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FREE

City Council Presentation Sparks Speculation that Reassessments are Back on the Table

By: Nicholas D. D'Angelo

When the Niagara Falls City Council agenda for April 25th, 2018, was published this past week residents were surprised to find a speaker coming from New York State about reassessments.

The specific agenda item is a presentation by Christine



Banniser, the Regional Director of New York State's Office of Real Property Tax Services.

It was not too long ago, in 2016, that members of the Niagara Falls City Council attempted to enact a citywide reassessment that would cost the city roughly \$1 million and

take two years to complete.

City Hall faced stark opposition to the idea and it was ultimately defeated.

The most recent reassessment in the City of Niagara Falls was in 2002,

(Cont. on pg. 4)

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LOCAL NEWS

Reassessment Back on the Table?

Nicholas D. D'Angelo

(Cont. from cover)

but there appears to be confusion among elected officials whether the process was ever fully completed.

Half of the city was reassessed, but as the Buffalo News reported in 2016, "a decade ago, residents in the LaSalle section of Niagara Falls led the protest against reassessments and succeeded in stopping the city from continuing annual updates before their neighborhood was adjusted."

The Committee to Stop the Reassessments & Continuous Tax Increases issued the following statement on April 19th:

"Our politicians are at it again. There is going to be a representative from New York State speaking on the huge and "hidden tax increase" called "REASSESSMENTS" at the next CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 25, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. SAVE THE DATE!

So here we go again, fighting a fight that we thought was over. Our TAX and SPEND politicians just won't stop trying to get more and more money from the taxpayers who already live in one of the highest taxed cities in the nation.

They should spend as much time figuring out how to reduce our taxes

as they do trying to raise our taxes. Like the wolf in with the lambs, they have taken and taken and taken until there is no more for the taxpayers to give. The wealth has been drained away from the people.

We know from experience that tax increases from reassessments are the highest tax increase that we will ever receive at one time. A tax increase from reassessments will also raise our county and school taxes as well.

We, the taxpayers, said it before and we will say it again. A reassessment will not be tolerated until the tax rate is substantially reduced so that increased assessments do not translate into increased property taxes. We are already taxed well beyond what most of us can afford.

The only thing that should be reassessed is the misuse of our money by our elected officials."

Niagara Falls, however, is not alone in exploring the idea of a reassessment as municipalities conduct them all of the time.

In fact, Amherst, the Town of Lockport, City of Lockport, Grand Island, and Buffalo have conducted reassessments over the past few years.

Although the State of New York does not require municipalities to conduct reassessments, it does recommend they do so every three years so that property values stay consistent with changing market



Niagara Falls City Councilman Bill Kennedy, Ezra Scott, Andrew Touma, Kenny Tompkins, and Chris Voccio.

trends.

It is also important to note that not all taxes would go up if a reassessment were completed. Traditionally, 1/3 of residents would experience a tax increase, 1/3 would stay the same, and 1/3 would increase.

Any residents that ultimately see an increase in taxes, the exact amount is impossible to predict, would do so because their property's present market value was significantly higher than when it was assessed in the past.

On the one hand, there are property owners who benefit con-

siderably from having a drastic difference between their assessed and market value. These are people who may pay substantially less taxes than someone should for the value of their home.

On the other hand, there are property owners whose property may have lost value due to their location in the city and might pay too much in taxes.

Before the City of Niagara Falls can even think about conducting a reassessment they need to have the funds to pay for it, which, considering the city's current deficit, they currently do not.

NIAGARA



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Niagara Falls Family Court (775 Third St.)
Niagara Falls Police Station (1925 Main St.)
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Youngstown

Public Library (240 Lockport St.)
Rite Aid (214 Lockport St.)
Village Diner (425 Main Street)

Rite Aid (7804 Buffalo Ave. & 4407 Military Rd.)
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Tax Reassessment Will Raise Taxes on Well Kept Homes, Reduce on Derelict Abandoned Homes

Analysis

Frank Parlato



Taxes likely to go down.



Taxes likely to go up with reassessment.

According to WalletHub, New York ranks as the worst state in America for taxpayers. The average burden for state and local taxes is \$9,718, which is 39% higher than the national average.

According to New York State's Financial Restructuring Board for Local Governments, (<https://frb.ny.gov/requestServices/examples/FRBallMunicipalities.pdf>) Niagara Falls is the highest taxed of 1597 municipalities in New York.

That means Niagara Falls is the highest taxed municipality in the highest taxed state.

When the issue came up more than a year ago, Council Chairman Andrew Touma said some properties will go up in taxes, others will go down if the city does a reassessment.

There is a little secret no one but the Niagara Reporter will dare tell about what will happen if Niagara Falls reassesses properties.

Most home owner's taxes will likely go up. And they are high already.

