



Grandinetti to the world:  
**I HATE CATS**



# NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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## City Wide Reassessment Will Soon Shock Residents



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# Reassessment To Result In Tax Increases Between 17 And 40 Percent Citywide

## Mike Hudson

When Niagara Falls officials say they're "leaving \$112 million on the table" because they haven't done a reassessment since 2004, what they really mean is that the money has been left in the pockets of city taxpayers.

Don't look now, those pockets are about to be picked.

That's right, property taxes in Niagara Falls – which is arguably the highest taxed municipality in the entire United States based on real property value – are about to take a stratospheric jump skyward.

Earlier this week, Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster told reporters that it has been quite some time since the city has conducted a thorough evaluation of the value of its private properties. The last citywide reassessment took place more than a decade ago in 2004.

"It's been a long time since the city has had a reassessment," the mayor said. "It seems that we are getting to the point where a reassessment needs to be done."

Members of the city's financial advisory panel recommended a property reassessment as part of a report on the state of the city's finances that the group released late last year.

The 2004 reassessment was never completed, stopping short of LaSalle and leaving some properties in the city assessed at 60 percent of total value. Howls from LaSalle home and business owners were heard all the way to City Hall after property owners there saw the sharp spike in taxes suffered by those in neighborhoods where the reassessment had been completed.

The financial advisory panel calculated in its report a loss of about \$112 million in real property value since the last reassessment.

The panel questioned the "political will" of lawmakers to seriously address matters of casino fund usage, property reassessment,



Out of control spending by Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster has led to the squandering of tens of millions in casino revenue to plug budgetary gaps and deficits of nearly \$8 million in some years. Now he's proposing raising property taxes by between 17 and 40 percent under the guise of a city-wide reassessment.

tax equalization and the involvement of state governed financial review board.

Despite using revenue from the Seneca Niagara Casino to plug holes in the general fund budget, the city under Dyster has routinely operated in the red, with the deficit running to nearly \$8 million in 2011 and 2014.

This year, the bulk of the casino revenue – \$13 million – has been earmarked to keep Dyster's leaky financial vessel afloat.

To a large extent, the reassessment and misuse of casino revenue provides the back story for Dyster's recent firing of longtime city controller Maria Brown.

Something of a gambler himself, Dyster is betting that Brown's replacement – part timer Sandy Peploe – will be a more controllable controller than the independent Brown. Peploe served briefly as city controller

under former mayor Jimmy Galie during the waning years of the 20th Century, and is being brought out of retirement by Dyster.

Brown was sharply critical of Dyster's out of control spending habits over the years, and often complained that – even when revenue increased or a new source of funds was discovered – the mayor would find something to spend it on before it even came in.

Members of the panel cooked up a plan to close the property tax gap – which if raised under the state's legal limit would take in \$31 million next year, instead of the city's roughly \$28 million 2016 intake – by taking what they called "a more serious approach" to tax equalization and property reassessment.

By "more serious" the panel actually meant raising taxes and doing the reassessment. The thought that Dyster could be compelled in some fashion to rein in his profligate spending was never seriously considered.

City Council Chairman Andrew Touma concurred with the panel's report, and has publicly endorsed a citywide reassessment that would result in properties being taxed at 100 percent of their assessed value.

Council members Kristen Grandinetti and Charles Walker have both hopped on board the reassessment bandwagon, which is bad news for city taxpayers because the

three represent a majority on the five-member Council.

Homes and businesses in the city are currently assessed at between 60 and 83 percent of their purported value. Niagara Falls, according to the city's most recent budget reports, presently list residential property at \$876.5 million value and its commercial property at \$398.4 million value.

In other words, Touma's proposal would result in tax assessments spiking on average from between 17 and 40 percent.

They just don't get it. Dyster has raised taxes repeatedly over the past nine years, but the \$28 million or \$29 million derived from property tax revenue has remained static. The reason? People are just walking away.

The mayor himself pointed out that, between 2010 through last year, the city's property tax revenues remained relatively stagnant, rising only about 8 percent over that time, well below the rate of inflation, and despite his tax increases.

City services and economic opportunity in Niagara Falls are such that the city has among the highest rates of crime, unemployment and poverty of any municipality in New York State. Many if not most city residents live in subsidized housing or in neighborhoods most people would describe as slums.

But if you don't mind putting up with the crime, unemployment and poverty, there are lots of places you could live other than the most heavily taxed municipality in the state and perhaps the entire country.

During Dyster's first two terms in office, as many as 1,000 residents a year have said enough is enough. And that has been in reaction to relatively minor tax increases of between 2 and 3 percent. What will happen when they shoot up by between 17 and 40 percent?

One needs only to drive through any neighborhood in the city to see the hundreds of "zombie houses" whose owners finally just gave up on. With each passing year during the Dyster administration, more of these forlorn former homes have been created than the city can tear down.

If the tax rates remain constant, and don't look for any reduction, the increased taxes based on higher assessments will undoubtedly result in even more shuttered businesses and a sharp increase in the population exodus the city has been experiencing for more than 50 years.

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Frank Parlato**

**Managing Editor  
Dr. Chitra Selvaraj**

**Senior Editor  
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# Taxes In Most Highly Taxed City Just Aren't High Enough, Dyster Says

## Mike Hudson

It was barely three years ago.

On June 13, 2013, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that a settlement had been reached between the state and the Seneca Nation of Indians that ended a long running dispute over the possible development of private casinos along the Niagara Frontier.

For his part, Cuomo agreed that there would be no private casino development in Western New York and extended the soon to expire compact between the state and the Seneca for another 20 years.

The Seneca agreed to pay the state and the local municipalities where its casinos operate the money they had been withholding as the dispute dragged on.

Local officials were ecstatic.

"This agreement is great news for the City of Niagara Falls and all of Western New York. It will ensure this much needed revenue benefits our city and this dispute is finally behind us," Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster said. "We could not be here today without the leadership of Governor Cuomo."

State Assemblyman John Ceretto predicted the windfall would help the city get back on its feet again.

"This agreement between the state and the Seneca Nation is great news for Western New York and Niagara Falls," Ceretto said. "My top concern was that Niagara Falls receive the money that it is rightfully owed. Niagara Falls desperately needs this infusion of money to improve its economy and create jobs. This agreement accomplishes that goal, and I am happy to endorse it. The people of Western New York expect their leaders to get things done, and today, we have delivered results."

And with that, the Seneca promptly wrote a check for \$89 million and sent it off to Mayor Dyster.

Who spent every red cent of it. So fast it made former city controller Maria Brown's head spin.

It wasn't spent on improving the economy and creating jobs, but on plugging gaps the bloated monstrosity Dyster euphemistically refers to as a "budget." The leftovers went toward such worthy causes as paying off an IRS debt owed by Community Missions, providing improved habitat for the penguins at the Aquarium of Niagara, building a playing field for the city's growing population of cricket enthusiasts and buying some worthless Brownfield property on Highland Avenue for considerably more than the parcel was appraised at.

And just like that, the \$89 million was all gone.

Now the city is broke again and Dyster has a new scheme. Residential and business properties in the city are currently taxed at between 60 and 83 percent of their assessed value. He wants them all taxed at 100 percent of their assessed value, meaning that property taxes will go up by between 17 and 40 percent citywide.



