

JUNE 23

PRIMARY VOTE
"Low Tax"

ED LILLY

YouTube: Ed Lilly Lewiston Supervisor

- Taxpayer Defender
- Pro 2nd Amendment
- Businessman 35 years



New Lewiston leaders will take office July 6

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Democrat/Republican; I think it's what the people want. It's not a party. We're a small village – it doesn't matter. It's what is needed and what we want to do."

Collesano said, "I totally agree. It wasn't about the party; it was about time for change here in the village, and we're representing that, and we will deliver it."

The reorganizational meeting will take place at 6 p.m. Monday, July 6, at the Red Brick Municipal Building, 145 N. Fourth St.

"I think the biggest thing is getting the community more involved in every decision that we make; bringing them in early, bringing them in often, and let-

ting them have real input into the decisions that we make," Cota said.

Coppins said, "I think it's going to be bringing the community in by using video and streaming our meetings, so they can sit at their house and watch it. Right now, we have nobody show up – but we want people here; we want to move it to the gym!"

Collesano said, "We definitely campaigned on transparency, and it's been lacking up until today – and that will change once we're sworn in."

Election officials reported 645 people voted in person, while 26 absentee ballots were accepted.

There was one write-in vote for

mayor, Ed Lilly, who is running in next Tuesday's Town of Lewiston primary election opposite Supervisor Steve Broderick.

Four years ago, when Welch bested challenger and former trustee Claudia Marasco (by a 52-point margin, 367-315), a total of 633 people voted in the Red Brick Municipal Building gymnasium. Fifty-four absentee ballots were submitted.

In 2018, there were 721 votes cast, with Welch besting former deputy mayor Bruce Sutherland by three votes.

The current results are unofficial until approved by the Niagara County Board of Elections.

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GICSD: Graham thanks community

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Graham said the Board of Education took the vote of May 19 into consideration, when the first budget proposal was defeated by 1,352-1280, and the proposition to purchase vehicles was defeated by the vote of 1,334-1,280.

"Thirteen hundred people told us that they were upset about the tax levy increase of 2.69%," Graham said. "The board listened to that and took out \$500,000 from the original budget and provided a 1.5% tax levy increase, which is a significant change. I think that

the community appreciated that.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the result because it protects the programs that we have for our students. Let's not forget that, on May 22, Business First identified Grand Island as the No. 1 stable neighborhood in Western New York. That included the graduation rate in our high school. It included the poverty rate of the Island and the housing stability. Those three factors, those three indexes, resulted in 14072, Grand Island, as ranking No. 1 in Western New York. Having strong

schools is part of that formula, and we are thrilled that Grand Island came out with such a positive result for tonight's revote."

When asked about the possibility of the school district's presenting another capital improvement project to the voters, Graham said, "We have a new board, and they are starting this July. It will be part of the conversation. The entire board will workshop the first capital project, redline it, and probably present to the community a tax neutral capital project. At least, that's the plan."

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Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel/Dispatch June 26




Lewiston Council on the Arts hails 'Afternoons at Barton Hill'



RIVER REGION ROUNDUP

Lewiston Council on the Arts celebrated the launch of its newest collaboration, "Afternoons at Barton Hill," a series of intimate concerts presented in an unforgettable setting. The inaugural performances featured jazz vocalist Alex McArthur with pianist Lisa Hasselback, baritone Dominic Townsend, soprano Mia Sorgi, and pianist Eunjoo Jeon.

Pictured at lower left is Jim Brown, winner of a drawing for a one-night stay at the historic Barton Hill, generously sponsored by Diane and Ed Finkbeiner.

Photo credit: Bill Myers and Ray Lonsdale (courtesy of the Lewiston Council on the Arts).

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