Each property will be evaluated and, out of fairness, he says. Those that are worth more than their old assessment will have their assessments (and taxes) raised, while properties worth less, will see a tax reduction.

At the end of the day the total tax levy may remain the same. So here is the little secret: Properties that will see assessments lowered are derelict, abandoned, worthless, boarded up properties. Many of these will be demolished anyway.

To counteract these "zombie" properties, whose tax assessments will likely go down (many zombie owners gave up paying taxes even though tax assessments are listed on the tax levy), the nicer, well-kept houses in Deveaux, LaSalle and other areas will be raised to keep the tax levy the same.

By raising taxes on people who keep their houses up, and lowering taxes on worthless zombie houses, the city can raise taxes while announcing it is a quest for fairness.

It's a pretty neat trick.

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"We Will Not Stop Marching"

Niagara Falls High School students walkout on 19th anniversary of Columbine

Nicholas D. D'Angelo

Friday, April 19th, 2018, marked the 19th anniversary of the massacre at Colorado's Columbine High School that took the lives of twelve students and one teacher.

In memory of those that lost their life, in Columbine and every subsequent shooting, students from across the United States walked out of schools on Friday at 10:00am.

The issue, which has traditionally flared up when tragedy strikes before simmering out shortly after, has managed to stay in the forefront after the most recent mass-shooting at Marjory Stoneham Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on February 14th, 2018.

Joining tens of thousands of students across the United States, several Niagara Falls High School students walked out of school and proceeded to march to City Hall where several students gave speeches to a small crowd.

Due to their age and the controversial nature of this issue, the Niagara Reporter will not publish the students' names.

"We are not going to stop marching. We are not going to stop reaching. We are not going to stop speaking about this until we make a change," said one student.

Another spoke into a megaphone, saying, "we will not be silent. We will continue to march. We will continue to speak. They want to shut us down. They want to take away our voice. We need to continue to speak up. After

today, what will happen? That is why we must talk to our officials. Talk to our representatives. We need to vote. We need to make sure that the people we have in [office] right now are not re-elected. We need to make sure that change happens. After today, we need to make sure that our voices are still heard and that our concerns are not swept under the carpet. We are sick and tired of being scared in our schools."

Another girl said, "we are being active. When we are being active we are pushing against the things that push us down. We are pushing against the thing that is making us afraid at school because when you don't care and are inactive everything spirals out of control."

"School is somewhere you should feel safe," said another student. "That is compromised because of all this hatred we have in the world today. We need to stand up and we need to speak out and use our voices and empower each other to make change."

Mental health was another issue that came up, as one student said, "we need more people who are going to take care of our mental health. We need more health care that will help people who have mental issues," she said. "My kindness is not going to be the next thing that stops that school shooter from shooting me."

Altogether, there were an estimated 150,000 students who participated in more than 2,500 walkouts across the nation. This demonstration



Niagara Falls High School Students marched from the High School to City Hall where they gathered for a rally.

marks the second nationwide walkout since the shooting at Parkland, Florida.

One student, however, was not convinced walking out was the most effective way to bring about change.

"I agree with the spirit of it," he said, "but I don't think most of these students walking out even know what the solution is; or what it should be."

"They don't understand what it takes to pass legislation or know anything about the 2nd Amendment and how the Supreme Court has ruled on it in the past."

"There is a solution to the gun issue out there. Maybe it's to ban assault weapons. Maybe it's to have metal detectors at school. But I can tell you one thing that won't solve it; any of these attention-seeking demonstrations."

The gun debate inspires a conversation unlike many others in our society. Since Parkland, I have heard a number of questions being asked:

Since when have students at Niagara Falls High School, which was modeled after a prison, not felt safe?

Was the 2nd Amendment meant to include assault weapons?

Does a citizen really need an assault weapon?

If assault weapons were banned, would that stop school shootings?

If all law-abiding citizens' assault weapons are taken, will all violence with them stop?

Would an assault weapons ban have prevented the Parkland, Florida, shooting?

Why are children, who might be eating tide pods their spare time, shaping our political conversations?

What are the practical solutions to preventing school shootings?

Is an assault weapons ban going to have any effect on the crime in Niagara Falls?

If one thing is for sure, it's that the debate will continue.

NICHOLAS D. D'ANGELO

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Tow Truck Fee Increase Comes to Fruition; City Council Resolution Expected to Pass

City Council Votes to Increase Fee from \$150 per year to \$1,000 per year; Adds \$25 Fee Paid to City for Each Vehicle Towed on Behalf of NFPD

Nicholas D. D'Angelo

Earlier this month the Niagara Reporter reported that sources inside City Hall said that a possible fee-increase was on the table for tow truck operators in Niagara Falls.

The fee, which tow truck operators pay to be on an authorized tow list that Niagara Falls

Police Officers use when utilizing a tow company's services, is currently \$300 every other year, or \$150 per year, and mirrors the county rate.

