

Lewiston businesses 'fighting to get people in a store'

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Passero noted he sees patterns in Lewiston that he found in Patchogue, New York, when he left there six years ago.

"It was a little more of a city than this, but it had the same idea. It had all the small stores, the big antique store that brought people to town, a couple of nice restaurants and bars. Well, after a while, the landlords found that, if they got more restaurants and bars, they could get more money, and started squeezing out the little stores by raising rents so that those stores couldn't afford (it). And little by little, the retail went away.

"Retail is very important in a village like this. The restaurants are great. But, when people come here (from around the country) ... they do not come here to eat at a restaurant. They come here because we have a really fine selection - or we did. We're starting to shrink, and this is what scares me - because I feel like I'm seeing the same thing again - is we're losing retail."

He added, "We're fighting to get people in a store, and that is what this is all about. It's not about wanting to get you people mad, or to make the loudest signs, whatever. It's just that we're fighting to get people in."

Leandra Collesano, whose Center Street store, Lewiston Love, is closing, said, "We did our best business during COVID, believe it or not. It's been down every year since then. People were flush. They were supporting local. They're not doing that anymore. And we're all fighting, fighting to stay alive.

"We have a sandwich board; it's up against our building; and it's worked wonders. I have people that I know they've read it because, when they're coming in, they're still saying what's on the board when they come in. It's drawing people in.

"I think it's something we can definitely work on (with the boards). I think it's something that should be considered, and come to some sort of compromise to make it work, because it's a useful tool for retailers on Center Street."

Machelor said, "We tried to come up with what we thought were several answers - and this has been going on for a couple months now - proposing ideas of how to allow 'sandwich boards.'"

He said sign enforcement is "a



big job," and one that isn't easily accomplished. Therefore, "Our recommendation to the Village Board is to say signboards aren't permitted unless there's special circumstances."

Machelor explained, "If you have a special circumstance that your business is in such a place or is such a type of business or whatever, that you can justify to the Planning Board that you, among all the businesses, need a 'sandwich board,' then we can recommend that to the Village Board, and they can say, 'Yes, we're going to make an exception in your case,' and let you have that.

"That's it. We did not recommend an overall plan to allow businesses to have 'sandwich boards' under 15 different regulations, and size, shapes, colors, locations, everything about it. It was just too complicated."

Albee said, "The existing code, right now ... does not allow any 'sandwich board' signs at all, in private or public areas. So, it was an endeavor to try to assist the retail businesses in some way, shape or form."

Welch said, "Right now, the village code states no sandwich boards are permitted. So, we have to change the law. That's the reason for the public hearing. Public hearings are for public input, to get your input on how you feel about it, and what you would like to see or what you need. We had to do this to change that law saying there's no 'sandwich boards' allowed."

She noted, "There has to be rules and regulations. ... The last time we had 'sandwich boards' (prepandemic), they were all up and down the sidewalks, every which way, people were going around them, people were complaining, and that's (why they were limited)."

Welch explained, "Right now, (the Planning Board) cannot say, 'Oh, you can have a 'sandwich board,' because the regulations are telling our Planning Commission that is against the law. So, until we change the law, they can't approve any 'sandwich boards.'"

Former Village of Lewiston Mayor MARILYN TOOHEY TO TURN 100

Submitted by the Toohey family

Marilyn Toohey is turning 100 years old on June 24.

She was born the youngest of four children of William and Ada Hoag in Warren's Corners near Lockport. Marilyn walked daily to a two-room schoolhouse until the eighth grade. With their mother as a 4-H leader, Marilyn and her sister, Mildred, participated in club events for many years, winning county and state fair awards for their sewing and homemaking projects.

After attending Lockport High School for ninth and 10th grades, Marilyn's family farm was sold, and the Hoag family resettled in Niagara Falls. Marilyn graduated with honors in English from Niagara Falls High School in 1940, and, after a stint at college in Westminster, Maryland, she returned to the area and completed her education at a business school. By then, the family had moved to Lewiston and she started employment as a bank clerk and teller assistant before joining a local industrial plant as an office clerk. Before long, Marilyn met and married Matt Toohey, whose family presence in Lewiston dates back to the 1850s.