**Artist's conception:  
Council Chairman Andrew Touma  
as the drunken sailor.**

**Touma says "we are leaving about \$9 million a year on the table by not reassessing."**

**Translation: "On the table" means in residents' pockets.**

**Make no mistake about it: Touma is the architect of what will be the largest tax increase in recent history.**

**Typical of the innate dishonesty of the Dyster-Touma administration- it is disguised as a reassessment.**

**It is a tax increase plain and simple. Never does the "drunken sailor" Touma ever talk about cutting expenses!**

Officials have spoken about the unfairness inherent in the fact that properties in some sections of the city are taxed at a different rate than properties in another section.

There has been no discussion whatsoever of lowering the overall tax rate to soften the blow a reassessment will most certainly bring.

Dyster's wanton disregard for sound economic policy is apparent in his squandering of an \$89 million windfall over a period of just two years. To say he spends like a drunken sailor is to give drunken sailors a bad name. Is this the man the home and business owners of Niagara Falls want to entrust with between 17 and 40 percent more of their hard earned dollars than they're already giving him?

According to a study by Market Watch published in January, New York is the most highly taxed state in the nation. And a study done last year by the Empire Center for Public Policy showed Niagara County to be the most highly taxed county in the state.

Far and away, Niagara Falls homeowners pay the highest taxes per \$1,000 of property value in the county, which would make the city the most highly taxed municipality in the entire United States.

But that's is obviously not enough for Dyster and Co.

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# Cat Hating Grandinetti Shot Down Again On Anti-Cat Legislation Here

**Mike Hudson**

It would be comical if it wasn't so pathetic.

Councilwoman Kristin Grandinetti, rubber stamp for anything her neighbor, Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster, proposes, Facebook gadabout and untiring champion for issues having to do with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community is still proposing legislation regarding what she apparently feels is the Number One problem facing residents of Niagara Falls.

Kitty cats.

Yes, little pussies, who have been known, on occasion, to roam freely within the boundaries of our fair city, sometimes defecating in flower beds and sometimes going so far as to rummage through garbage in search of the odd pizza crust or half eaten chicken wing.

In what may well be the highest taxed municipality in the nation and the most dangerous city in the state of New York, where unemployment is several points above the state average and the number of people living below the poverty line is an ongoing tragedy and scandal, kitty cats are the object of the spinster Grandinetti's ire.

Back in April, Grandinetti's anti-cat legislation was tabled without discussion when cooler heads prevailed and public outrage over her prejudicial views reached a fever pitch among the good, cat loving population of Niagara Falls.

If she'd have had a lick of sense, which she doesn't, Grandinetti would have let the matter drop there. Have you ever been licked by a cat? It feels as though their tongue is made of sandpaper.

Instead, Grandinetti pursued the matter relentlessly, bothering people in the city's Law Department – which emphatically has tons or more important things to do – and also at the Niagara County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which likewise has its hands already full.

She tried to re-introduce a slightly tweaked version of her virulent anti-cat legislation at this week's city Council meeting, and was similarly rebuffed when her Council colleagues tabled the measure without discussion.

"I don't understand the hesitation," Grandinetti said in a fit of pique. "We went over all the language... We reached out to the community... We have spent three weeks, (Corporation Counsel Craig) Johnson and I, on getting this together, and I just don't understand the hesitation."

The hesitation, of course, is rooted in the reality that Grandinetti's draconian legislation against felines and the people who love them would make national news and once again project the city of Niagara Falls as the backward, cultural backwater it actually is. Name another city in the United States that would threaten cat caretakers with fines and jail time should a particular feline be found urinating in the neighbor's yard.

Grandinetti claimed to have involved SPCA Director Amy Lewis in the discussions, and Lewis admitted this week that she had indeed spoken with Grandinetti about the wacky legislation.

But her concerns, she said, were pragmatic in nature. Should Grandinetti's proposal become law, "We wouldn't have room for them all," Lewis said.

Still, Grandinetti is sticking to her cat hating guns.

"More and more, this is becoming a bigger issue than it needs to be," Grandinetti said.

Which is kind of comical, since the only one who is making it an issue is Grandinetti.



The remedy for weakness is not brooding over weakness, but thinking of strength...

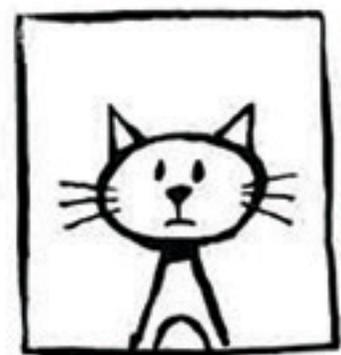
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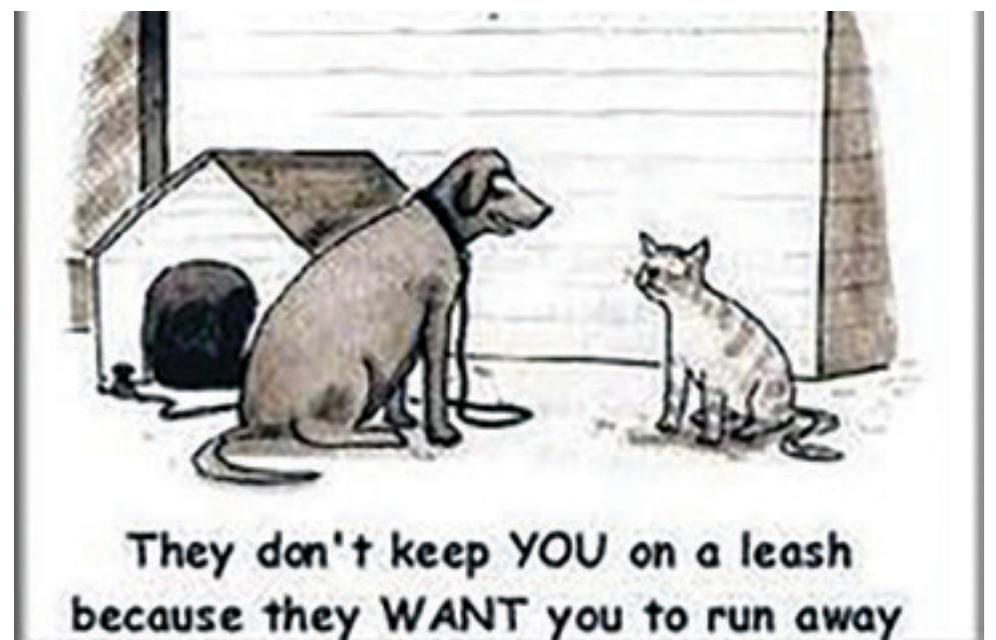
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# Transparency Wins Out Over Unnecessary Feral-Cat Ordinance Expediency

## Joe Kissel

“I don’t understand the hesitation,” said councilwoman Kristen Grandinetti at Monday’s city council meeting just before changes to the city animal code regarding “community” cats got tabled.

“We’ve gone to the SPCA and gotten her expert opinion,” said Grandinetti. “We went over all the language with her. We reached out to the community about it. We have spent three weeks, Mr. Johnson and I, on getting this together, and I don’t understand the hesitation.”

Councilman Charles Walker responded: “The hesitation, in my opinion, is that not everyone has actually read the key changes. It gives the misconception that you’re doing something sneaky even when we know we’re not. But the public hasn’t seen it.”

Councilman Andrew Tuoma opened the discussion on tabling the changes with these remarks: “The residents have not see the modified version of the resolution that councilwoman Grandinetti worked on. I think they should give them a chance to see it and speak to the modifications and instead



of untabling that we should probably wait until the next meeting, put it on the agenda and then folks can view it for themselves and during the public comment session they can comment.”

The biggest changes to the ordinance, according to SPCA Executive Director Amy Lewis, involve removing penalties to those who feed feral or ‘community’ cats.

