draw essential foot traffic to Center Street, to maintaining an open-door

policy for business owners navigating local regulations, your leadership has been a stabilizing and encouraging force. You look at local businesses not just as entities, but as vital partners in keeping Lewiston the unique, historic destination that it is.

It is rare to find a public servant who so seamlessly balances preserving our village's historic charm with driving the economic progress necessary for our

future. Because of your proven track record, clear vision, and unwavering accessibility, I fully support your continued leadership as mayor of the Village of Lewiston.

Thank you for your tireless dedication to our business community and our residents. I look forward to seeing the Village of Lewiston continue to flourish under your guidance.

Michael J. Hibbard

Says Cota has right plan for village

I am writing to endorse Dan Cota for the mayor of the Village of Lewiston.

After reading his announcement of candidacy letter in the Tribune/Sentinel, I was interested in his ideas to make Center Street and the village safer and better for all users from drivers to bicyclists to pedestrians. That caught my interest, as my wife and I settled in the village two years ago after I retired from my

career as an urban planner.

I had helped advocate for a more inclusive use of the right of way for all users and making that right of way safer and more welcoming. I also designed neighborhood business districts with the input of the business owners, city traffic planners and architects. A safer and friendly redesign of the business district improved the experience for all users and the business owners.

It was a very rewarding 22 years helping to improve Cincinnati for all of its residents, tourists and businesses.

My wife and I returned to Western New York, originally from Lockport, to find our retirement home. My requirements included: next to the Great Lakes, walkable, music-oriented and bicycle-friendly. My wife chose Lewiston. After two years here, I find Lewiston to

be a great place, but still a place that can be improved. I spent the first year watching Village Board meetings and heard my neighbor's complaints regarding speeding and other vehicular concerns go unheeded by the present administration. I see our business district lacking basic pedestrian and bicycling safety improvements to the detriment of our business owners. It is said that every driver becomes a pe-

destrian when they arrive at their destination.

A recent one-on-one with Dan (try it, you'll like it) convinced me that Dan is in touch with the needs of the village and has the skillset to improve them. My wife and I endorse Dan Cota for mayor for the Village of Lewiston.

Matthew Andrews

Says 'now is not the time to risk our progress on vague, feel-good promises of change'

Rarely have I known a public official more dedicated to municipal service than Mayor Anne Welch. Add to that her wealth of knowledge and experience in municipal government, and it makes the decision to vote for her on June 16 an even easier choice.

I have seen Anne manage whatever challenges come her way and then take on more. I have seen the boat docks and waterfront renovated into something we once again can be proud of. I have seen Academy Park revitalized and made ready for multiple uses by families and the com-

munity. I have seen new and safe playgrounds for children. And I have watched our festivals and other events thrive and continue to grow year after year.

Lastly, now is not the time to risk our progress on vague, feel-good promises of change. Compared to towns and villages

of similar size and nature, our Village of Lewiston is measurably on the right path. Let's keep on that path and keep Anne Welch as mayor.

I hope you vote for Anne and her entire team on June 16.

Rick Festa

Collesano 'exceptionally deserving' of board seat

I have never written an article in support of a political candidate before, nor have I ever become involved in politics or registered with a political party. Today, however, I am making an exception because one of the candidates for Lewiston village trustee is exceptionally deserving of the position, and I want my friends who can vote in the village election to understand why.

My support is for Leandra Collesano, with whom I have worked on several fundraisers benefiting nonprofit organizations. Over the years, I have grown to admire her as a natural leader, someone who gets things done without seeking recognition, and a person who gives 100% of herself to every organization she joins.

As a lifelong village resident, former business owner, and member of a family that has been involved in village affairs for

more than 100 years, Leandra possesses a deep understanding of the village, how it has evolved, and the direction it should take in the future.

Her concerns about the direction of the village are genuine and serious. As an elected official working alongside the other trustees, she can help bring about meaningful change. These concerns are not new. She previously ran for village trustee and was unsuccessful, but she is back again because she believes her voice and the voices of others who share her concerns deserve to be heard.

That perseverance is another quality I greatly admire. Leandra is not a quitter, and she will never stop working to make this village a better place.

Tom Collister

Collesano hardworking, organized & dedicated

I have had the privilege of knowing Leandra Collesano for more than 15 years through our volunteer work with the Historical Association of Lewiston, as co-owners of a local business, and our shared love of this community.

Simply put: Leandra is one of the most hardworking, organized and dedicated people I know. When she takes on a project, event or task, she sees it through. Whether serving as chair of the Lewiston bicentennial committee, leading community organizations, or volunteering countless hours to preserve and celebrate Lewiston's rich history, she consistently puts Lewiston first.

Leandra combines a deep appreciation for Lewiston's past with a practical vision for its future. She understands the im-

portance of transparency, fiscal responsibility, thoughtful planning, and maintaining an open dialogue with residents and businesses. She is not the type to simply occupy a seat at the table – she comes prepared to contribute, collaborate, and get things done.

The Village of Lewiston deserves leaders who are prepared, engaged, forward-thinking, and willing to roll up their sleeves to do the hard work. I am confident Leandra will bring those as trustee.

Village residents: I encourage you to vote on June 16 for my friend Leandra, Tina Coppins and Dan Cota.

Lisa Ohanessian Mies

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