Initial reports indicated that the mayor's office wished to raise the rate to \$5,000.00 per year.

"That didn't go very far," said Niagara Falls City Councilman Kenny Tompkins, "and the proposal at that amount was pulled."

The next proposed number was "\$2,500," said Councilman Tompkins, who intended on getting "them down to \$1,500."

According to the City Council agenda for Wednesday April 25th, 2018, the finalized proposal which will be voted on raises the rate tow truck operators pay to be on the city's authorized list to \$1,000 per year.

In addition to the rate increase, tow truck operators will be required to pay a \$25 fee to the city each time a vehicle is

towed on behalf of the Niagara Falls Police Department.

According to sources in City Hall, the resolution is expected to pass and my generate an additional \$10,000 per year.



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ANALYSIS

Musketeers Battle Over South-End Initiative

Ken Hamilton

Niagara Falls City Councilman Ezra Scott finds himself in the same conundrum that President Eisenhower found himself in trying to find which way to go on a contentious issue – the South-End Initiative vs. what was known as the Mayor's Task Force on Housing, a group that included south-end residents and property owners.

Scott's situation, as it is with the rest of the Niagara Falls City Council, isn't as grave as Eisenhower's post-war presidency, where America was retooling from a monumental war machine effort to a peacetime one, from the manufacturing of tanks and jeeps to sedans and trailers; but the decisions that Scott and his colleagues must make, by comparison of the impact on Niagara Falls in a post-Urban Renewal, post-Casino money boom/decade may have the same impact

on the city as did Mayor E. Dent Lackey going through downtown Niagara Falls in the same way another famous general named Sherman went through Atlanta.

In Scott's case, he has a three-handed economist.

Scott said that on the one hand, he has the curmudgeon gadfly Bobby Belton, who heads up the now-unfunded Highland Community Revitalization Committee. Belton often appears at public meetings with video camera in tow and making statements that often appear to listeners as unintelligible. While Belton didn't return a call for comment, Scott did say that his issue was one of gentrification of the residents in that neighborhood, and forcing them to leave and find housing elsewhere. In this case, his point is a valid one.

Scott said that he understands Belton's view on the situation, and is sensitive to it; but he also understands that it is necessary for the



Niagara Falls City Councilman Ezra Scott

south-end, and the city, to progress in a way that touches all bases and is good for everyone.

On the other hand is former mayoral and city council candidate Bob Pascoal, a landlord with housing in various parts of the city, but especially in the target area. Pascoal said that he is chiefly against the playground component in the South-end Initiative plans. He said that he doesn't think that many people understand the value of the property that they want to build it on.

"Imagine this," he said, "the Montante project at the one end of the block (Niagara street & 7th), and a playground on the other (7th & \$ Ferry. What if Montante's project is a success and development wants to continue to move up 7th Street? Once you put a playground somewhere," he continued, "it's there forever."

Pascoal cited a group called the Mayor's Taskforce on Housing of which he and other south-end residents did a great deal of research into the problems that plague that

Former City Council & Mayoral Candidate Robert Pascoal



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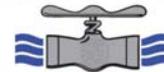
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Niagara Falls Director of Community Development Seth Piccirillo

area, "... and the lack of a playground was never seen as a problem."

And then there's the 3rd hand of Community Development Director Seth Piccirillo, who welcomes the South-end Initiative partners building on the successes of projects that have already taken place in the quadrant. Piccirillo said that most of the meetings that other groups were having about the area were more conversation points. He then pointed to what he says were action points, such as Benathan Upshaw's development of new lofts at the old South Jr. High School, NFMCC's Stroke Center expansion, the Orleans-Niagara BOCES training center for nursing and for adult education that will open in June, as well as the Walnut center Homes; projects that he said have been ongoing for the last 5-years.

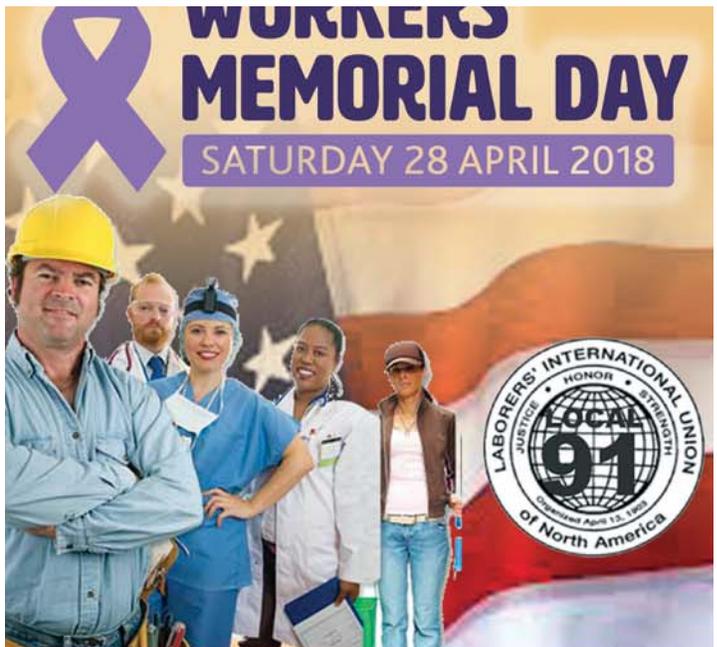
"We want to build on the successes and continuance of these projects," Piccirillo said.

