

Village Board to use input in creating new law

Continued from Page 2

I can only say we put that sign out there three weeks ago and our business has picked up like you can't believe."

She added, "If you have to take that sign down, we can't make it back there."

Lewiston Digital and Trait-Carré owner Matt Villnave, who serves as the chairman of the Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce board, said, "We have nearly 300 members. We have yet to find one that supports the (proposed new law) language as written."

He said municipal statements suggesting a potential flood of "sandwich board" signs are inaccurate.

"There's about 15 in the village that I've counted over a several-weeks span," Villnave said. "They come, they go; sometimes it's only on Tuesdays – you know, 'Taco Tuesday'; pump your own gas or 'We'll Pump Your Gas Tuesday.' They come and go. There aren't a hundred. There won't be. There are 168 businesses in the village. About 7% have some sort of sign-board at any given time. Not all the time."

Villnave added, "I think businesses felt like they were demonized (for placing – or misplacing – 'sandwich board' signs). ... I feel like businesses have been responsible. We're out there; we sweep the sidewalks. We do the things that, I think, are important to our village. We're partners. And I think the common theme of what businesses don't like about this is having to come before the Planning Board and make a business case to have a sign."

How the Law Could Be Shaped

Villnave said, "I haven't found a single business owner that's not agreeable to having some kind of regulation. ... We want to be active participants in what's great about having a vibrant village."

He and others expressed a desire to apply for a sign, write a check, and be amenable to certain regulations, placements and design standards – in lieu of pleading the merits of their sign to the Planning Commission, as the law proposal recommended.

Garfinkel said, "I'm not quite sure why it needs to go to the Planning Board. It should just go to your building inspector. If your law proposes the sign that it's supposed to be, you present that to your building inspector and he says, 'Yes, it's all within what it is.' The Planning Board, when they look at it, they're not really there to look at it and say, 'Well, that's the wrong color. That's the wrong this. That's the wrong that.' ..."

"I personally believe that any and all local businesses should be permitted to apply and receive a permit for a 'sandwich board.' Each business has its own thoughts, ideas and uniqueness on what makes them successful, and what will attract the customer."

Welch said, "We already have temporary signs that the zoning officer takes care of."

Fittante Architecture owner Jim Fittante – a member of the Historic Preservation Commission – said the "sandwich board" sign approval process "should be an application with a checklist of what they need to meet. And hopefully they wouldn't have to come to Planning Board meetings, because sometimes it's 30 days –

Village of Lewiston updates proposed 'sandwich board' law

Following a robust conversation with business owners on Tuesday, the Village of Lewiston has revised its proposed changes to the "sandwich board" sign laws.

As per merchant requests, the zoning officer would play a larger role in approving the exterior marketing materials.

The updated text of the suggested law is as follows:

To adopt Local Law No. 15-2023 – amend Section 13 (Sign Regulations) to read:

B. Definitions

Change number 25 to:

"A-Frame/Vertical Sign" – a hinged free-standing sign that is composed of two sign faces, unattached to any building or ground surface and which opens in an "A" shape or a Vertical sign.

C. Prohibited Signs

Item 13 – No A-frame/Vertical board signs of any size, shape or design shall be permitted within the public right-of-way of village streets. Upon submission of application and all requested information, the Village Zoning



Officer may grant approval for one A-frame/Vertical sign per business. Evidence of insurance coverage for the sign must be submitted with the application, as well as an image of the proposed location of the A-frame/Vertical sign. If approved, the use of one A-frame/Vertical sign would not be counted towards the allowed signage. The sign must be non-illuminated, not exceed 8 square feet in area and 4 feet in height and have noth-

ing attached to it. In order to be eligible for authorization of an A-frame/Vertical sign, the business is required to have an approved sign by the Planning Commission (Refer to Section 13 – Sign Regulations of the Village Code). The use of an A-frame/Vertical sign is only permitted during the business' hours of operation. The business is to put the A-frame/Vertical sign out no sooner than open of business and remove by close of business and be sufficiently secure to prevent movement from the wind. Any weights or cords used with the sign must also be taken in with the sign. Placement will not obstruct free egress from a window, door, or a fire escape and will not interfere with vehicular or pedestrian access or visibility. Failure to comply with the requirements detailed above may result in the revocation of the special use permit, and or \$100 fine. The Village Zoning Officer has the right to collect the A-Frame/Vertical sign, if it is left out past the business open hours.

turn into 60 very easily. And if they meet all the requirements, it's like building a house that doesn't need any zoning. That doesn't have to come in here."

Budde said, "A side note with the law: Would you please consider eliminating dusk as the time that the signs must come in? If they're on properties, they're most likely illuminated by patio lights, etc. This is shortsighted and does not take into consideration businesses that are open later, or earlier than dusk during the wintertime."

The Stone House proprietor and Lewiston Event Center co-owner Emery Simon said, "What I would suggest is the village come up with a uniform sign that anybody can put whatever they want on it, as long as it's basically uniform; so, no matter where we go, it's a 2-foot-by-4-foot. It's uniform. It looks the same. It's the same amount of responsibility to take care of it."

"Certain places, my establishment, it doesn't make sense for us to take it down at dark. We're open until midnight."