Lewis said she became involved after she read the original ordinance — which she did not help produce — that proposed the impounding of feral cats at the SPCA.

“We wouldn’t have room for them all,” she said.

Other changes include making cat owners liable for damage to other people’s property if left to roam. “Caretakers,” or those who provide food to a cat they do not own, would not be held responsible.

“The first draft was very much a reaction to some complaints in the community,” Lewis said.

Also eliminated was a provision that made a “caretaker” an “owner” if they fed a cat for more than 48 hours.

Most agree the city has a huge problem when the number of feral cats in the city outnumbers its residents.

Tuoma took time to recognize Grandinetti’s “hard work” getting this ordinance written and revised.

“This isn’t about hard work,” Grandinetti said. “It’s about this staying on the table more and more, and it’s becoming a bigger issue than it needs to be. We have cleared this with the SPCA and gotten her seal of approval. The Orange Cat thing went through, which I asked not to until the ordinance was accepted. So I don’t understand the hold up.”

The public will be able to view the ordinance Wednesday on the city’s website or you can view it now at The Reporter’s website.

“I didn’t see any particular rush on the ordinance,” said Lewis. “It’s important to get it onto the books, but the council should know what they are voting for.”

With more than 50,000 “community” cats already out there, another few weeks for council members and residents to review the changes seems worth it when making transparency a consistent feature of government.

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# Complaints Against City Solicitor Suit Dyster's Final Solution To A T



City Attorney Craig Johnson under attack for being too ethical?

helping him eliminate some top officials who know where the bodies are buried.

Brown was ridden over roughshod. A 17-year professional who served as city controller while Dyster was teaching college part time in Washington, D.C., she invariably put the interests of the taxpayers first, and really didn't care who the mayor happened to be.

Dyster tried to buy her off, adding a \$10,000 annual stipend on top of her salary, but Brown was not easily moved. Appalled by Dyster's out of control spending, she never made any secret of her displeasure.

The mayor's handling of her dismissal was so egregious, that even his hand picked city Council Chairman Andrew Touma felt compelled to protest.

Touma blasted the administration for how the matter was handled, saying it "became a public spectacle."

"I'm appalled at the way this came out

into the media and the way people took sides," said Touma. "It's very rare to see a personnel issue come out in public the way this one did. I'm totally embarrassed by the way this was handled."

Brown had been facing charges of workplace brutality and hostility, according to Attorney Edward Perlman of Magavern, Magavern and Grimm, who told the Council on June 1 that he represents three employees who have filed charges against Brown and the city.

With Brown now gone, the three malcontents had no one else to release their pent up frustration on. Unfortunately, city attorney Craig Johnson, another professional whose dedication for public service undermines his personal loyalty to Dyster, came quickly into the cross hairs.

Who are these three disgruntled employees? And why is Dyster so quick to act upon

their judgments concerning who should and who should not be a city department head in Niagara Falls.

Dyster has gone through most of his nine-year reign without a city engineer. He has no reason whatsoever to doubt he can do the same without a city controller and a city lawyer.

He's German, after all, and a little German corporal made much of such tactics during the middle period of the past century.

Niagara Falls uber alles, thinks Dyster.

(As an addendum the three complainants are: Janet Carl; Denise Heller Burson; Bara Kolodziej. The claim - which is an attempt to get Johnson disbarred is with the Bar Association claiming that Johnson distributed information improperly: In other words he allowed the accused to learn who her accusers were - Johnson claims - in accordance with city law and the time honored rules of due process.)

The three complainants who filed charges against former city controller Maria Brown have now also filed them against Corporation counsel Craig Johnson, reliable sources told the Niagara Falls Reporter.

Who are these people?

Why do they attack people in the City Hall of Mayor Paul Dyster who attempt to play by the rules?

In any event, the takeaway is that Johnson will be the next to be removed in the ongoing though so far bloodless purge now taking place at City Hall.

The allegations filed against Brown by the three city employees were dismissed out of hand. Apparently the three, who may have been trying to extort some sort of cash settlement from the city, now have their sights set on Johnson.

But rather than viewing them as the two-bit shake down artists they are, the mayor seems curiously to be embracing them, using their unsupported and unproven allegations to eliminate people of integrity in his administration.

It is not at all unlikely that they will receive some sort of settlement from the city, taxpayer dollars uncontested by the Dyster administration in a tacit "thank you" for

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# Cuomo Pledges \$17 Million To Fix Up Park: Crime, Joblessness, Poverty Remain

**Mike Hudson**

So the Governor of New York State decides to spend \$17 million on Niagara Falls State Park – which of course is owned by New York State – and local politicians and the media fall over swooning as though it were some kind of big win for the city of Niagara Falls?

Do the math. Since the Seneca Niagara Casino opened in 2002, the vampires in Albany have carted off a minimum of \$60 million per year, generated by a business located at the corner of Niagara and Fourth streets. Over 14 years, that alone amounts to \$840 million.

Over that same period, revenue – mostly from parking – at the state park itself has netted the Albany a minimum of \$210 million, averaging at least \$15 million a year.

That's right. In the past 14 years, the state has taken well over a billion dollars out of the Niagara Falls economy.

In light of that brutal fact, exactly how big of a deal does Cuomo's announcement about spending a paltry \$17 million sprucing up the park seem?

Not that the park doesn't need sprucing up. As long ago as 2012, state parks officials were defending the park from hits it was taking in the national media. They were particularly stung by a New York Times Travel piece that called the park "shabby and under-financed."

When the New York Times peaks, Cuomo listens.

The park and the falls themselves are one of the top tourist destinations on the face of the planet, and have been since the early 19th Century. Today, as many as 8 million tourists a year visit the park.

The city benefits but little. The state has created 1,500 parking spaces within the park itself and contracted with Delaware North to provide restaurant dining and fast food. Visitors can and often do spend a day at Niagara Falls, New York, without ever setting foot in the city.

When they do, they're often horrified by what they find. The crime ridden city of Niagara Falls has been named in numerous national rankings as the most dangerous municipality in the state of New York and one of the most dangerous in the entire country.

Tourists venturing out of their hotels to take a look around, particularly after dark, can find themselves in a lot of trouble very quickly, particularly if they make the mistake of crossing nearby Niagara Street. Suddenly, they find themselves in one of the worst slums this country has to offer. Muggings of tourists stopping at the highly visible convenience store just across the street from the casino for snacks and sodas, or headed to one of the several watering holes and restaurants in the Third Street "entertainment district" are common occurrences here.

And even more common are automobile break ins at surface parking lots everywhere in the tourist district itself. Barely a night goes by between April and August that one of these property crimes is not reported.

But there was no talk of any of that last



Fancy (and slippery) \$60 per square foot granite pavers helped an Albany based contractor earn millions as part of the Niagara Falls State Park improvement plan.

week when Cuomo announced he was going to spend a relatively small amount on fixing up his shabby and under-financed park, which had become a political embarrassment.

Cuomo patted himself on the back with great vigor.

"Niagara Falls State Park is truly one of the crown jewels of New York, offering unparalleled natural beauty and some of the best outdoor recreation opportunities in the nation," the Governor said. "This investment builds the good progress we have made to transform Western New York from the ground up – revitalizing our state parks and historic sites, boosting tourism and creating thousands of well-paying jobs. Today we are recapturing the bold vision and determination that created the most ambitious parks system in the nation, and preserving and enhancing our natural treasures for generations to come."

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster bowed and scraped, trying to say the same thing Cuomo said but in different words. He wasn't very successful.

