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# Opinions

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## 'De-Sign' group continues campaign against clutter

You've heard the saying, "A death by a thousand cuts." One cut hurts, but the cumulative effect of being cut hundreds of times will eventually kill you.

That's what's happening in the Village of Lewiston as local officials contemplate adding even more signs that are detracting from our local historic culture and character.

Recent comments indicate that Cayuga Street will become a designated bike path, and new signs will be added to help bicyclists find their way to Center Street, just one short block away. At a time when residents are begging local officials to clean up the sign clutter, adding more signs is the exact opposite of what this community

wants and needs.

We respectfully ask our local officials to consider:

1) 75% of local residents support the idea that, if one sign goes up, another comes down. The idea is to encourage officials to make priorities and determine what signs are actually necessary. If the village puts up directional signs for bicyclists, what signs are coming down?

2) If bicyclists on Cayuga Street want to find their way to Center Street, we think there's a good chance they will get there without the help of more signs. Regardless of where the bike path is placed, bicyclists are legally entitled to bike down any street, and go wherever they want. Besides, when was the last time anyone has seen a

lost bicyclist asking for directions?

3) We love bicyclists and are bicyclists ourselves, but these grandiose plans are being advanced by state bureaucrats who don't live here and who have little understanding on the local impact.

4) If bicyclists really need help, paint the street pavement and/or put directional information on digital maps or biking apps.

Please don't kill Lewiston with a thousand cuts – or in this case, signs. Our history, our beauty and our character are what makes us unique and the centerpiece of Western New York culture. We need aggressive leadership that we will enthusiastically support and assist to reduce the number and size of the public signs that

are plaguing our community.

We remain vigilant and will continue our campaign – one sign at a time, if necessary – to protect Lewiston from the ravages of sign clutter. Countless towns across the nation have been successful at cleaning up their communities. If they can do it, we can too!

*The Volunteer Lewiston De-Sign Committee*  
Tasia Fitzpatrick  
Ken Slaughenhoupt  
Tim Henderson  
Loretta A. Frankovitch  
Bruce Sutherland  
Sandy Blackwell Yates  
Susan Geissler  
Eva Nicklas  
Susan Hofert  
Lee Simonson



## Welch offers response to De-Sign group

Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch, having read the De-Sign Committee letter on the NFP website (www.wnypapers.com), issued the following response on Monday:

The proposed bike lane on Cayuga Street will have small directional signs denoting the bike route attached to our existing stop signs. This is a safer alternative route for youths and families to travel instead of the shared bike lane on Center Street. These small signs are designed to direct cyclists through the Village of Lewiston and to the continued bike route to the surrounding communities.

I have not seen the proposed signs yet, but I made them aware that they had to be conscientious of adding additional signs in the village.

This bike trail is a good thing

for Lewiston. It brings people into our community to see what businesses, events, history and attractions we have to offer. Bike trail directional signage is important, because people from out of the area need direction to continue on the trail.

As far as placing more signs in the community, we are making an effort on removing signs. You said, "If one sign goes up, one sign comes down." We recently removed nine street signs along Center Street because they were old and faded and unreadable and we are not replacing them with new signs, so I guess we are ahead by nine.

This is still a work in progress, and we may remove more signs. Keep in mind Center Street is a New York state highway and the Department of Transportation dic-

tates what signs must be installed along the highway for direction, information and safety.

We are currently working with DOT to remove the large, green state highway sign and the large "Welcome to Lewiston" sign at the corner of Ninth and Center Street, and possibly other Center Street signs that may not be needed.

We are also considering removing the old, faded street sign poles at the intersections and replacing them with new street sign poles that will match the existing antique street lights. This is very costly and I have asked DOT to consider replacing street sign poles and signs during the Center Street resurfacing project this year.

I personally invited Mr. Simonson to a NYS DOT meeting regarding the resurfacing of Center

Street where he could voice his concerns about the signage and the overhead wires. I have kept him informed about the upcoming schedule for the resurfacing, signs that have been removed, and the possibility of removing utility poles and wires.

At no time did anyone from the De-Sign group contact me or my board members to ask what kind of signage was proposed for the bike trail along Cayuga Street. I have never been invited to any of their meetings, where I would be glad to answer their questions or concerns.

All of the village meetings are open to the public, where their questions and concerns could be answered.

*Mayor Anne Welch*

### Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

Founded February 14, 1987

**PUBLISHER**

Skip Mazenauer

**GM/MANAGING EDITOR**

Joshua Maloni

**EDITOR IN CHIEF/SENTINEL EDITOR**

Terrence P. Duffy

**ERIE COUNTY EDITOR**

Karen Keefe

**WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA EDITORS**

Joshua Maloni, Lucia Spiritosanto,

Toni Snyder

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES**

Colleen Rebmann, Jeff Calarco,

Marcy Lombardo

**CIRCULATION**

Kim Wendt

**ACCOUNTING/OFFICE MANAGER**

Kim Wendt

**PRODUCTION MANAGER/**

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Wendy Juzwicki

**GRAPHIC DESIGNERS**

Lucia Spiritosanto, Toni Snyder

**CLASSIFIED MANAGER**

Toni Snyder

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Jennifer Walowitz

**CONTRIBUTING**

**PHOTOGRAPHERS/REPORTERS**

Michael J. Billoni, Kevin and Dawn Cobello,

Michael DePietro, Nathan Keefe,

Wayne Peters, Mark Williams Jr.,

David Yarger

©2021 Niagara Frontier Publications

1859 Whitehaven Road  
Grand Island, N.Y. 14072

Phone (716) 773-7676  
Fax (716) 773-7190

**Editorial:**

Tribune@wnypapers.com

Dispatch@wnypapers.com

Sentinel@wnypapers.com

**Advertising:**

NFPDesign@wnypapers.com

**Classifieds:**

NFPClassifieds@wnypapers.com

**Circulation:**

NFPCirculation@wnypapers.com

**Legals:**

legalnotice@wnypapers.com

**Website:**

wnypapers.com

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The Tribune is published weekly.

Display Ads Deadline: MONDAY 5 PM

New York State Press Association, Niagara County Builders Association, Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, Wheatfield Business Association Inc., Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, The Niagara USA Chamber.



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