It is reported that Eisenhower asked his economist a question about what he should do in a certain situation. As it is with economists, he explained to the former Supreme Commander of forces in World War Two, a man that we very accustomed to people doing exactly what he told them to do -- or die trying -- which way that the situation could go. But as Eisenhower was prepared to make a decision, the economist chimed in again with the words that accountants are apt to say. "But on the other hand, if ..."

Scott is being pulled on three or more sides and he wants to make a good decision.

The city needs to take its time and make the right choice in this difficult tug of war, where all sides have valid points; otherwise it may again find itself trying to recover from the haste of seeing shovels in the group. It saw that with Lackey, with Aqua-Falls and other projects.

But it is a case where all three points, and more, are valid, and are worth slow and deliberate consideration. Belton's north-end woes were born in the 1st South-end initiatives of moving the center Court Project from Niagara Street to Center Avenue, and then Urban renewal herding residents from the neighborhoods that the Initiative wants to transform.

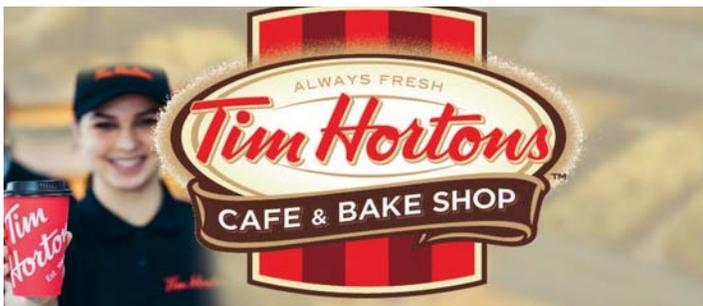


Workers' Memorial Day Honors Unknown Number of Workers

Workers' Memorial Day in the United States is held annually on April 28 to honor workers who have died from injuries suffered on the job. It's also a day to collectively acknowledge the pain and hardship these preventable deaths inflict on families and communities and call attention to the continuing fight for improved worker safety and health. On this day, many construction sites and other workplaces throughout the U.S. and Canada will pause for a moment of silence. Candlelight vigils will be held in some communities.

No one should die from going to work, but over 5,000 workers did in 2016, and almost 1,000 of them were construction workers. Sadly, these figures don't even tell the whole story because they don't include workers who died from health hazards. Silicosis and other illnesses linked to occupational exposures can take years to develop and may not appear until after retirement. There's also the toll that nearly 3,000,000 nonfatal injuries took on workers in 2016. Job-related injuries and illnesses like these stand as a reminder of our mission to improve workplace safety and health. Every worker should be as healthy at the end of their shift and the end of their career as they were at the beginning.

Incidents with the potential to cause serious injuries are common at construction sites, but if no one gets hurt, you're less likely to hear about them. But just because an employee didn't fall after tripping over an extension cord or wasn't hit by a falling hammer doesn't mean these types of close calls or near misses should go unreported. Employers can improve safety in their workplace by implementing a program that encourages workers to speak up when a close call occurs. Any incident where a worker could have gotten hurt but didn't is a red flag. It's what safety professionals refer to as a leading indicator because it calls attention to a hazardous situation before an injury results. Many times the difference between a close call and a critical injury is a split second or a fraction of an inch. According to the National Safety Council, 75 percent of all accidents are preceded by at least one close call. Be proactive and create a positive safety culture through education, assuring no reprisals for reporting employees, creating a policy for reporting close calls and reporting back to employees on steps taken to improve safety.