"Niagara Falls is not only the nation's oldest state park, but it is also one of New York's most important conservation legacies," Dyster said. "Throughout his tenure in office, Governor Cuomo has made Niagara Falls a top priority. He has shown a deep dedication to protecting New York's natural environment and promoting stewardship in the region – and this investment is no exception. This funding will ensure this region remains a top destination for residents, visitors and tourists alike for generations to come."

Assemblyman John Ceretto, who thinks so much of Cuomo's special brand of leadership that he quit the Republican Party to become a Democrat, was beside himself.

"Niagara Falls is one of the world's great natural wonders and I am grateful to have been a part of this commitment to protecting and preserving our historic state park," he said. "Through this \$17 million investment, as part of a larger \$70 million multi-year commitment, we will see Niagara Falls State Park

restored to its original grandeur. I think the governor and look forward to ensuring Niagara Falls continues to serve as an economic engine for Western New York – creating jobs and driving tourism for years to come."

If Niagara Falls is an economic engine, somebody needs to call a mechanic. A shocking 7.8 percent of city residents are receiving unemployment checks, compared to just 5.7 percent statewide.

And a nauseating 32.3 percent of Niagara Falls residents are living below the federal poverty level. One out of every three men, women and children. It's unbelievable but it is true.

Couldn't the \$75 million that the state takes away each year go a long way toward addressing chronic problems such as crime, high unemployment and crushing poverty? And wouldn't solving these problems – or even addressing them in some meaningful way – make Niagara Falls, New York, a far more attractive place for visitors from around the world?

Those are questions Cuomo, Dyster and Ceretto weren't asked last week. And it's a crying shame.

## LEGAL NOTICE

**NIAGARA WONDER-LAND LLC**, filed Articles of Organization with the NY State Secretary of State ("NYSSS") on May 16, 2016; the LLC is located in Niagara County; NYSSS is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it can be served; a copy of any process served upon NYSSS will be mailed to the LLC at 2578 Niagara Falls Boulevard, Niagara Falls, NY 14304; the purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act or activity.

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# Exactly What Are We Getting For Our \$17 Million, Gov. Cuomo?

## Mike Hudson

Oh how the mighty have fallen.

Robert Moses, the onetime “master builder” of New York and the subject of Robert Caro’s bestselling 1974 biography “The Power Broker,” would be rolling over in his grave.

Last week, as he announced a \$17 million shot in the arm to Niagara Falls State Park, Gov. Andrew Cuomo officially changed the name of the Robert Moses Parkway here. From now on, he said, it will be called the “Niagara Scenic Parkway.”

Wasn’t it Shakespeare who wrote, “A rose by any other name would still serve to cut the city of Niagara Falls off from its own waterfront and leave the state in control of that most valuable resource.”?

Maybe not. In any event, we still have the massive Robert Moses Power Project here to remember him by, even as much of the civilized world tries to forget him. Like Cuomo himself, Moses devoted himself to spending the taxpayers’ hard earned money on projects that caused controversy when they were announced and often seem dubious today.

Also like Cuomo, Moses tended to act as though he paid for the projects himself, and could become irate and vindictive to those who refused to tell him what a great job he was doing or questioned his wisdom in any way.

In his self congratulatory announcement, Cuomo ticked off the various ways in which he spent your \$17 million.

Set to open by the July 4th weekend, the Terrapin Point restoration is a centerpiece of the project. Terrapin Point, which overlooks the Horseshoe Falls, is one of the most popular sites in the park.

The \$4.4 spent here includes handicapped accessible pathways, replacement railings, pavers, lighting, benches and new landscaping in both mowed areas and meadow grasses. Cuomo claims the work is consistent with Olmsted’s principles and will closely resemble other areas of the park that have already been restored.

A \$5.6 million project to renew the Cave of the Winds Pedestrian Plaza and Stedman’s Bluff will be completed this summer. The Cave of the Winds Pedestrian Plaza includes improved dining areas, concessions and new restroom facilities, all the better to serve the sorry souls who are often forced to stand on line there for up to three hours to get into the attraction.

Stedman’s Bluff, overlooking the Bridal Veil and American Falls, will also get replacement pavers, railings, and a raised planting area featuring boulders that can be used for seating. Stedman’s Bluff will also be the new



The Cave of the Winds needs new and more expansive elevators.

home of the statute to inventor Nikolai Tesla. Once repositioned there, the statute will become more accessible for visitors with seating along the base perfect for photographs and reflection, Cuomo claims.

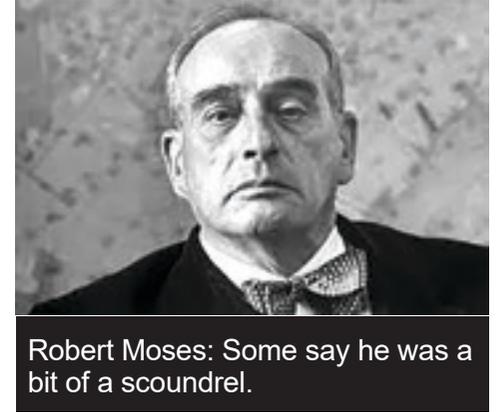
The problem at the Cave of the Winds is that there aren’t enough elevators to accommodate all the people who want to experience it. The long wait, in the hot summer sun or, conversely, the rain, can often add up to no fun for the whole family.

Instead, he’s spending \$7 million of your money on a Cave of the Winds Experience Center that Cuomo said “will become a year-round tourism centerpiece of the park.”

Gosh. And all this time we thought the falls were the year-round tourism centerpiece of the park. Silly us.

When complete, the attraction will allow visitors to enjoy a 30-minute interactive program featuring the natural and cultural history of Niagara Falls, before donning the customary rain poncho and sandals for the 175-foot Cave of the Winds elevator trip down to the decks. When the decks close for the season, the facility will remain open, in order to coax a few extra shekels out of the offseason tourist trade. The attraction is expected to open in late 2017.

The park will also be promoting another



Robert Moses: Some say he was a bit of a scoundrel.

enjoy a wide selection of local food and souvenir items in the Cave of the Winds gift shop and at snack bars throughout the park, Cuomo said.

As has been pointed out (See related story), the \$17 million Cuomo has committed to what most property owners would consider routine maintenance amounts to roughly one year’s take from the park, generated through parking fees and the relatively small amounts of rent paid by Delaware North and the Maid of the Mist in order to have monopolies inside the park for their operations.



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# Do Niagara County Legislators Support Open Government?

## Paul Wolf, Esq.

While Buffalo and Erie County have their share of open government and ethical issues, Niagara County seems to be years behind on basic items. Earlier this year when Wm. Keith McNall became Chair of the Niagara County Legislature he told fellow lawmakers. "The challenges county government faces today are unending, and I will try to lead our Legislature in the proper direction."

When Randy R. Bradt, became majority leader, in January, he told colleagues his goal was to ensure the majority remained aligned to its governing principles. "Every policy decision we make, every statement we utter, must be judged by one metric: Does it further our governing principles? Is it in line with our repeatedly expressed values?" Bradt said. "This caucus has succeeded because it stands for something."

As elected representatives of the people, Niagara County Legislators should make it clear that they value and stand for open government and move in that direction.

### Placing Citizen Concerns on the Agenda

Citizens can place items on the agenda of

the Buffalo Common Council, Amherst Town Board and the Erie County Legislature. A simple email and your issue or concerns can be put before elected leaders to address. Your item may be discussed or it may be simply received and filed without any action but at least your concern can be on the agenda.

Apparently No such process exists in Niagara County. The Chairman of the Legislature decides what gets placed on the meeting agenda. The Chairman despite my attempts to contact him seems unwilling to discuss how citizen concerns can be placed on the agenda.

