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# Opinions

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## Offers endorsement for Fittante

James Fittante is beyond a doubt an excellent candidate for Village of Lewiston trustee. After much thought, Jim has decided it is time for him to serve on the Village Board. I have had the honor of sitting on the Historic Preservation Commission with Jim, and I have seen firsthand his expertise and knowledge in architecture in the various projects in Lewiston – along with his commitment to promote and maintain Lewiston's historic character. Jim realizes the historic value of the Village of Lewiston, but also embraces the fact we need business to keep our community thriving in the right

direction. James Fittante is exactly what this board needs at this time. When evaluating candidates for your vote, I encourage you to look at what they have done for our community to date. We have all heard, "If I'm elected, I plan on doing. ..." I ask you to look at what Jim has brought to the table now and what he can add to the current Village Board once he is elected. One does not have to look too far to see Jim's contributions – Historic Planning Commission, executive board member of Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, and an active member of Moose Lodge 584 to name a few.

Jim's architectural vision goes well beyond Center Street, but some of his outstanding accomplishments include the Frontier House, The Lewiston Stone House, The Brickyard Pub and BBC, Como Building and the Niagara Falls Country Club. When approaching each of these designs and projects, Jim has Lewiston at heart. How it is going to effect both the client and the Village of Lewiston in general. On a personal note, we used Jim Fittante when designing an addition on our home and could not have been more pleased with the outcome. I ask that you come out to vote

for Jim Fittante as village trustee on June 21 at the Red Brick Village Hall. Anne Welch, Victor Eydt and James Fittante are the team we need for the leadership of the village. All three candidates have a proven record not only for the excellent development of our village, but also a demonstrated lifelong commitment to the Village of Lewiston.

*Rita Donovan Geiben  
Lifelong resident  
Village of Lewiston  
Member, Historic Preservation  
Commission*

## Ritter refutes endorsement claim, voting for Welch

I am writing to say how dismayed I was to read in the Tribune/Sentinel concerning my wonderful husband of 58 years, H. John Ritter, who passed away in 2018.

John was the long-term chairman of the Village of Lewiston Zoning Board of Appeals; what I think was a very important and sensitive position. He firmly believed that zoning was extremely important to the village. And I know that all his decisions in consultation with the balance of the board were made to make Lewis-

ton the type of place people want to live. My husband was not real talkative, but I know that, when he did have something to say, he spoke clearly and with authority. I'm proud to say that people listened to John.

It was said that he had been "consulted." Well, that was not possible, and John was not in the habit of giving advice; particularly about "politics." The Zoning Board and its members know they are being trusted to make these decisions without outside influence from anyone. They followed the

village code and the advice of our village attorney, Joseph Leone, to whom he spoke frequently.

Over the years, John served with several mayors and many trustees. Except to me, he was careful to keep his opinions to himself, not just because that was the kind of man he was, but because he didn't want people to feel he was under someone's influence.

I am now a widow and among the things left to me are my memories of my husband. I didn't speak for John when he was with us. He was perfectly capable of speaking

for himself. I wouldn't speak for him now either, but I wanted to tell your readers not to believe anyone who claims to speak for him now that he is no longer here to speak for himself.

As for me, no one sought my advice of politics either. I am voting for Mayor Welch and Trustee Vic Eydt running for reelection, and Jim Fittante for trustee. John and I always voted; that's how we gave our opinions. I hope you will come out to support them as well.

*Nancy Ritter  
Lewiston*

## Asks for more information on school budget

An April 29 news article, written by the Lewiston-Porter school board president, was the first information I received regarding the proposed 2022-23 school budget. Although short on financial information, it did state the proposed budget was \$53,117,589, a 3.75%

increase over last year, requiring a 2.69% increase in the tax levy, which is under the New York tax cap threshold. It informed us that the vote date was May 17, and that more information would be provided in the school district's newsletter the "Link," which would soon

hit voter's mailboxes. As of May 7, I have not received a copy.

To me, \$53,117,589 is a significant amount of money, and approving that spending should be based on a thorough understanding of the proposal. That cannot be done

under the current budget process, as needed information is too little and too late for any in-depth analysis. It does not provide critical information on enrollment and trends, nor compare the proposed budget to actual historical expenses. **SEE SCHOOL, continued on Page 5**



## Lewiston Council on the Arts seeks missing cat

Miss Kitty is lost. She is an 18-year-old, friendly, clipped-ear, silky, beautiful cat.

Hearts are breaking. This old girl was an office cat for 18 years. When we had to move, we found the best home for her at the Mad Hatter Tea House at 444 Center St. (next door to the Frontier House), and she became a well loved "shop cat."

She's been happy there with all

the attention, and loves greeting customers and art students; but the beautiful spring weather was too hard to resist, and she bolted into noisy surroundings she is not familiar with.

She may respond if you call her name: Miss Kitty  
If you see her, please call 716-870-9202 or 716-385-7599. Thank you!

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