With Center Street a New York State Department of Transportation-governed roadway, Simon suggested, "When you make this permanent application ... you work with the DOT so that everybody doesn't go out and buy signs and then, all of a sudden, the DOT comes in and says, 'OK, I know everybody in this room spent \$200 on a sign. They've all got to go.'"

He added, "I would hate to see everybody spend 200 bucks on a sign and the DOT say, 'No, we don't want a 2-foot-by-4-foot. We want a 3-foot-by-3 foot,' or whatever the case may be. If it goes through the DOT, we want them to do it so that it's uniform and now we know that, once we put it out there – once we've bought that sign – it's not going to say, 'Take the sign down.'"

He also suggested business owners add the village as additionally covered on their insurance policies, so as to protect taxpayers against lawsuits stemming from sign-related mishaps.

Trustee Tina Coppins said, "My idea was, if each business got one sign ... and it's brought in nightly at the end when they close, I'm good with that. And it's in the right place, and people could see it, and no tripping and all that. I feel the enforcement would come in the morning. Maybe our zon-

ing officer, if he drove by, down Center Street or like around the plaza, it would take him maybe 15 minutes. ..."

"If anybody has their signs out, he takes them. Then what happens? You have to come to us, and you have to pay a fine to get it back. So now what happens is we take that money and we put it back into beautification for Center Street, for extra cleanup, extra plants."

Welch said, "It just makes you responsible. If you screw up, then you lose your sign."

Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt told the crowd, "I appreciate what you've said today. You've got a lot of good points, which I think are excellent points."

He added, "We're not against them at all. We're trying to get input. ..."

"It's going to go forward, and

we're not going to say 'No.' We're just trying to make it as best as we can. We don't want 100 of them out there. We need some control."

Trustee Dan Gibson said, "We're not saying you've got to come and show hardship in getting a sign. It's the placement of it. If you can't place it where we're asking you to place it, (then) come to the board to show hardship – where you have to put the sign."

Trustee Nick Conde said, "This is a lot of good input from everybody and the businesses. I appreciate it, because I want to change a few things (in the new law)."

Welch said, "You have to realize this board here is doing everything we can to make Lewiston so great. We're not against you. We're trying to help you. But it's

something that we have to do. I mean, we can't just ignore the law that we have on the books. Because if that's what we're going to do, then you'll all be in violation. That's not what we want. We want to figure something out so everybody can live with it. That you can have your 'sandwich board.'

"We've had a lot of good input tonight. I think we can construct a really good law that everybody can agree with."

No timeline was set for revisiting the sign law vote.

YANKEE SPIRITS
 Located in Mid-City Plaza
 1009 Payne Ave., NT

Check Our Specials

Everyone, Anywhere, Anytime

Niagara Frontier Publications
 Your Local News Source
 Print, Online & Mobile
wnypapers.com

Village of Youngstown FREE Concerts 2023
 Fridays • 6:30pm to 8:30pm (rain or shine)
 Falkner Park Pavillion, Youngstown

- June 30 - Mackenzie Highlanders Pipes and Drums** (Celtic Bagpipes)
- July 7 - The Taverners** (Classic pop and rock...and possibly a request or two)
- July 14 - Alex Rene Big Band** (Big Band and Swing)
- July 21 - Waterstreet Quartet** (Jazz and Musical Standards)
- July 28 - The Barroom Buzzards** (Jazz ensemble)
- Aug 4 - Emerald Isle** (Celtic Music)
- Aug 11 - The Yacht Rockets feat. Jerry Andres** (Yacht Rock)
- Aug 18 - 2nd Time Around** (Vintage Rock)

Concert series is made possible by generous contributions made in memory of former Mayor Neil C. Riordan by many friends and businesses who knew how much the concert series meant to Neil.
 This ad co-sponsored by Niagara Frontier Publications Tribune/Sentinel

Real Help For Your Health

Presented by **Dr. Glenda R. Rose** Chiropractor

Pain in the Neck

For millions of Americans, sickness is literally a "pain in the neck". The neck region is the most vulnerable area of the spine for injury and stress.

Your head weighs 8 to 11 pounds, sitting on top of seven small bones. Over 60 different muscles support it and serve over 35 different joints. Between each small bone in the neck, 300,000 nerves emit to control such vital areas as the arms, head and shoulders. Irritation to this region can be a primary cause of cervical migraine headaches, dizziness and ringing in the ears.

Over 3 million nerve impulses come out of the brain every second through the spinal cord. These nerves convey dynamic energy in just the right quantities to control and coordinate the function of every organ and tissue of the body.

Is it any wonder why people with neck problems feel bad all over? The longer misalignments are allowed to exist in the neck, the stiffer it gets. Rather than taking muscle relaxers, pain pills, aspirins, etc.; doesn't it make more sense to get your spine checked by an expert in spinal misalignment, the chiropractor?

When you have a structural problem, you cannot get any lasting results treating it with a chemical, it must be realigned to its normal position. All kinds of symptoms begin to disappear and the result is feeling better and good health!

Rose Chiropractic, P.C. is a natural health care practice improving the health of our community through education, chiropractic, and Nutrition Response TestingSM, located at 435 Ridge St., Lewiston. Call (716)754-9039.