### Why Aren't Meeting Minutes Posted?

Most municipalities smaller than Niagara County post meeting minutes. Heck you can view meeting minutes of many PTA organizations, volunteer committees etc, but you cannot view minutes of the Niagara County Legislature meetings. Meeting minutes simply are not posted in Niagara County. Without meeting minutes the public has no way of knowing how a legislator voted on any item!

### Why Aren't Meetings Recorded?

You can actually watch many governmental meetings live on-line or watch

a video recording of the meeting at a later time. Being able to watch a governmental meeting from home on your computer is a great way for citizens to stay informed and learn about what their elected leaders are doing. Niagara County Legislature meetings are not recorded.

### How Do Citizens Find Out About the Niagara County Board of Ethics?

Niagara County has a five-member Board of Ethics, whose members are selected by the Chair of the Niagara County Legislature and approved by a majority of the Legislators. Good luck finding out any information about who the Ethics Board members are, what they do and when their meetings are. The Ethics Board does not have a web site of their own and no information is on the Niagara County web site. Such information is available in many other communities but for some reason not in Niagara County.

### Why Can't Citizens View Financial Disclosure Forms?

Elected officials and county department heads are required to complete and file a financial disclosure form yearly. The purpose of the disclosure form is to report income, property and business dealings that may be a conflict of interest. In Buffalo, Erie County

and municipalities across New York State a citizen or the news media can request a copy of an elected officials disclosure form. New York State puts the disclosure forms of all statewide elected officials and every member of the state legislature on-line for everyone to see.

It is actually against the law in Niagara County for a citizen or member of the news media to obtain a copy of a disclosure form filed by a government official. A local law passed by the Niagara County Legislature states that only the Ethics Board, the District Attorney and the Sheriff can view disclosure forms which are otherwise sealed from public view and destroyed after five years.

### Will Someone Stand Up For Open Government?

Addressing any or all of the five items stated above would be a big step in the right direction for Niagara County. Chairman McNall, Majority Leader Bradt or any member of the Legislature can show they value open government by submitting proposals to change how Niagara County operates. It will be interesting to see if any legislators are willing to stand up for open government principles.

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# The Constitution May Not Save You Or The Second Amendment

## Jim Ostrowski

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals said last week that the Second Amendment's right to bear arms means that there is no right to bear arms in public, a comforting thought for mass shooters in gun-free zones. The vote was 7-4. I wondered if I could guess how each judge ruled based on which President nominated them. I guessed all but one vote. We forget that Trump said that Judge Curiel was biased against him in part because he was appointed by Obama. The Ninth Circuit case lends support to the view that ideology, roughly represented by the party of the President who appointed the judge, does have a major impact on rulings. In fact, hundreds of critical Supreme Court opinions have broken down on party lines over the years. That raises larger questions.

If a right depends on which party places more judges on the Supreme Court, that's not a right but an accident. This is particularly highlighted by the death of Antonin Scalia. Apparently, your right to bear arms is dependent on a 79-year-old overweight man's continued existence. Let's be clear. The right to bear arms is a natural right of the human being that exists regardless of whether any particular government recognizes it. The

prisoners at Auswichtz had a moral and political right to keep and bear assault rifles. I'm talking here about positive law, about the legal and constitutional right to bear arms. That right may have died when Scalia did. His death made it a 4-4 split on the Court on the right to bear arms. That led the appellants challenging the New York SAFE Act to withdraw their motion for permission to appeal to the Supreme Court.

What will break the tie? The next presidential election, maybe. Hillary will appoint an airtight proponent of government gun monopoly. Progressives love guns so much they want to be the only ones who have them. If Trump wins, he might appoint a Second Amendment advocate. But then again, he might not. That's because the track record of Republican appointees is pretty bad. Since progressivism is deeply embedded in the American soul, this virus often activates after so-called conservatives judges arrive in the belly of the beast, Washington, D. C. So right now, the fate of the legal right to bear arms rests on the shaky ground of Trump winning and being able to guess how some lawyer will vote on gun cases.

That's what happens when you paint yourself into a corner by believing in the fallacy of constitutionalism, the silly

notion that the government will prevent the government from violating your rights. I guess the idea is that the constitution prevents the majority from violating your constitutional rights. However, in the case of guns, the constitution is reduceable to whomever wins the presidential election. If elections dictate the content of the constitution, what good is the document anyway?

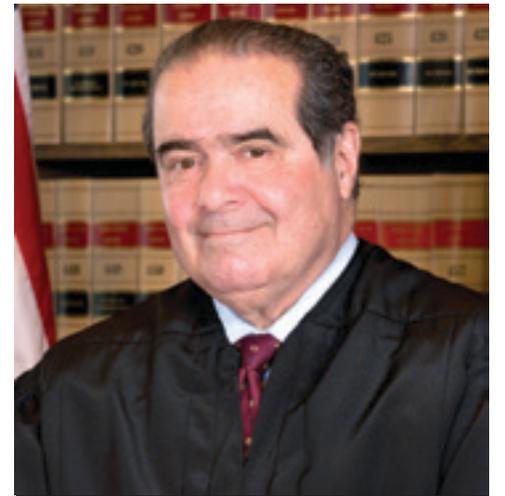
We need to face the fact that progressivism and constitutions don't mix well. Progressivism is rooted in philosophical pragmatism, the notion that there is no fixed truth and that words have no fixed meaning. In the Pork Lawsuit, started by local hero Lee Bordeleau, the progressive judges on the New York Court of Appeals, held that the words "The money of the state shall not be given or loaned to or in aid of any private corporation or association or private undertaking," means that the money of the state can be so given. Progressive judges will give the constitution a progressive meaning.

What can be done? First, recognize what progressivism really is. Don't be a pragmatist when it comes to the meaning of that word! There is an objective reality outside our minds that we can know. Progressivism does have a real meaning. The short definition: a progressive believes, without evidence or foundation in logic, that aggressive government force is the solution to all human problems. This irrational belief is the highest premise in the progressive's ideology to which all other considerations must give way, such as the words of some dusty old document drafted by dead white European males.

Second, begin to recognize how progressivism, after 100 years of influencing public opinion in America, has infiltrated your own thinking. For example, if you are a conservative who supports the war on drugs, why don't you realize that drug prohibition is a classic progressive idea? Why don't you realize that war is just another failed government program?

Third, stop sending your kids to an institution invented by and controlled by progressives, the K-12 government school, a/k/a, daytime juvenile detention center.

Finally, for more immediate results, look toward the one institution that is not



The death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia may determine the life and death of the Second Amendment. The survival of a constitution or any part of it should not depend on the life of any one man.

entirely under the control of the progressives although they have tried as hard as they can to emasculate it: the jury. In the era before progressivism when government was rightly viewed as largely evil based on its track record of mass murder, enslavement, torture, and looting on a grand scale for centuries, the citizenry insisted that juries, the citizens themselves, have the final say over charging serious crimes and convicting people of them. The whole point was that the jury could use its discretion to override the decisions of the police, prosecutors and judges including on the underlying legal principles of the case.

It was predictable that progressive legal minds would, unlawfully by court decree, undermine what had been written in stone in the Constitution, the right to trial by jury, by ordering juries to follow the judge's instructions on the law. This was a classic instance of what we have seen many times: progressive judges "judicially repealing" the constitution, to borrow Judge Robert Smith's words from the Pork Lawsuit.

The front line of our war to take America back from the progressives who have us on the edge of disaster is the jury system. Wake up!