After her marriage in 1943, Marilyn's next 20 years were devoted to her husband and six children. During this time, she participated in Scouting as a den parent for a Cub Scout troop and as a Brownie Scout leader for her daughter's troop. In the early years, she belonged to the Lewiston Fire Co. No. 1 Auxiliary, and the Rosary and Altar Society of St. Peter's R.C. Church. Until the mid-'60s, her focus remained on her family, while working only part-time at a drugstore in Lewiston. She then joined the Niagara County Clerk's Office, where she rose to the position of deputy county clerk in charge of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles office in Niagara Falls until her retirement.

After her husband died in 1973, Marilyn looked for something to fill the void in her life and, in 1975, was successful in a campaign for Lewiston village trustee. She became the first woman elected to office in the village. After serving briefly as interim mayor of the village, she won subsequent elections to the office and held the position for 17 years.



Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch and former Mayor Marilyn Toohey visit at Mrs. Toohey's home on Wednesday.

During her mayoralty, the village underwent two major transformative projects: the waterfront revitalization project and the initial Center Street "Streetscape" project. Together, these formed the basis for the creation of today's vibrant and thriving village.

Citing her myriad accomplishments as mayor, the village renamed the park at the Red Brick Municipal Building as "Marilyn Toohey Park." Today, it is the site of the new inclusive playground.

Marilyn was also active in the New York State Association of Mayors, and, at the county level, as a member and chairperson of the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency.

Keeping busy with family life, her job and her political commitment left little time for hobbies or other leisure activities. Still, she kept an interesting garden - and continues to follow her grandchildren's lives intently.

Marilyn has enjoyed many trips with family or friends throughout the United States, the Caribbean and Europe. Now, she enjoys an occasional ride, checking familiar spots throughout the county, and reminiscing on her many fond memories.

Of her six children, four survive: sons Brian, Tim, Dennis and Kevin. Her daughters, Mau-

reen and Colleen, are greatly missed. Numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren are scattered from California to Massachusetts.

Marilyn still lives in her own home in the village, where she has resided for nearly 80 years.

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As Men Age...

The physiology books say: it is a loss of androgen (substance which produces male characteristics) dominance. The onset is gradual and stress is a major factor. Testosterone deficiency is often targeted. However, in the natural healing arts, it is found to be multiple hormonal imbalances, estrogen dominance being the most common.

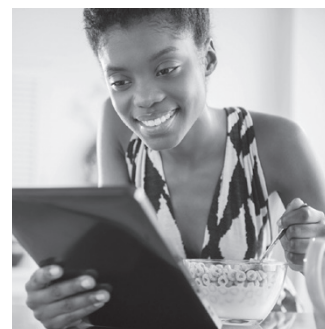
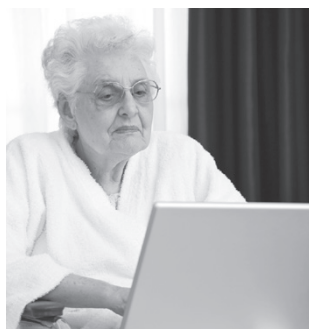
There are multiple signs and symptoms such as: decreased muscle mass, increased muscle soreness, weight gain, fatigue, sleep problems, lowered libido (sex drive), erectile dysfunction, irritability, anxiety, depression, memory loss, loss of initiative, hair loss, urinary problems, increased carbohydrate and sugar cravings, increased fat distribution in breast, hips and thighs, elevated cholesterol and blood pressure and many, many more.

One of the several ways men become estrogen dominant is excessive dietary intake in foods simulating estrogen, especially soy protein. Soy is also suppressive to thyroid function. Soy protein is in a lot of processed foods as a filler and is a common ingredient in protein powders.

People often ignore or suppress with drugs, the signs of not feeling well, which means they miss the downhill track to disease. Finding the underlying cause of your ill health is paramount to getting well, through Nutrition Response TestingSM and a designed clinical nutrition program, something can be done about it.

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