

# Tina Coppins seeks to make positive change as village trustee

My name is Tina Coppins and I am running for Village of Lewiston trustee. I am a long-time resident of the Youngstown/Lewiston area, along with my husband of 30 years, Peter Coppins. We have raised two sons in this amazing community we are fortunate enough to call home. I am dedicated to my family and to this community. It is important for me to see the village maintain its historical integrity through smart growth and development, given the opportunity.

I want to take a moment to share with my fellow residents why I believe my vast array of personal and professional experiences has prepared me for the position of trustee. For the past 22 years, I have worked as a property manager, overseeing a 425,000-square-foot commercial building, which houses anywhere from 25 to 35 tenants, at any given time. I am responsible for managing and overseeing a \$3 million budget, and work closely with architects, general contractors, building inspectors and fire inspectors throughout the year. My job duties include managing

the budget; obtaining variances for projects; understanding and following building codes set forth by the municipality; and overseeing construction. The experience I have gained over the past 22 years as property manager has prepared me to be a trustee for the Village of Lewiston.

Throughout the years, I have remained an active member and participant of this community. I have volunteered my time with the Kiwanis Club, Lion's Club and Garden Club, among others. I have assisted the Village of Lewiston Recreation Department with events held throughout the year, including the Spring Fling, movie night in Academy Park, helped build the Marilyn Toohey Park inclusive playground, and worked the fundraising event for this summer's bicentennial celebration. When elected, I will remain an active member of our community, and will take a hands-on approach. I will engage local organizations, nonprofits, and the business community, to better serve them in addressing the challenges they face on a day-to-day basis.



Tina Coppins

"Why run now?" My answer is simple: It's because of mishandlings by some in the current administration, showing a lack of regard for the rules and regulations set forth in the village codebook. These rules and regulations protect all our residents and small business owners who have fought so hard, throughout the years, to build a quaint, historic, charming place to live, work and play. As trustee, I will unify differ-

ent members of boards, including Zoning, Planning, and Historic Preservation, all of whom were elected and/or appointed to serve the residents of the Village of Lewiston. When elected, I will act against the "us versus them" mentality, not allowing inconsequential, political games, to get in the way of doing what is best for the village. I want to bring inclusivity and transparency back to local government and end the

"backroom deal" mentality, which has carried on for too long here in the Village of Lewiston.

I am about growth, but smart growth. The Village of Lewiston is on the cusp of projects pertaining to Academy Park, the waterfront, and Center Street's overall streetscape, which could change the overall integrity for the foreseeable future. Decisions that are made now will set a precedent for the future. Once a decision is made, there is no going back.

As a resident of the village, I will uphold its values, while striving to maintain its historical integrity. The village has fallen short on taking action to preserve our history and in applying the codes fairly and equally to all. We need transparency, fairness and inclusivity within our village. As an elected official in the Village of Lewiston, I will serve the community for the betterment of those who live, work and play here.

Vote for change, integrity and dedication. Vote Tina Coppins on June 21, Election Day, for Village of Lewiston trustee. Exercise your right to vote – the time for change is now.

## Opinions

## May is Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Month

Reminds motorists to safely share roadways

BY MICHAEL P. KEARNS  
Erie County Clerk

Warmer weather has arrived, daylight hours are longer, and it is finally spring. Motorcycle riders across Erie County are tuning up their bikes and getting ready for the riding season on the open road.

Motorcycles are inexpensive to purchase, fun to ride and easy to park. In addition, with gasoline prices at record highs, consumers are looking for more fuel-efficient ways to get around while saving money. In Erie County alone, there are more than 21,000 registered riders who use their motorcycles for commuting, touring and other recreational activities.

I ask all motorists, especially new drivers, to be alert to the presence of motorcycles and to share the road safely. Motorcyclists often ride to one side of the lane and, at times, the rider can hide in your vehicle's blind spot. Always look twice before turning or changing lanes to be sure your path is clear. Allow more following distance for motorcycles – two or three car lengths is recommended, more if the roads are wet or visibility is poor.

Riders should follow motorcycle safety protocols: Wear pro-

TECTIVE gear at all times, including a helmet, ride within your skill limits, avoid riding in poor weather conditions, use turn signals, and never ride impaired or distracted. Riders can also benefit from any of the motorcycle safety programs offered for both new riders looking to learn the critical skills needed to ride safely, and seasoned riders who want to reinforce safe driving practices. Course graduates may also qualify for insurance premium discounts with some insurers. Class locations and fees can be found at [nysmsp.org](http://nysmsp.org).

I urge everyone to use caution when sharing the road this summer. Together, the more we raise awareness and follow the rules of the road, the more everyone is safe. Let's ride smart, ride safe, and enjoy the season.

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## CAN YOU HELP: Fundraiser for Mason FOREVER

My name is Lucia Sanchez. I am a senior at Lewiston-Porter High School and captain of the girls varsity lacrosse team. The girls lacrosse team is proud to be organizing a 5K race to support the Mason FOREVER Foundation. The event is scheduled for June 2 at 6:30 p.m. at Richard F. Soluri Park adjacent to Artpark State Park.

The Mason FOREVER Foundation was formed in memory of my teammate Logan Monteleone's brother, Mason Monteleone. Mason, 21, was a junior on the dean's list at Florida State University, majoring in interdisciplinary medical sciences, when he tragically died in a car accident on Aug. 28, 2020.

All proceeds raised will support students with passions similar to Mason's by providing scholarships and donations. Sports, physical health, mental health and education were the core of his being. Mason played for Lewiston-Porter Youth Football and Niagara Pioneer Travel

Soccer. He also participated in soccer, basketball, wrestling and track while in middle school at Lewiston-Porter. Mason attended Canisius High School where he played soccer, rugby and wrestling, and was a member of the state champion Canisius High School football team.

We are currently seeking sponsors to help support and raise money for the Mason FOREVER Foundation and Mason FOREVER 5K. We know that our efforts will go farther

with your support promoting this cause! Please feel free to contact me for more information.

I look forward to hearing from you! Lucia Sanchez: 716-697-2697.

Checks should be made out to Mason FOREVER Foundation, addressed to 190 Oliver St., Suite 300, North Tonawanda, NY, 14120; or at <https://masonforever.com/>. Register for the Mason FOREVER 5K at <https://masonforever.itsyourrace.com/>.

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