Jim Ostrowski is a trial and appellate lawyer in Buffalo, NY. He is CEO of Libertymovement.org and author of several books including Progressivism: A Primer on the Idea Destroying America.



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# Hamister's Stalled Jamestown Hotel May Also Benefit From Cuomo Bailout

## Mike Hudson

Niagara Falls isn't the only municipality in Western New York so desperate to portray itself as economically viable that government officials are willing to throw money at a snake oil salesman like Mark Hamister in a forlorn effort to get him to develop something.

Down in Jamestown, the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency approved loan and tax incentives for Hamister in late March, hoping against hope that he will renovate a former Ramada Inn located in downtown Jamestown and reopen it as DoubleTree by Hilton, something Hamister originally promised to do in 2013.

Hamister scored a \$900,000 loan provided to Hamister Group spans over 20 years at an interest rate of just 4 percent. He also got a sales tax exemption valued at around \$432,000, a payment in lieu of taxes deal over 15 years valued at \$1,940,000, and a mortgage recording tax abatement valued at \$106,500.

Now, Chautauqua County taxpayers have a \$3,378,500 interest in a project Hamister's own analysts say will cost only \$14.2 million to complete. That's right, nearly a quarter of the entire cost of renovation will be borne by the taxpayer.

Hamister purchased the hotel in 2013 and, the next year, announced that he signed a franchise agreement with Hilton Doubletree for the re-development. At the time, he said the re-



The Hamister Group, LLC announced that they have officially signed a franchise agreement with Hilton Doubletree for the re-development of the former Ramada in Jamestown, NY. So far plans have been beset with problems.

developed hotel would open in June, 2015, but nothing actually happened aside from Hamister or his representatives appearing at public meetings and begging for money.

Jamestown Director of Development Vince DeJoy said the city is currently reviewing an application to provide Hamister with still another loan from the Jamestown Local Development

Corporation.

Sound familiar?

In Niagara Falls, Hamister got city, county and state officials to cough up an incentive package valued at around \$9.5 million in order to build a hotel he claims will cost more than \$35 million.

That's more than 27 percent of the total cost and, as in Jamestown, he's asked for more money here as well.

Between the two cities, Hamister has already been given \$12,878,500 in low interest loans, real estate, tax breaks and other incentives without so much as replacing a room lamp at the Jamestown property or turning over a shovelful

of earth in Niagara Falls.

In April of this year, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced a \$10 million "downtown revitalization initiative" for Jamestown that includes an undisclosed amount to provide "gap funding" for the Hamister project there.

And just two weeks ago, Cuomo announced that the state would bail out the dead in the water Hamister hotel project in Niagara Falls.

Hamister has been a major supporter of, and contributor to, Cuomo's political campaigns. What a remarkable coincidence.

If you think opening a hotel, a restaurant or a lemonade stand is a sure fire moneymaker, you should do it, and not expect the beleaguered taxpayers of Western New York to provide the finance.

There are places called banks, which traditionally loan money to individuals and businesses that come in armed with a sound business plan.

In the case of the Hamister hotel project in Niagara Falls and its cousin in Jamestown, it has become apparent that Hamister had no plan at all. Three years of complete inactivity in Jamestown and four years here proves it, as does the fact that Hamister was unable to come up with a private funding source for either project despite being a very wealthy man.

In 2012 alone, Mark Hamister made \$85,500 in political contributions. Hamister in the past has personally contributed \$12,000 to Cuomo. He has also given money to Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster and U.S. Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, all of who have staunchly supported his agonizing inactivity.

You get what you pay for, they say.

Unless you happen to be a Western New York taxpayer. In that case, Mark Hamister gets it.

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### Falls Is Turning Its Leaf

D'costa predicts that Niagara Falls will soon be ranked as no. 1 education of the world which will be by Mother Mary's gift. No doubt NY state opened the roads for lunatics and zombies to walk free on streets. Roman Catholics religion brought value to the USA long before the laws for people before politics was ended by politicians and got disasters is now mother came furiously on 19th St., resign and soon she will make her son to start the revolutions. Wall of wisdom is for all religions or no religions to follow divine education.

I thank the NFPD, Attorney General, inspection division, detective and detective Amy Giuliani in particular, for their good work where the judges must respect and keep the lunatics for longer durations. Benny Streeter is another culprit like Ron Proctor, who is harassing D'Costa and threatening to burn down the wall of wisdom, rob her check, giving all curses. This is nothing but the effects of severe drugs and drinks. Benny will not easily get corrected until right paddles for he respects no woman and he also says that he will get some boys from highland to take care of her. D'Costa says there are no landlord laws in Niagara Falls whereas in New York city tenants must pay their rent by the 31st.

A convent educated woman at Carmel's college, Mumbai, who came here to Niagara Falls, says her father watches his shoes well-polished and not her face and grandma's well train will give divine education and baptism with our father and hail Mary.

She also says to the locals that they are fortunate, for an emerald Cross is arriving to take care of dirty ones where they will either make their way out of the divine city or start saying rosary.

America was built with morality and humanity which Roman were hijacked by lord to give the law of religion which later politician threw out from the window is now lord is getting through wall of wisdom, lord first amendment is falling on 19th St., where Mother Mary as bridal on 19st and lord as emerald Cross touch one time and get healed.

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Grand opening on Friday 3pm - get healed with emerald Cross

Sunday classes from 5 to 7pm and healings from emerald Cross. The class is only \$7 and it includes a meal and emerald shake. Come, get inspired at wall of wisdom.

A special thanks to John De Moses who got back lost garbage cans, and the DPW dept.

Drug addicts and dealers, rapists, gunshooters have to flee far away from Niagara Falls for Jesus is arrived and Mother is resting.

Learn the divine education for \$2, or it's free if you eat at little temptation, or if you shop at any store on pine it's only \$1!

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Amen.

[www.wallofwisdom.us](http://www.wallofwisdom.us)

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## Embattled Airbnb Hosts In Niagara Falls Aren't Shutting Down

### Joseph Kissel

Niagara Falls is the only tourist destination in the world that gets 8 million visitors a year and is broke.

Here's another reason why.

At the beginning of the summer tourist season, the Code Enforcement Office for Niagara Falls sent out "cease and desist" letters to all the city residents who are listed on the Airbnb website, which connects people looking for lodging with private individuals who rent out that extra room in their house.

So what you get is residents — who are living in one of the most-heavily taxed cities in one of the most-heavily taxed states — with some extra cash while keeping up their homes as well as the immediate surroundings in a city known for its unrelenting blight.

One of the leaders in the Niagara Falls effort to provide tourists with a more personal lodging experience is Carroll Schultz, who wholeheartedly agrees Airbnb and other online private rental services are good for Niagara Falls.

The owner of Wanderfalls bed and breakfast at 601 Spruce Ave. says she's never heard any negative tourist experiences at the hands of an Airbnb host.

"The internet allows for a much more informed consumer," she said. "All those reviews are out there, and if there is a bad host, they won't

be hosting very long because nobody will book it," she said. (She added there's only about 30 online room renters in Niagara Falls, New York, with about 270 in Niagara Falls, Ontario.)

Still, the city wants Airbnb room renters to become complaint with bed and breakfast codes.

"Should you fail to comply with this directive, this Department shall advise the Corporation's Counsel to initiate legal action against you," the letter read. "Such action shall result in fines and penalties levied against you to obtain the required compliance."

Schultz said she contacting the city code enforcement officer many months ago regarding compliance issues without any resolution.

While she doesn't think the city dragged its feet reaching out to residents — with a letter threatening fines — others don't feel that way.