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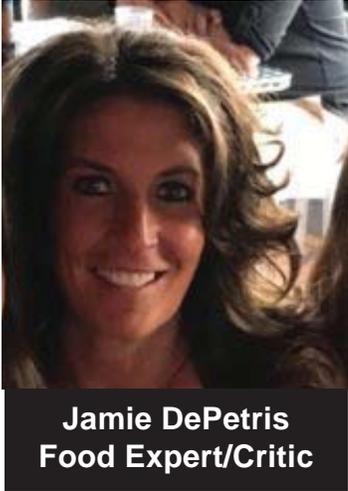
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<p>Sammy's PIZZERIA 1400 Hyde Park Blvd. NF, NY 297-8442</p>	<p>COUPON \$5 TWO SPECIALTY SLICES & A SODA</p>	<p>Romana's Pizza 4900 Saunders Settlement Rd. NF, NY 297-0990</p>	<p>COUPON BUY ONE SUB GET ONE FREE <i>Dine-In or Take-Out</i></p>	<p>CATARACT Grill 2501 Pine Avenue NF, NY 215-6217</p>	<p>COUPON 10% OFF ORDER OF \$20 OR MORE! CITY-WIDE DELIVERY!!</p>
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<p>THE ORIGINAL VENTRY'S PIZZA SHOP 6926 Buffalo Ave. NF, NY 283-1555 OUR ONLY LOCATION</p>	<p>SPECIAL TUES / WED \$10 1/2 TRAY CHEESE PIZZA WITH ONE ITEM **PICK-UP ONLY**</p>	<p>WILBUR'S BAR 504 Cayuga Drive</p>	<p>COUPON 10% OFF ANY MEAL ITEM</p>	<p>jaco's PIZZERIA & RESTAURANT 7202 Buffalo Ave. Niagara Falls, NY 283-2222</p>	<p>SPECIAL FREE DELIVERY ON TUESDAY W/ \$30 ORDER</p>
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<p>MOM'S Family Restaurant 2410 Military Rd. NF, NY (716) 283-6667</p>	<p>COUPON 15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE ORDER NOT VALID W/ OTHER OFFERS Exp. 5/31/18</p>	<p>Judi's BAR & GRILL 2057 Military Road NF, NY 297-5759</p>	<p>COUPON 10% OFF FOOD ORDER OF \$20 OR MORE **not valid Sunday's**</p>	<p>Twisted Olives Restaurant & Bar 333 Rainbow Blvd. NF, NY 215-6222 "Best happy hour drink specials in Niagara Falls"</p>	<p>SPECIAL EVERY THURS. NIGHT STARTING @ 3PM .25 CENT WINGS \$5 PIZZAS **Dine in special w/ purchase of a beverage and no take home** Like us on Facebook!!</p>

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Restaurant Review: Jonfre's



Jamie DePetris
Food Expert/Critic

Within minutes we met "Cal & Al" at the corner of the bar who I'm assuming are regulars because they gave us the low down of the menu and hours. I'd bet that when you go they will be there too!

I asked Pete what he makes best, to which he responded beef on weck. Although I trusted him, I already wrote about that last week so I had to try something new!

I choose the steak & cheese sub and chili with a side of onion rings.

One bite into my steak & cheese sub and I fell in love. It was perfect size - not huge - and had the freshest veggies I have ever had on a sub (it actually could have been a little salad on there).

The homemade chili had the perfect combination of meat, beans, and tomatoes with a bunch of cheese on top. Chili can be hard to get right, but boy did they!! Jonfre's "rocked it". So good!

My onion rings were big and crispy on the outside with the perfect seasoning. Delish. I kinda felt like goldilocks, my meal was "just right."

As we were eating, the bar started to fill up with people to have



The chili!!

They are such down to earth people. I have no doubt they would talk with you the same way!

Here's a little bit of interesting history I learned. Jonfre's is a family owned and operated bar and restaurant that was actually opened during prohibition by two brothers, John & Fred, well over 50 years ago. And look! They're still going strong! I have no doubt many of you are like me and had no idea about Jonfre's. It is a great place to have cocktails, lunch, or both! You really must give it a try. I know you will be SO glad you did.

Tell them Jamie sent you!!

lunch and drinks. We became fast friends with everyone. I never thought our lunch review would be so much fun! It was literally like a little party. Even Pete's wife, Tina, came out of the kitchen and sat at the bar and started chatting with us.

Since I started writing these reviews, I have come to rely on people telling me about hidden gems across Niagara County.

Jonfre's, located at 2623 Niagara Street in Niagara Falls, is exactly that; a hidden gem.

The most important thing about Jonfre's though is that if you sneeze, you might miss lunch!

Lunch is served 11:30am - 12:30pm on Mondays & Tuesdays, and 11:30am - 1:00pm Wednesday through Friday.

We lucked out and made it in time, which was lucky because the place was packed!

My friend and I walked in, sat at the bar, and were greeted by Pete, the co-owner.

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NEW YORK NEWS

McMurray Responds to Cuomo's Comments About Hochul Being a "Stronger Candidate" to Face Collins; Hochul Still Refuses to Enter Race



Today, Governor Cuomo told a gathered crowd that Kathy Hochul would give Democrats the best chance to take away the 27th Congressional District from Chris Collins. He referenced Nancy Pelosi, implying that she expressed a similar sentiment.

