

Wydysh supports Welch, Eydt & Fittante

BY NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE CHAIRWOMAN BECKY WYDYSH

Village of Lewiston resident

As we approach Election Day in the Village of Lewiston, I'm often asked which candidates I support and who will be receiving my vote, because I do work so closely with other elected officials in the area. On June 21, I will be giving my support to the team of Anne Welch for mayor, Victor Eydt for village trustee and James Fittante for village trustee.

Over the last several years, I have established a very cooperative and successful working relationship with Anne and Vic, as we have worked together on projects that benefit the Village of Lewiston and Niagara County, as a whole. Their dedication and love for their community has always been evident to me when I see just how hard they will fight for the needs of their residents, and the long hours away from family and friends they are willing to endure to get the job done. As a newcomer to the political scene, I have enjoyed

my recent conversations with Jim about why he is running, his vision for the village, and his vast history of local projects and community organization involvement. I am confident that he will be a tremendous addition to the board, and someone that will quickly become another trusted and effective partner in all that I work toward accomplishing in my own position.

Please take the time to research all of the candidates asking for your vote on June 21. Be informed about their proven track records of success and their visions

for the future of the beautiful village we all call home. From the Frontier House revitalization to the all-inclusive playground at Marilyn Toohey Park, to the shoreline improvements and rebuilding of the Lewiston Landing area, and much more, this team has shown they have the knowledge, enthusiasm and partnerships needed to not just maintain, but proactively improve upon the wonderful quality of life that has drawn us all to live and raise our families in this community that we love.

Armstrong endorses Coppins for change

There is a phrase which comes to mind, "When you view the world through rose colored glasses, the red flags are harder to see."

I recently took off my rose-colored glasses upon my return to the Village of Lewiston, after spending the past five months in Florida. It appears that taking a step back and seeing the bigger picture is what was necessary for me to see the red flags all around our village. I have been listening to the stories and opinions of my fellow village residents and those who live in the surrounding

areas. Many appear to be of the same or similar mindset, which begs the question, "What is happening to our quaint, historic village?"

On my daily walks around the village, I look around and see the changing streetscape, empty storefronts, small businesses closing their doors, a significant increase in rent for commercial space driving out small business, and projects which have yet to be completed – in particular, at Academy Park and Marilyn Toohey Park.

Our charming, quaint village,

once ranked No. 5 on the "10 Best Small Towns in America" list back in 2012, has me wondering where we would rank today, or even five years from now. We appear to be on a path which is slowly chipping away at and eroding what qualified the Village of Lewiston to be ranked one of the nation's premiere small towns. With my rose-colored glasses gone, I now see it is time for change.

The Village of Lewiston's upcoming election will be held June 21, and I believe it is time for new ideas and a fresh approach. That

is why, on Election Day, I will be supporting Tina Coppins for Village of Lewiston trustee. I have known Tina for over 15 years and believe she will approach the position of trustee with the same dedication and commitment she has shown her family, friends and this community through the years. Anyone who has spent time with Tina knows she is a force to be reckoned with; kind, caring, straightforward and loyal are but a few words that describe her. Tina is tenacious and has a strong sense of who she is. She understands business and what

it will take to get the job done as trustee for the Village of Lewiston.

I believe now is the time for change in leadership – someone who values the joys of small-town living and will work to preserve all we have built here in the Village of Lewiston.

Tina Coppins is a registered Democrat, and I, a Republican, choose to place integrity above party on June 21. Please join me in supporting Tina Coppins for Village of Lewiston trustee.

*Dena Armstrong (Elia)
Lifelong Lewiston Resident*

Eydt brings 'experience & practical knowledge'

I am a long-time friend of Vic Eydt, our village trustee, and I am writing to recommend him to you for reelection.

Vic has always been very active in the Moose Lodge, and I have worked with him on many community projects. I know he brings a lot of experience and practical knowledge to his work here, and I know he is the same on the Board of Trustees.

