

# The Look: Style for a dramatic change

by Lynn Manock

photos by Lisa Vohwinkel

BEFORE



When Maureen Donovan pulled out her summer wardrobe this year, she was pleased to see she would have to go shopping for some new pieces. Because Maureen has done what many dream of doing – lost over 40 pounds!!

The decision to hire and work with a personal trainer was the motivating factor at the beginning of her personal transformation. The trainer brought an energetic push and discipline to the workouts which challenged Maureen to exercise with an effort that she hadn't found on her own. This laid the ground work for a solid routine and built exercise into her daily life.

As the director of sales and marketing at the Holiday Inn Sunspree, Maureen keeps a professional polish to her look, so we took a look at her casual wear to help her make the most of her beautiful features and hard-earned new figure.

There is a tendency when we aren't comfortable with our bodies to swath ourselves in yards of fabric and hide, but this tactic simply adds volume. Elasticated waistbands are comfortable, but they lack structure and allow for further expansion, and they are not flattering! The key is to fit the body you have today and feature your best assets with accessories, color, and cut.

The first thing we did was to go see Melissa Pudiwitr-Blanton, owner of The Bra Shoppe at Landfall Center, and have a proper fitting. Many women aren't wearing the right size foundations and a professional fitting is absolutely important, especially when you have had a dramatic figure change.

When we set out to shop for Maureen the focus was on finding a vibrant color for wearing near her face, fitted pants that show off her new figure, and updated accessories.

*Our stylist/contributor, Lynn Manock is the creative force behind the new, locally opened working studio/retail shop called Ziabird in Lumina Station. Lynn brings her years as a stylist, costumer and designer to the retail arena with this new venture.*

#### Picture yourself in these pages....

Can your wardrobe use a lift? Tell *Wilma* about it! Send us a photo of yourself in an outfit that needs help, and see what magic we can do.

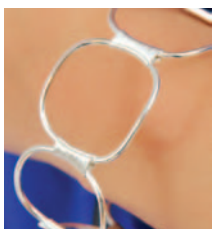


The bright jewel tone blue of this top enhances Maureen's eyes. A slenderizing v-neckline and cinched waist show off her svelte figure. Kimono style top by Andie Hart, \$35 from Julie's in Mayfaire.

Proper underpinnings are paramount to good fit. Melissa Pudiwit-Blanton, owner of The Bra Shoppe in Landfall Center, provided Maureen with a bra fitting consultation and the right size.



This white leather shoulder bag is the right proportion for Maureen's petite frame because the shorter strap keeps the bag up closer to her body. Purse by Spare Change Designs, \$180 from Ziabird in Lumina Station.



Silver is a beautiful complement to dark hair and coordinates well with the cool blue color of the top. Silver wire wrapped earrings and cuff bracelet by Emily Claire Designs, from Ziabird in Lumina Station. Earrings \$106, bracelet \$165.

Put your look together with pieces from consignment or thrift stores as well as boutiques. We found a treasure of a deal with these cropped white pants that accentuate Maureen's delicate ankles and pretty feet. Cream stretch capri pants from Bargain Box on Princess Place Drive, \$6.



These blue suede sandals with tassels add great color and trendy style to the outfit. Sandals by Jeffrey Campbell, \$78 from Island Passage in Lumina Station.



*BELOW LEFT: Stylist Andrea Mays of Seagrass Salon and Day Spa gently colored Maureen's thick, curly hair, then styled it.*

*BELOW RIGHT: Makeup artist Kelly Noe of Seagrass Salon and Day Spa highlighted Maureen's eyes after a good brow tweezing.*