Democratic Congressional Candidate Nate McMurray is disappointed by the statement.

"Clearly I'm not part of the Washington/Albany insider game. But you know what? I want no part of that mess. This is a new era. It's an era where the people again decide what's best, not a group of political elites."

McMurray continued, "The Governor is not out there with me in the 27th District. He does not see the energy and enthusiasm we see, not from big donors but from regular people."

"I respect the Governor," McMurray said. "I think he has done a lot of important things. If the Governor is reelected, I look forward to working with him."

"And if Kathy Hochul wins her reelection bid for Lieutenant Governor, I especially look forward to working with her. I'm

proud of her representation of our region. I wish the Governor would join me on a trip to Batavia or Warsaw or Lockport and see the support we're feeling in those rooms.

"Sooner or later Albany and D.C. will realize, 'Don't underestimate Nate.' I'm no pawn on a board. No one owns me. No one owns the people of NY 27."

Molinaro Goes After Cuomo in Campaign Statement



"Whether it's using his government office for campaign activities, directing an independent authority, the MTA, to pay for ski slopes or setting arbitrary wage scales on the private sector, Andrew Cuomo says, believes and acts as though he, and he alone, is the government - a dictator.

Just months before an election, with the stroke of his pen, Andrew Cuomo, plans to restore the voting rights for cop killer Herman Bell and Palm Sunday killer Chris Thomas and calls it 'justice'. But if the dictator of third world nation threw open it's prison doors and granted voting rights to the criminals right before a reelection, we all would be appalled.

While I unequivocally believe in second chances, I also believe in the rule of law. Governor Cuomo's decision to circumvent the legislative process and by executive fiat extend voting rights to over 36,000 parolees, who have yet to fulfill their debt to society is wrong. Desperate to ward off a challenge from Cynthia Nixon, Andrew Cuomo's unilateral action is an insult to the legislature, the courts, crime victims and the voters of the State of New York.

While some will agree with the policy and others will not, all New Yorkers should be alarmed by a Governor who systematically fails to abide by the limits of his office. New Yorker's deserve better than a Governor who doesn't respect them, the rule of law or the institutions that safeguard our democracy. New Yorkers deserve a governor who believes in them and puts their needs ahead of any political agenda."

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Governor Cuomo Signs Executive Order Giving Parolees Right to Vote



New York Governor Andrew Cuomo

“It is unconscionable to deny voting rights to New Yorkers who have paid their debt and have re-entered society,” said Cuomo said in a statement. “This reform will reduce disenfranchisement and will help restore justice and fairness to our democratic process.”

According to Cuomo’s office, 35,000 people are on parole in New York state, of which 71% are African American and Hispanics.

“In this state, when you're released from prison and you're on parole, you still don't have the right to vote,” the governor said. “Now how can that be? You did your time. You paid your debt. You're released, but you still don't have a right to vote.”

New York now joins 18 other states and the District of Columbia which allow parolees to vote.

Cynthia Nixon, who is challenging Cuomo for Governor in

this year’s primary election, said this was “long overdue.”

“For eight years, Cuomo governed like a Republican,” Nixon said. “Now he's scared of communities all across New York who want to replace him with a real Democrat. Voter suppression in New York should have ended eight years ago, from the rights of parolees to access to early voting and automatic registration.”

During Cuomo's two terms, New York has raised the age for criminal responsibility, required law enforcement to videotape custodial interrogations for serious offenses and closed 24 prisons and

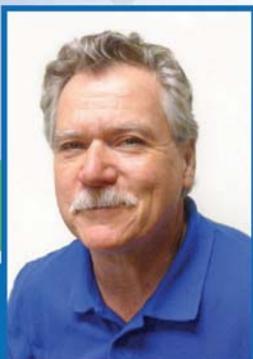
juvenile detention centers.



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NATIONAL NEWS

Actress Who Was Nxivm Enforcer May Be Looking for a Plea Deal

Analysis

Tony Farina

The Albany-based Nxivm cult that allegedly recruited women to be sex slaves is on the brink of collapse with the federal indictment in Brooklyn last Friday of cult leader Keith Raniere and "Smallville" television actress Allison Mack on charges of sex trafficking and conspiracy to commit forced labor.

Niagara Falls-based journalist Frank Parlato, a former Nxivm consultant, is credited by numerous media sources with first exposing the cult's recruiting and branding of women, reports

that eventually attracted the attention of federal prosecutors who arrested Raniere last month in Mexico.

According to Parlato, Mack is already involved in plea bargain negotiations with prosecutors, a signal that she is willing to cooperate in the case against Raniere, the leader known as Vanguard. Both face multiple counts and could face a minimum of 15 years in prison if convicted.

Mack is accused in the indictment of starving women "until they fit her co-defendant's sexual ideal," according to Assistant U. S.