"They knew the summer season was coming," said an Airbnb "superhost" who attended a meeting last week with Schultz and 13 other Airbnb residents — some who received the "cease and desist" letter from the city.

"It's the height of the tourist season and they are trying to shut us down. Why didn't they do this earlier so we had a chance to prepare?"

As it stands, the Airbnb renters have no plans to stop what they're doing.

"We have all these bookings in place and we're going to tell everyone 'your vacation is ruined?'"

# World Class Film Festival Destined For Niagara Frontier Seems Likely

## Mike Hudson

Talks currently underway between the principals of the Buffalo Niagara International Film Festival and the Niagara Integrated Film Festival held in St. Catharines, Ont., are aimed at consolidating the two events, creating a new and unique cinematic showcase that would be truly international in scope.

"The filmmakers who come here, from all around the world, do so because they see it as an opportunity to crack the American market," said Bill Marshall, who founded the St. Catherine's festival three years ago.

Marshall should know. Back in 1976, he was one of the founders of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), which has since become one of the most prestigious film festivals held anywhere in the world. It draws A-list stars and Variety said the event was "second only to Cannes in terms of high profile pics, stars and market activity."

Films such as "American Beauty," "Ray," "Chariots of Fire," "Sideways," "Crash," "Black Swan" and "The Wrestler" have premiered at TIFF. Jamie Foxx's portrayal of Ray Charles ultimately won him the Academy Award for Best Actor while "Slumdog Millionaire" went on to win eight Oscars at the 2009 Academy Awards.

"Precious," which won the 2009 TIFF People's Choice Award, went on to win two Oscars at the 82nd Academy Awards. "The King's Speech," the winner of the 2010 TIFF People's Choice Award, won four Oscars at the 83rd Academy Awards, while "Silver Linings Playbook," the winner of the 2012 TIFF People's Choice Award, went to win the Academy Award for Best Actress for Jennifer Lawrence.



"Such was the will of the Father that his Son, blessed and glorious, whom he gave to us, and who was born for us, should by his own blood, sacrifice, and oblation, offer himself on the altar of the cross, not for himself, by whom "all things were made," but for our sins, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps."

St Francis of Assisi

In other words, the September festival has become a vital component in the marketing machine responsible for the glitz and glamour that is Hollywood.

Marshall says he has high hopes for the idea of a consolidated Niagara region film festival as well.

"You've got a potentially huge audience living within driving distance, and the hospitality infrastructure is already in place because of the falls," he said. "It was a natural."

On the American side, Bill Cowell, born and raised in Niagara Falls, NY, oversees the operation of the Buffalo Niagara International Film Festival (BNFF) and has been sitting down with Marshall. This year, the April festival celebrated its 10th year.

Cowell founded the BNFF in 2006, and watched it quickly grow to be one of the largest and most exciting film festivals held in New York. The festival has been the breaking ground for many successful films such as "The Cake Eaters," "Sinner" and "Christina," and has attracted its own share of A-listers, including Robert Redford, Richard Dreyfuss, Louis Gossett Jr. and Tom Sizemore over the years.

Asked whether some scheduling changes might be in order to make the combined St. Catharines and Buffalo festivals a more legitimate warmup to the Toronto festival, both Marshall and Cowell said yes.

"That's the kind of nuts and bolts thing we've been talking about," Cowell said.

"I definitely think we're going to shuffle things around a bit," Marshall added. "It may make more sense to have it in July."

Cowell and Marshall said they spent last weekend discussing the details, and a series of meetings is planned for this weekend in St. Catharines, where Marshall's festival will be in full swing.

Despite the fact it is only three years old, Marshall said he is very proud that the films it has showcased already compete at the highest level on the international award-winning playing field.



The legendary Italian actress Claudia Cardinale will be walking the red carpet Saturday night in Niagara on the Lake to attend the first North American screening of Sarah Jessica Parker's new movie, "All Roads Lead to Rome," a part of the Niagara Integrated Film Festival.

Last June NIFF screened two films as part of their 2015 program which were subsequently nominated for Academy Awards: "Inside Out" and "The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed out the Window and Disappeared". Marshall said he was thrilled to watch "Inside Out" win its Oscar for Best Animated Feature.

That gave the fledgling festival a boost that is apparent in this year's program.

This year's Festival continues through June 19 and will screen more than 20 Canadian and international films at various locations in the region including Trius Winery, the Seneca Queen theatre in Niagara Falls, and all three of the theatres --the Partridge, Cairns, and Film House

-- at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. The majority of the films are from Canada and the United States, with others adding a bit of international spice to the proceedings.

On Saturday, June 18, the festival will host its "Spotlight on Italy" program. Marshall said Italian screen legend Claudia Cardinale will do the red carpet thing at the North American premier of "All Roads Lead to Rome," a romantic comedy starring Sarah Jessica Parker and Italian heart-throb Raoul Bova, who delighted North American audiences in 2003's "Under the Tuscan Sun."

Set in Tuscany and New York City, "All Roads Lead to Rome" relates the story of American college teacher Maggie, who tries to strengthen the bond with her daughter Summer by whisking her off to Tuscany where she spent the summers of her youth. Maggie reconnects with her former lover Luca, whilst Summer, pining for her bad-boyfriend back in the States, teams up with Luca's 80-year-old mother to help her plan a wedding - in Rome, naturally - despite her son's objections.

"We're truly delighted to welcome Claudia Cardinale, the icon of classic Italian cinema" said Marshall.

Cardinale lit up the screen in classics like "The Pink Panther," "The Professionals," "Once Upon a Time in the West" and "Fitzcarraldo," and the British actor David Niven once famously described her, saying, "After spaghetti, Italy's happiest invention."

The event will take place at the Trius Winery in Niagara on the Lake and tickets are still available online.

The prospect of a major international film festival with the twin cities of Niagara Falls, Ont., and Niagara Falls, NY, at its epicenter would be big news for those involved in the movie industry, and good news for those on the New York side of the river, whose leadership apparently believes that methadone clinics and the warehousing of paroled sex offenders and other felons are the growth industries of the future.

The 40 years of knowledge and experience brought to the table by Marshall, combined with the energy and edge that Cowell antes up, may just provide the shot in the arm the region has needed and that a generation of hapless politicians have stumbled around looking for.

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## INFRASTRUCTURE STILL ON BACK BURNER IN WASHINGTON

A few weeks ago there was a media briefing in Washington DC as a part of Infrastructure Week. Despite pleas for nearly 8 long years now, this nation still lacks a long-term infrastructure investment that can create the family-supporting jobs our nation needs. America deserves an A-plus infrastructure, not one with near failing grades, LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan told the news media briefing that was part of Infrastructure Week. O'Sullivan was speaking on behalf of the half-million working men and women of LIUNA – the Laborers' International Union of North America – who predominantly work in the construction industry, building and maintaining the nation's transportation, energy and water resources infrastructure.

"Investing what is needed in our infrastructure is crucial to our safety and economic competitiveness," O'Sullivan said. "And, it goes beyond abstract policies: It's about good-paying, family-supporting jobs that provide a ladder to the middle class and can't be exported abroad." LIUNA is a long-time advocate for greater infrastructure investment. The union was a participant in Infrastructure Week, which brought together a diverse coalition of unions, employers, business associations, and non-profit research and advocacy groups.

While once No. 1 in the world in its infrastructure, the United States has fallen to No. 11, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers. "For those of us in the Building Trades, investment in a strong, robust and expanded 21st century infrastructure is about leaving a legacy for future generations," said O'Sullivan. "The alternative is allowing our infrastructure to crumble around us – strangling our economy, worsening our lives, and endangering us all."

