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THE NIAGARA REPORTER

FREE

September 19th, 2018 - September 25th, 2018

NiagaraReporter.com

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Robert M. Restaino
Attorney at Law

285-8185

SOCK IT TO ME BABY

**Dyster Administration Proposes
Garbage 'User Fee,' Tax Increase,
& Cuts to Police / Fire Departments**



By: Frank Parlato

Paul A. Dyster became Mayor of Niagara Falls on January 1, 2008, shortly after the casino revenue started being paid to the City.

In an unprecedented wind-fall - unknown anywhere in the USA where a city so small got so much - Niagara Falls, population 50,000, began to receive from \$16 to \$22 million annually from a negotiated contract with the Seneca Nation of Indians - made prior to Dyster taking office.

The compact made in 2003 required a percentage of casino slots revenue generated at the Seneca Niagara Casino be paid to the city.

Dyster was the big beneficiary. From 2008 to 2017 his administration received some \$200 million in casino cash.

This incredible monetary infusion ended after Dyster failed to monitor negotiations between the Senecas and Governor Andrew Cuomo for the casino compact renewal.

The governor failed to in-

clude any payment to Niagara Falls for the tax-free casino hosted here and Dyster failed to realize this - he said - until after the compact was negotiated and signed.

Maybe it didn't matter. For years, Dyster wasted the bulk of the casino cash and - without it - Dyster plunged the city into a \$13.5 million annual deficit.

Today the Niagara Reporter has the unpleasant task of informing readers that they will likely be hit with a trio of

(Cont. on pg. 2)

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NIAGARA FALLS

Councilmember Speaks Out on Garbage [tax] Fee

By: Kenny Tompkins

As it stands right now I am against the garbage user fee unless they can show me where it is going to benefit the taxpayer," Said Council member Kenny Thomkins. "Where they are going to get something for their money. Are they going to get unlimited bulk. Are they going to give people who need two cans two cans? Are they going to do something about illegal dumping?"

I need residents to get something for their money."

Realistically, you can have a tax increase of up to 2% each year. But with the user fee they are already raising taxes. You can call it a user fee or whatever you want, but it's a tax.

Usually going up 1-2% per year is like going up \$20, \$30 or \$40 dollars. Creating an additional user fee for garbage of \$200, and then having a tax increase of 1-2%. They are well onto a double-digit tax increase.

I think we need to go through every department - and I mean every department - and one person gets laid off. Let's see what that savings is. I have a feeling it would be a considerable savings, which is fair because that effects everyone.



unpleasant measures: A tax increase, a new garbage user fee and cuts to police and fire departments.

And just to complete the picture, a property reassessment is also in the works.

The only hope lies in council members rejecting this wide-scale cost hike on the already overtaxed residents of Niagara Falls.

Dyster is squarely behind it. His chief ally on the council, Andrew Touma, is also believed to be solidly for the tax hike, garbage fee and cuts to services.

In case anyone doubts that Dyster plans to hit residents with these hefty increases, consider what City Administrator Nick Melson said in an op-ed published recently in the Niagara Gazette.

Melson wrote, "a user fee... will mean expanded benefits and options for residents of Niagara Falls."

Melson estimates the proposed user fee will generate \$3.6 million in revenue. A single family household would pay \$200 for the year.

Melson writes, "The options are clear: a double digit tax increase, massive layoffs and cuts in public safety and services, or revenue enhancement measures such as this user fee. I think the answer

Tax Increase Cont.

lies in a combination of belt-tightening cuts, imposition of a user fee, and a modest single digit tax increase."

The 'user fee' and tax increase are two topics on the agenda at the "Let's Talk Budget Meeting" on Wednesday September 26th, 2018.

And both are sure to spark lively discussion this week during the comment period of Wednesday September 19th's City Council Meeting.

It is amazing that cutting a bloated government is not the first order of business.

Then again, it's not like the city is run lean to begin with.

Niagara Falls' expenses are \$91.4 million (for population of 47,000).

Schenectady [66,000 people] spends \$85.2 million.

Troy [48,000] spends \$73.6 million.

Utica [60,000] spends \$72.4 million.

Binghamton [47,000] - the same size as Niagara Falls - spends \$65.3 million.

So now, as residents brace for tax increases and user fees proposed by a mayor who forgot to make sure the Senecas paid a dime to the city - let's look at how Dyster spent the \$200 million.

Here are a few of the things he bought for \$200 million:

\$150,000 to Community Missions to bail them out of a tax lien problem; \$100,000 for tree trimming, \$2.2 million

for trash totes; \$3.3 million annually to cover the \$46.5 million overpriced and oversized courthouse's thirty-year mortgage; \$6,200 for planning department rugs and drapes, millions for city hall salaries; canoe launches on Cayuga Creek, Cayuga Island and Hyde Park; the Aquarium of Niagara got \$100,000 to improve the habitat for penguins; \$947,305 went to the Niagara Falls Ice Pavilion (including \$269,000 in consulting fees); Dyster paid a consultant \$112,430 to write a "downtown parking plan;" handed \$373,581 to his board at the NFC; gifted the infamous Holiday Market \$225,000; awarded \$20,000 to the Blues Festival; paid a consultant \$7,320 to design signs at LaSalle Waterfront Park; covered "additional costs" related to the Culinary Arts project at \$278,290; paid a private operator \$59,257 to remove tree stumps; put a new roof on the Carnegie building for \$659,810; joined the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise for \$50,000; landscaped the downtown "medians and traffic circle" for \$57,397; put an engineering consultant day-to-day in city hall for \$94,000; gave Isaiah 61 organization \$500,000; paid \$105,662 in 2013 for an Underground Railroad Interpretive Center "change order;" paid \$20,000 to repair a Sal Maglie Stadium light tower; paid \$90,000 to replace two light poles in a city lot next to Wrobel Towers; dumped \$459,757 into the city's "ZOOM" program; he bought a 5.5 acre property, at 3625 Highland Ave., for \$165,000 (more than twice its actual value); \$4 million toward building an unwanted and unneeded train station; \$1 million to subsidize USA Niagara to pay

NIAGARA



REPORTER

Frank Parlato, Jr.