Vic starts projects that may take years to get finished, and he has great patience with the government agencies he has to deal with – including the Department of State, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the State Department of Transportation, and all the rest of the local agencies and boards.

Recently, he told me of the new bike path

through our village, and the adding of electric vehicle charging stations in the village. He's the guy that led the effort to identify and replace old water lines. I guess I want to say that it is his personality to be diligent and persistent on all the projects he oversees.

I hope you will vote to retain the excellent services of Vic Eydt as your deputy mayor and trustee, and the rest of the

slate – Anne Welch and Jim Fittante – to keep our momentum and improvements moving forward.

The Village Election is on June 21, from noon to 9 p.m. at the Red Brick. Please join me in reelecting one of our most qualified trustees, Vic Eydt.

*Clinton R. Cassick
Lewiston*

Talarico, Eckert & Portale confident in Welch

Welch 'an advocate for community growth & development'

I have been a Town of Lewiston resident for 45-plus years and a village resident for almost three years. The present mayor, Anne Welch, has been nothing but professional and thoughtful in our community. I feel her love for the village is genuine and true. Her leadership is exceptional and heartfelt. Anne is an advocate for community growth and development and I have watched Center Street flourish and plans come to life under her guidance. Our community came together over the past two years as we ventured through a pandemic – Anne's presence was always known, and we see this with the remodel of Center Street.

*Sam Talarico
Lewiston*

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Says Welch most qualified to be mayor

My husband and I moved to Lewiston in 1992 – we had a lot to learn about owning an historic home and living in Lewiston. I visited the village office for guidance and was introduced to the village clerk, Anne Welch. She was friendly, kind, very knowledgeable, and made us feel welcome to this wonderful village.

I would ask that every resident of the village give serious consideration when casting your vote for mayor on June 21 to the qualifications of Mayor Anne

Welch:

- ✓ 40-plus years of loyal service to the village;
- ✓ Clerk to several highly regarded mayors;
- ✓ Dedication to the village, its residents and environment;
- ✓ Long-time resident of this village;
- ✓ Courage and diligence holding the village together during the pandemic;
- ✓ Keeping our taxes under control;
- ✓ Love of our village; and:
- ✓ Knowledge of the village, its inner workings, its residents and businesses – all of which can only come from her many years of dedication and loyalty to this Village and its residents.

*Mary Alice Eckert
Lewiston*

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Village of Lewiston 'very healthy & well managed'

In May 2018, I was looking from my office on Center Street at the deteriorating Frontier

House and wondering how this was going to end. Our village leaders at the time had decided that the proper course was to have the village buy the Frontier House.

As a Realtor and a long-time village resident and former chairman of the village Planning and Historic Preservation Committee, I knew that was a terrible mistake. I knew that the village simply did not have the financial ability to purchase that building, nor did it have the money to prevent its deterioration from a symbol of our history to just a pile of stone. And that if purchased, our village taxpayers would be ultimately financially responsible.

We have a very small tax base, and we had no business planning to unload that 200-plus-year-old building on the taxpayers.

Fortunately, Anne Welch was elected mayor in June of that year. She immediately stopped any attempt to purchase the building by the taxpayers and

promised to find a "private" buyer. Well, I know the voters trusted her to do the right thing and, within eight months, she secured a commitment from Bill Paladino to purchase and renovate the Frontier House at no cost or fiscal responsibility on the people who pay the taxes.

It is now four years later and the Frontier House renovations are underway. It has been four years of progress on all fronts for Mayor Welch and the Board of Trustees. The tax base is rising from new developments and renovations of existing proper-

ties. Good leadership is what was needed in 2018 and we still need it today. The village is very healthy and well managed.

I hope you will join me in voting for Mayor Anne Welch, Trustee Vic Eydt and trustee candidate, architect Jim Fittante to continue to lead our village. The election is on June 21 at the Red Brick. Please make it a point to come and vote for this successful team.

*Richard Portale
Lewiston*

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Pastor Timothy Anas

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