Allison Mack talking with Keith Raniere in a camera interview prior to her joining NXIVM.

Attorney Moira Kim Penza as reported by the Associated Press.

It all began to unravel for Raniere and his 200-member cult last June when Parlato, the publisher of the Niagara Falls Reporter who also writes for several websites

including Artvoice, first reported that women were being forcibly branded as part of the NIXVM "sorority."

But the determined Parlato didn't stop there and continued to report on the brutalization of female victims leading to a series of stories by the New York Times that put NXIVM on the radar screen of federal prosecutors.

Parlato told the New York Post last week that Nxivm is in full-out "war" mode and has set up headquarters in Brooklyn, financed by longtime Raniere supporter, Seagram's heiress Clare Bronfman.

"She has taken control and is doing everything she can to help Raniere's defense," said Parlato. The businessman-journalist said Bronfman is ruling with an "iron fist," although Mack's plea bargaining efforts could be a fatal blow to Raniere.

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A rendering of Allison Mack in Federal Court after she was arrested.



Allison Mack was charged with sex-trafficking in the Eastern District of New York.

Bronfman reportedly has moved near the federal facility, just east of the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal, where Raniere is being held without bail pending his next court appearance on Friday.

"But Clare is a very strong-minded woman with virtually unlimited financial resources, so what she will do and how she will keep the group together during this crisis remains to be seen."

"It is hard to say what the remaining members of Nxivm will do now that Raniere is in jail and Mack is a potentially cooperating witness," said Parlato.

Parlato, who has authored numerous stories on Nxivm's activities, vows to continue to follow the case to its conclusion, citing the

terrible pain and frustration suffered by so many victims and their families as a result of the cult's abuse of women.

leadership of Raniere, a self-described genius who commanded his slaves to obey his sexual wishes," said Parlato.

"It is a terrible story and now the public is learning about what happened under the guise of a self-help group under the tyrannical

"It is a tale of horror and hopefully it has now come to an end."

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COMMUNITY IDEAS

Residents Voice Ideas for Former Wendt's Dairy Site

The City of Niagara Falls, through the Department of Economic Development, issued a Request for Proposal for the former Wendt's Dairy site located along Buffalo Avenue in the LaSalle neighborhood. The parcels offered for development include 8450 Buffalo Avenue and 8411 Troy Avenue.

The site that once processed milk and juice Wendt's, Niagara Milk Co., and Upstate Niagara, offers tremendous potential for prospective developers to transform it into any number of things.

One thing is for sure, residents in Niagara Falls have tons of ideas on what they would like to see:

Denny Soliday: "I could turn that place into one hell of a restaurant/upscale banquet hall/brewery."

Mike Alfieri: "Brewery/ restaurant."

Eileen Kazukietas-Schnettler: "Brewery and casual restaurant ... good for the locals and good for tourists. Downtown Buffalo and Rochester can do it, so should we!"

Robert Russell: "The city needs something for the children to do. An arcade, roller rink, or even a high-quality, low-cost buffet. Golden Corral or Cici's Pizza come right to mind, especially with Golden Corral offering kids eat for 99 cents."

Mark Yavno: "Wendt's Roller Derby & Disco Palace."

Joe Marielle: "I think the Neighbors would rather have an abandoned Building. They were happy when Wendt's closed."

Chris Fortin: "A training center for advanced manufacturing. Such as the skills needed for solar panel production."

Frank Bauhm: "It's not what would you, a city resident, like to see done with the facility, the reality is, what will Dyster's Buffalo campaign donors want to do with the facility?"

Lew Blevins Jr.: "A youth center and concert hall for LaSalle children."

Juanita Hurtya: "Rollerskating/ gamers lounge /nerd restaurant."

Chris Melson: "A museum some actual culture would be awesome."

Dan Dusher: "Restaurant and new housing."

Theresa Moraca Brockman: "Some type of clean industry with new jobs."

Chuck Page: "A chocolate factory with a retail store where the diner used to be."

Mike Fratello Sr.: "As a former employee, I would love see anything in there. They butchered the insides, but structurely the place is sound. At one point it was a fallout shelter. I think it would be great for offices up-



A birds-eye view of the Former Wendt's Dairy Site

stairs and warehousing on the ground level."

Marsha Cochrane Buenzow-Marsha: "50's diner....juke boxes and all."

Doug Croll: "Rec center, inside

basketball, ping pong, pool table, exercise area. area with internet for quiet time and homework. social place for kids to hang out like LaSalle YMCA was back in the day."

Mike Cody: "A new home for SuperFlea."

