

THREE is the KEY for village voters

At this point in time, the residents of the Village of Lewiston probably are all aware that a very important election will take place this Tuesday, June 21, at the Red Brick School Gym, from noon until 9 p.m. The village voters have the opportunity to voice their opinions through their votes: Continue as things have been going, or make a change with fresh faces and fresh ideas.

I encourage the voters to remember that "THREE is KEY" to bringing in fresh leadership and ideas through candidates Claudia Marasco for mayor, and Savana Bevacqua and Tina Coppins for the two trustee offices.

Up front, I make it clear I do not live in the village. But I live just maybe 2,000 feet outside the village line in the town. I grocery shop, buy gas at village gas stations, go to the pharmacies in the village, patronize other shops in the village, have many friends in the village, and so on. As

Democratic chairperson in Lewiston for many years, I have worked with numerous candidates for elective office at both the village, town and county level, and in the process, heard the issues which affect village residents.

The one concern I hear repeated every two years during the village election season is how do we preserve the unique, historic charm that is the village, while at the same time allowing for controlled growth and development? I myself see the not always so "charming" changes along Center Street and some of the other village roads, changes which cause one to shake their head and question "How does that fit with what the rest of the village is like?"

Without a doubt, as this election season approached and then got into full swing, a flurry of projects in the village were discussed and some began. It is not surprising, with an election coming up, that one sees roads

paved that, for many years, were not touched, or to hear about making Center Street look more quaint by putting white picket fencing around private property at village expense, etc. Please do not be fooled by "window dressing" intended to sway your vote. Look at what has happened in the village in the past: projects not yet finished, such as a playground; unoccupied buildings; and consider whether those boasting about their actions truly have "earned the right" to stay in their elected offices.

Across line "A" of your ballot on Tuesday, the village voters have a chance to bring about change in how the village is run, change that brings not the same or even new faces but with the same ideas and perspectives, but new faces with new ideas and new perspectives. While Claudia Marasco has been a trustee the past four years, many of her efforts to bring about fiscal and ethical oversights have been road blocked,

something she seeks to change while making sure the voices of the village residents are truly heard, and their interests truly represented. Savana Bevacqua and Tina Coppins have both served on either boards or in community-based organizations in the village, and through their educational and employment backgrounds bring important experience and new ideas to the forefront, involving both historic preservation, fiscal responsibility and smart growth in the village.

In my many years of working with candidates for local office, I can honestly say that this is a team which is energized and anxious to work for you, the village residents and taxpayers, to provide you with the quality of life that attracted you to live in the village. The passion they have demonstrated, in meeting with so many of you at your homes and around the village businesses, is just a small hint of what they will pour

into representing YOUR interests in village government.

Sometimes to effect change, it must happen on a wholesale level, and that is why "THREE is KEY" for bringing change. Candidates Marasco, Bevacqua and Coppins ask the voters in the village to keep a very important point in mind when casting your votes: one of them alone cannot bring about the needed changes in perspective. But together, they can make things happen for the residents by working together to meet the needs and desires of the residents, while at the same time keeping those efforts and lines of communication open for all residents to see and hear.

Change really does ... can ... and WILL begin with you and your vote in the village election on Tuesday, June 21, for Claudia Marasco for mayor, and Savana Bevacqua and Tina Coppins for trustees.

Diane M. Perri Roberts

Jacoby impressed by Marasco's work ethic, approach to government

I am writing in support of Claudia Marasco for mayor of the Village of Lewiston.

Claudia has consistently impressed me with her dedication to the village and its residents and business owners. She attends so many meetings and events that I sometimes think there must be more than

one of her. Not only is she at these functions, but hers is almost always the first hand to go up when volunteers are needed. During the course of meetings, she offers solutions more often than questions, and her insight and understanding clearly show that she thinks a great deal about moving the village forward.

One might think that this is a sudden flurry of activity during an election campaign but, if you have spent any time at all in the village, this has been her routine for the last several years. She is passionate about the village and she is a champion for the fair and equal treatment of every resident and business. Her energy

and drive are both contagious and inspirational – true leadership qualities that are increasingly difficult to find.

Running for village trustee with Claudia are Tina Coppins and Savana Bevacqua, who are both well qualified and ready to work with Claudia to move the village forward.

Regardless of who you choose to

vote for, get out and vote. Elections are being won or lost by single-digit margins with increasing frequency. Your vote does indeed count.

Town of Lewiston Councilman John Jacoby

Says no one is more caring, or has more integrity, than Marasco

Village friends:

I ask that you join me in supporting Claudia Marasco in her run to be the next mayor of the Village of Lewiston. From the time I met Claudia as a student at Niagara Wheatfield, to my almost daily encounters with her as a business and property owner in the village, one thing is for sure: There is no one more caring, and with more integrity, than Ms. Marasco.

