

## Lewiston Public Library reopens to public

The Lewiston Public Library is now open to the public. A mask or cloth face covering is required to enter the library. Limited services include: a browsing and circulating library collection, library account services (new cards, paying fines), placing holds, computer use (beginning Monday, Aug. 10, with 30-minute limits; reservation required), reference services, photocopying, virtual library programs (possibly outside library programs), and curbside

service. Items may only be returned in the outside book drop. Restrooms are closed.

The Friends of the Lewiston Public Library Book Sale Room is also open.

The library is not yet open for sitting, gathering, reading, playing or in-person programs or meetings.

Hours of operation are 1-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 3-7 p.m. Tuesday; and 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Thursday.

## IN THE NEWS

### Village of Lewiston GOP caucus

Karl Frankovitch, chairman of the Lewiston Republican Committee, announced the Village of Lewiston Republican election caucus will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18, at Red Brick Municipal Building gym. This caucus is to select candidates for the election, which will be held Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Registered Republicans living in the village are encouraged to attend the caucus and cast a ballot for the candidate of their choice. Caucus Chairman Jeff Williams will accept nominations from the floor.

Incumbents Nick Conde and Dan Gibson said they will be nominated and are seeking reelection to the Village Board.

Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. There will be no admittance after 7 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all attendees must wear appropriate face coverings and practice social distancing.

### NCSO food distribution event

The Niagara County Sheriff's Office is partnering with WNY Heroes on a free food distribution event for Niagara County veterans and military families.

Members of the NCSO will be at the Shawnee Volunteer Fire Co., 3747 Lockport Road, Sanborn, from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Tues-

day, Aug. 18. Niagara County veterans and their families are welcome to attend.

This is a first-come, first-served opportunity, with no pre-orders or deliveries. One boxed set of meat, produce and dairy will be available per household.

Visitors are asked to open their trunk and wear face masks as they approach the designated pickup location to expedite distribution and maintain proper social distancing. Proof of service is required and will be verified before the food is distributed.

### Memorial to offer telehealth services for physical, occupational and nutrition therapy

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center announced the introduction of telehealth services for patients undergoing physical therapy, occupational therapy and nutrition counseling. The services are designed to supplement in-person services Memorial offers at its downtown Niagara Falls campus and the Summit Healthplex in Wheatfield.

Subsequent evaluations and visits can be completed in person or by telehealth in accordance with an individual's preference.

To learn more about telehealth and in-person PT and occupational therapy services, call the medical center's Summit Healthplex site at 298-5903.

# Costrino carries on decades-long tradition of photography excellence

BY LEE SIMONSON

Special to Niagara Frontier Publications

One of the area's renowned portrait photographers, Lewiston native Andrea Costrino is moving to a location that will enable her to carry on a decades-long tradition of artistic excellence.

She is putting the finishing touches on her studio at 165 S. Sixth St., just a block off Center Street in Lewiston, to begin the next chapter in her ever-expanding business.

But she won't be the first photographer who has set up shop there.

Over the past 60 years, thousands of people have made their way to the same location to capture precious family moments – weddings, first communions, graduations, business promotions, and other special occasions and turning points that marked their lives.

Now Costrino will be using that studio space to take full advantage of her unique talents and help her clients create their own memories.

"Si and Mamie Simonson built their home studio in Lewiston in 1961 and intentionally designed it to provide the optimal space for portrait photography, catering to over 10,000 customers during their long and iconic career. Then, in 2007, Bill and Joanne Carpenter carried on the tradition with DeCarr Studio in the same location," Costrino explained.

"Bill and Joanne are famous for their creativity and reputation with high school senior portraits. When I heard that Bill and Joanne were moving their business to another location, I jumped at the chance to become a part of the photographic legacy that has touched the lives of so many people across Western New York."

Costrino, a former school teacher, was previously associated with Vita Bella Photography in Lewiston. She has since become independent and is focused on expanding her business in several specialty areas, including women portraits, infant photography and family groups.

"As a photographer, I'm flexible in subject matter, but my goal is to capture images to let my customers' personalities and passions shine through – to show women of all ages their strength, their confi-



Andrea Costrino loves taking family portraits. One of her clients, Susan Violante, said, "I honestly wasn't expecting the generational photo session to be such an emotional experience. Watching my girls being photographed by Andrea allowed me to really see them, to be able to just look at them without any interruptions. For that short time I was able to see their uniqueness, their beauty and their strength. Then I realized I was watching through my tears. This experience with Andrea was such a gift from beginning to end." Pictured, from left, are Marty Rose Violante, Maria Violante, Susan Violante and Mia Violante Tedesco.

dence and their beauty," Costrino said. "After working with over 150-plus brides and thousands of portrait clients over the last eight years, I've had a tremendous opportunity to hone my skills to produce portraiture that creates a legacy for woman that will echo through the generations in the most positive ways possible."

Costrino has also established herself at the go-to photographer for newborns and outside family portraits.

"Taking pictures of babies who are only days-old may sound as easy as grabbing your phone, but if you want a classic photo that will proudly hang in your living room for years to come, then you'll want to invest in your family history and get it done professionally," she said.

Costrino graduated from Lewiston-Porter High School in 1999. Her husband, Nick, a graphic designer, graduated in 2000. Today, their two children, Lucia, 9, and Vienna, 7, also attend Lew-Port.

Andrea received her education degrees from Niagara University and Buffalo State and taught kindergarten and first grade at a charter school.

But then she was bitten by the photography bug. In 2010, she bought her first DSLR camera with the intention of document-



Local photographer Andrea Costrino is carrying on a long tradition of photographic excellence and is opening her new studio at 165 S. Sixth St., Lewiston – the same location used previously by the Simonsons and the Carpenters for nearly 60 years. She specializes in women portraiture, newborns and families in natural outside settings.

ing her own elopement and honeymoon in Italy.

"Once my daughter was born, I was determined to document every precious moment," Costrino said. "When I started sharing my family photos on social media, people started to ask for a 'session.' In fact, so many people started asking that I needed to start charging for my time and services. After a couple of years as a part-time photographer, I officially traded in my chalkboard for a camera full-time, and started my journey down entrepreneur lane."

The new Andrea Costrino + Co Portrait Studio is now open by appointment by calling Costrino at 523-6954. One can also find her online at [andreacostrino.com](http://andreacostrino.com) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/andreacostrinoco](http://facebook.com/andreacostrinoco).

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