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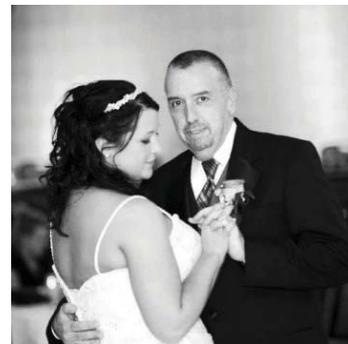
Letter of Thanks from Family of Samuel Ferraro

Most of you remember Sam Ferraro as a hardworking colleague, mentor and friend. For my entire life he has always been my Uncle Sammy. In 1998, at the age of 13, I suddenly lost my father to a heart attack. From that day forward, my Uncle Sammy was a constant source of strength when I was learning to find my own. He made sure my Mom and I never spent a holiday alone and walked me down the aisle on my wedding day. He offered guidance and advice (even if I didn't ask for it) and taught me one very important lesson. If you want something you work your butt off and go get it yourself.

Our family wants to recognize

the amazing outpouring of love and support during this difficult time. To the members of the Niagara County Legislature and the staff of the Niagara County Center of Economic Development, your words have truly shown us what an impact his life had on you all. Although my children will never get the chance to meet him, I will share your memories so that they may know how truly special he was. Every kind word, call, text, and card has helped us try and fill that void in our hearts. My uncle did not want to be remembered for his struggle or how he left this world. I ask that you please remember him for his character, work ethic,

contagious laugh and all the wonderful things he did for Niagara County.



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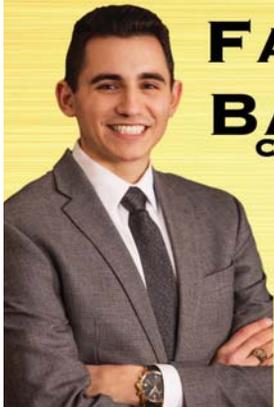
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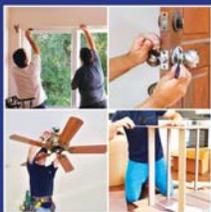
\$49⁹⁵
**HEATING & COOLING
TUNE UP**
(OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/18)
Time only. Some restrictions apply. Call for details.

\$250.00 off
**HEATING OR COOLING
SYSTEM**
(OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/2018)
Time only. Some restrictions apply. Call for details.

(716) 609-9494

HOME MAINTENANCE ENTERPRISES, INC.

NO JOB IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL. MAKE THE CALL & LET US TAKE CARE OF IT ALL!! **310-9882**



SILVER PACKAGE (\$90 MONTHLY)

2 JOBS PER MONTH FOR TOTAL OF 2 HOURS

- CLEANING GUTTERS
- FIXING WINDOWS OR SCREENS
- FIXING MINOR PLUMBING LEAK
- REPLACING KITCHEN FAUCET
- REPLACING LIGHT BULBS
- UNPLUG SINKS
- CHANGE OR REPLACE FURNACE FILTER
- HANGING CURTAINS/BLINDS/PICTURES
- RAKE YARD
- CHANGE LOCKS (2 PER CALL)
- REPLACE TOILET SEAT

GOLD PACKAGE (\$115 MONTHLY)

2 JOBS PER MONTH FOR TOTAL OF 2 HOURS

- INCLUDES ALL FROM SILVER PACKAGE
- INSTALL WINDOW (2 PER CALL)
- UNPLUG TOILET
- FIX SWITCHES OR OUTLETS
- REPLACE SINK • CLEAN FURNACE
- REPLACE SMOKE DETECTOR OR CO (4)
- RE-ROUTE CABLE FOR TV
- FIX HOLE IN WALL (UP TO 12")
- REPLACE MIRROR
- MOVE FURNITURE IN HOUSE
- ASSEMBLE STORE • FIX SIDING BOUGHT PRODUCTS
- INSTALL DRYWALL (3 SHEETS UNFINISHED)
- FIX MINOR FENCE PROBLEMS
- REPLACE INTERIOR DOOR

PLATINUM PACKAGE (\$135 MONTHLY)

3 JOBS PER MONTH FOR TOTAL OF 3 HOURS

- INCLUDES ALL FROM SILVER & GOLD PACKAGES
- INSTALL CEILING FAN (WIRING MUST BE PRESENT)
- REPLACE HOT WATER TANK
- REPLACE EXTERIOR DOOR
- FIX GARAGE DOOR
- JUMP START VEHICLE
- PAINT ROOM (12' BY 15')
- CLEAN SEWER
- REPLACE SHOWER FIXTURES
- CLEAN WINDOWS (4, DOUBLE HUNG)
- REPLACE LIGHT FIXTURE (2 PER CALL)
- FIX ROOF LEAKS (1 SQUARE)
- INTERIOR PAINTING (1 HOUR)
- VEHICLE TOW WITHIN 15 MILES
- REPLACE TOILET
- FIX TILE (ONE SQUARE)

**TREATING YOUR HOME AS
OUR OWN SINCE 2002**