As a Village of Lewiston trustee, Claudia has shown a unique passion for embracing the Village of Lewiston. On any given day, you will see her walking the village and talking to just about everyone she sees. She knows most of the business owners and residents by name, and makes them feel comfortable airing any

village concerns they may have. This is exactly the type of leadership that the village needs as we move away from the two people in a room mentality of the past.

You can also guarantee to see Claudia volunteering at most events in the village. She does this not out to grab headlines or photo opportunities, but out of her love for the village and need for always improving the community. From the various festivals to the many committees that she serves on, Ms. Marasco is tireless in her support for all things Lewiston.

Having been to many village meetings in support of various community events, such as the Lewiston Family Ice Rink and the Peach Festival, one thing for sure is that Claudia

is thorough when addressing a point at a board meeting. You immediately pick up on the drive and passion she has for the residents and their concerns. She is always willing to listen and be understanding of the issues at hand, and works with the entire board to make what she feels is the right decision. Claudia has deeply invested herself here in the village, because it's her home. As trustee, she has always worked across party lines in concert with the entire Village Board for a positive resolution to any problem, and will continue to do so as the village mayor.

Ms. Marasco has always been there for the veterans in our community, as well as the businesses and residents, really working hard and supporting all of us, and now we

need to be there for her. Although I am a registered Republican, and have been actively involved in Republican causes for years, this election isn't about politics – it's about people. We need to return to the days of open and transparent government, taking care of the people and what they need and honestly deserve.

I sincerely believe that Ms. Mar-

asco will bring a fresh outlook and new ideas to our wonderful village without compromising its hometown charm. So, please come out to vote for Claudia Marasco on Tuesday, June 21, between the hours of noon to 9 p.m. at the Red Brick School.

*Thomas Deal
Lewiston business owner*

Make a real difference in the village

As many of you may know, village elections are being held next Tuesday. We wanted to take this opportunity to express to our neighbors why we feel this election is so important.

Four years ago, the village was in a state of flux. Our previous mayor was retiring amidst an agreement that the village would purchase the Frontier House. The deputy mayor at the time was running to replace him, against Anne Welch. I'm sure a lot of you were right there with us in thinking the village spending \$800,000 on a completely unusable building in need of extensive restoration work was not a good idea. Anne Welch came to our house and told us she was against the deal. She got our support because we didn't want to spend the rest of our tax-paying lives in Lewiston paying for it.

While we are glad she followed through in finding a private buyer for the property, we have spent the last four years feeling otherwise duped. At the time, we didn't realize that a vote for Anne Welch was a vote to sell the village to Paladino. That we were looking ahead to four years of construction, which to this day is not complete. The Frontier House is still a mess, and we have a giant eyesore of a plaza that just sits empty.

We are not lifelong village residents. We chose to put our roots down in this historic community because we love it here. We came here

for the butcher where they know just who you are; for the local shops who appreciate your patronage; buildings that have a story; for lights at Christmastime, and neighbors that wave as they walk past with their dog every day.

A lot of the landscape of our village has changed from what we first fell in love with in 2015 to now. We have seen stores close; houses be torn down, people leave – while being systematically replaced with plazas, high-rise apartment and condo complexes, and Airbnb rentals. We didn't sign up to live on Transit Road, to have a bus lumbering down our street every 30 minutes all summer, or to be made to feel like an outsider if you don't have a monied interest to the leadership.

We have both reached out to Mayor Welch via email to express our concerns about happenings in the village; and we were honestly surprised when we both received back the exact same copy and pasted email – an email which didn't even acknowledge the issues we wanted addressed. We thought in such a small town that at the very least our mayor would read and respond to our emails individually – maybe if she recognized our names we would have gotten a different response. But I guess you can play politics even in the tiniest village.

It has been interesting seeing the mayor out and about in the village

now that she is up for reelection, when in recent years you wouldn't even get a wave and a hello when you walked past her house. All that being said, it is time to elect someone that cares into office this term.

If you spend any amount of time on Center Street, you will recognize Claudia Marasco. There is rarely a day that goes by that you don't see her out talking to people, weeding public gardens as she goes, and picking up litter. From the moment you meet her, she makes sure you know you belong and inspires you to want more for your community. She makes it a point to bring everyone she meets into her orbit; she doesn't care if you have lived here one day or one decade – you matter.

We love our village, and we think it's time for it to be led by somebody that loves it too – somebody who wants to see every single one of us thrive. Claudia has become a pillar of this community through involvement outside of government, and we believe that, if the right slate of people is in place at the Red Brick, they can make a real difference around here. So, we are asking our neighbors to please vote Marasco, Coppins, Bevacqua on June 21 to preserve the culture of this village and the future of transparency and inclusion in our leadership.

*Ashlee Chmiel and Antonio Ventry
Lewiston*



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