LIUNA has launched high-impact public outreach efforts in the past – including billboards warning motorists of deficient bridges, a 10-foot roll of duct-tape on a flatbed truck to highlight inaction on infrastructure and a school bus which traveled the country crushed by a fallen bridge prop. "As the men and women who work every day to build America, we will continue to fight for Congress and all elected officials to invest until we have the first-class, A-plus infrastructure we so desperately need," O'Sullivan said. Since 2009, Congress has failed to reauthorize the Highway Trust Fund to address the transportation infrastructure crisis, and has instead passed more than 30 short-term patches. Call your federally elected official today and encourage them to fix our infrastructure once and for all - Congressman Brian Higgins - 716-852-3501; Congressman Chris Collins: 716-634-2324; Senator Charles Schumer - 716-846-4111; Senator Kirsten Gillibrand - 716 854-9725.

## Crooked Hillary Clinton, dba , Sec of State, Endorsed by king (with a small k) Obama



J. Gary DiLaura

The Right Side

Obama is providing more evidence of two things I've been alleging regarding the king (with a small k). First, he had no intention of "honoring his oath" to our Constitution because he IS a Muslim and he, himself, committed so many criminal acts as president that he is "deathly" afraid of a President Trump appointing a real Attorney General who will lead a criminal investigation with Obama as the Subject! So king Obama made a deal with the devil, Hillary!

The Constitutional responsibility of the President is to ENFORCE THE RULE OF LAW of the United States! Congress makes the Laws and the President ENFORCES the Laws. In the Federal Judicial system there are Federal Criminal Procedures set forth as a matter of Law. That is how it works, by Law!

It is the sole and exclusive responsibility of a 23 person Federal Grand Jury to determine, after hearing the evidence, whether or not there is Probable Cause to believe an individual should be held over for trial. No elected official is allowed to interfere or influence that process!

The way we get to that point in the Federal system, is the investigator(s) (FBI, DEA, ATF)

conduct an investigation and present the facts to a Prosecutor, usually an AUSA ( the DOJ). The prosecutor and investigator determine whether there is Probable Cause, PC, to either file a Complaint for the issue of an Arrest Warrant or should they proceed "directly" to a Federal Grand Jury. Either way, the matter ultimately ends up in the hands of a 23 person Federal Grand Jury to decide whether or not there is PC to bring the Subject to Trial for the charges! The Grand Jury returns either a True Bill or No Bill.

In January of this year king Obama said HE didn't THINK Hillary did anything wrong with her emails! Now the Person who occupies the office of the President endorses the Subject of a Major FBI Criminal investigation... a person who ran the State Department as a "dba"!

It is NEVER up to the FBI, USA, DOJ, the House, Senate, Supreme Court OR the President or someone who thinks he's a KING or a "king" to determine innocence or guilt or if there is PC to Indict or not. It is called DUE PROCESS. What the hell Law School did this freaking guy go to? IT IS THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF A JURY... A GRAND JURY!

It is the Constitutional responsibility of the President to "enforce" our Rule of Law, not circumvent it. That reinforces my belief that Obama is still an Islamic Muslim and NEVER believed in the Constitution but rather wants to do as the Koran says and destroy it! It is a Crime for the President, or king Obama, to interfere in that process, which he just did by publically endorsing a person who, he has been officially notified by DOJ, is the subject of a serious, Federal, Criminal investigation by the FBI!!

By what he did he is saying that HE believes Clinton did nothing wrong as I assume he wouldn't endorse someone HE believed to be guilty! The Constitution says, in not so many words, he should keep his mouth shut!

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# Your Weekly Horoscope

By Jean Topascani



**Aries: (March 21 - April 19)**

Your personality resembles a Labrador's nose: cold, black, and wet. You are as slick as a broken egg on a linoleum floor. Ordering an extra shot of espresso in your grande non-fat sugar free one pump raspberry syrup two pumps vanilla syrup soy latte Wednesday will lead to your death and subsequent rebirth as a vampire.



**Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)**

Your fingerprints are found on "blunt instrument" that caused fatal depression in your boss's skull. Wipe croquet mallet clean. Get out of your room on Friday. You make a very unfortunate zombie; the coroner having removed your dentures and all of your clothes before you reanimate--thus you are destined to stagger naked through the woods, attempting to gum small animals to death.



**Libra: (September 23 - October 22)**

Follow the dusky Doberman of desire into the kennel of lust. The stench would have been too much for most people to take, but you're used to it since it follows you everywhere and others call it BO.



**Capricorn: (December 22 - January 19)**

Graceful, you move with the ease of a toilet snake through a four-inch sewer line. Misgivings about being stranded aboard a life raft, facing the unrelenting hunger and the possibility of having to eat the weaker members of the crew just to eke out the chance of survival for a few more days are regrettable.



**Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)**

Instead of handshakes and a tepid hello, greet strangers with a ravenous kiss, lapping and sucking at their mouth. Do not make direct eye contact with anyone.



**Leo: (July 23 - August 22)**

The theft of a trainload of Native American fish broth concentrate will mean absolutely nothing to you this week. AM: Best time to have unprotected sex. The inside of your intestinal tract looked like some dark, dank subway system in a decaying inner city; however, to Timmy the Tapeworm this is home.



**Scorpio: (October 23 - November 21)**

This week you will ask a stranger, "What are you doing in my bedroom at this time of night, and why are you grinning at me with those sharp teeth." You like traveling and if you had money then you would do so.



**Aquarius: (January 20 - February 18)**

Try to figure out why people visualize duct tape over your mouth. You had been warned by your parents on numerous occasions never to venture into the woods after dark or risk some vague and unspoken fate once within the trees, so just play in your front yard instead.



**Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)**

"It's a grim tale" is how someone will preface your story before showing your lifeless body, crumpled like a forlorn Snicker's candy wrapper to the press. Ask your parents to increase your allowance to ten cents a week.



**Virgo: (August 23 - September 22)**

The Stars reveal that you will procure a new profession where you will learn how to treat goat-udder growths, shovel manure and make Limburger cheese. Welcome to the exciting world of goat herding. Your desire for justice and truth is overshadowed by desire for fast, illegal money. Future looks bleak.



**Sagittarius: (November 22 - December 21)**

Your mother tried to have an illegal, late term abortion: She wanted abort you when you were 15. Your trembling hand and timid fingertips edge close to the neck of lover's silk blouse, your heart pounding ever faster in syncopation with lover's panting breaths, gentle cries coming from slightly-parted lips, pleading eyes wide with a primitive emotion. Next time use mosquito repellent.



**Pisces: (February 19 - March 20)**

Stop kissing the mirror with admiration. When the corpse showed up in the swimming pool, her dead bosoms bobbing up and down like twin poached eggs in hollandaise sauce, you decide to call the police as soon as you finish taking pictures of your breakfast and posting them to your Facebook wall.

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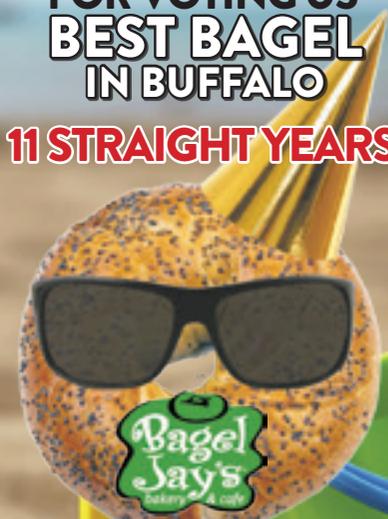
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