Publisher & Editor in Chief

Nicholas D. D'Angelo

Managing Editor

P.O. Box 3083, Niagara Falls NY 14304
(716) 870-1175 niagarareporter@gmail.com



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Niagara Falls: BankOnBuffalo, City Hall (basement), The Como (restaurant, deli, & airport locations), DiCamillo Bakery (all locations), Frankie's Donuts, John Duke Center, Key Bank (800 Main St.), Memorial Medical Center (entrance to lobby), Michael's Restaurant, Markside Restaurant, Mom's Restaurant, Niagara Towers, Niagara Falls Family Court, Niagara Falls Police Station, Niagara Falls Public Library (both locations), Rite Aid (7804 Buffalo Ave. & 4407 Military Rd.), Save-A-Lot, Spallino Towers, Supermarket Liquor, Tops (all locations), Tim Hortons (all locations), Wedge Liquors, & Wrobel Towers.

North Tonawanda: Bishop Gibbons, Broadway Hotel, Budwey's Market, Carousel Park Apartments, City Hall, DMV, Kimek's Tavern, Lou's Diner, Platter's Chocolates, Public Library, Olympia Restaurant, Tops, Roman Café & Save-A-Lot

Sanborn: Smokin Joes (gas station and store), Tim Hortons & Tops

Tonawanda: Tops on Young Street

Wilson: Lakeside Market

Youngstown: Anchor Spirits & Wines, Bandanas Bar & Grill, Public Library, Rite Aid, Village Diner

Weekly Update on Veteran House Renovation

NF City Councilman Kenny Tompkins

Given that this is our third update from the original story, I thought it would be smart to give some context about what we are trying to do here.

Timothy and Colleen Degenhardt thought they did their homework when looking for a contractor to build an addition onto their home.

Timothy, a disabled army veteran, has health ailments that limit his ability to use his legs. As a result, the Degenhardt's were looking to add a bedroom to the back of the house so that Timothy would not have to climb any stairs.

Unfortunately, a project that at first seemed quick and easy, did not stay that way for long.

The "so-called contractor," Kyle Edwards, who Colleen calls a "criminal" and a "thief," took their money and left them with nothing but huge trenches in the ground. Some of which were at least two feet deep.

Degenhardt gave Edwards roughly \$12,000 towards the project.

The Degenhardt's filed in Small Claims Court seeking their \$12,000 back, but were ultimately unsuccessful. Despite Edwards not showing up to court, the judge only entered a judgment in their favor for \$5,000.

Timothy and Colleen found out the hard way that a judgement and collecting on a judgment are two different things. As a result, not one cent has been collected.

In a true showing of community,



numerous businesses have donated their time, supplies and money to make this project a reality.

With the concrete pour completed, H. W. Bryk returned to the site to dig out the center and install the sump pump, crock and gutter drainage.

A layer of thick poly was put down and was covered with stone. The sump, along with a couple of vents in the cinder block will keep any condensation from forming and creating mold.

The next step, early next week, is the layer of cinder block material donated by Felicetti Concrete Products and laid by Fontanarosa Construction.

Morganti Construction came in and removed the existing siding off of the rear of the house and prepped the wall so the framers will not be slowed down.

The next phase will be the framers followed by the roofers to get it all sealed from outside elements.

We are still looking for insulation and installation donations. If you can help or if you know anyone that can help, please feel free to reach out to me, Kenny Tompkins at 940-7092

Thank you all for your continued support.



Members of the Niagara Falls City Council would have to vote and approve of any garbage 'user fee' [tax]. Likewise, they would have to approve any tax increase.

Global Spectrum to run events and parties on Old Falls Street; \$50,000 to erect a statue on a Rainbow Boulevard traffic island; \$210,595 for a fresh fleet of Code Enforcement vehicles; the city's 2014 road reconstruction plan tapped into casino cash at \$5.3 million; \$70,000 in 2011 for the pothole "killer," \$111,000 for the pothole "zipper" in 2011, \$140,000 for pothole killing in 2012 and 2013, \$104,000 for pothole equipment rental in 2014 and \$185,000 in zipper machine materials for 2014; a "grant consultant" \$30,000 per year in casino cash; the Dyster administration gave Seminole Nation's billion-dollar Hard Rock Cafe Inc., \$707,000 of casino cash for concerts including a New Year's Eve party for \$50,000 in 2012; Dyster gave \$72,000 of casino money to hire "a consultant from the National Development Council" to consult the NFC program that the mayor presides over as chairman; he gifted

the Holiday Inn owner with \$550,000 in casino funds to build a restaurant that he would have otherwise had to pay for himself as part of Holiday Inn's franchise requirements; the mayor's SWEET program - Sanitation Waste Education and Enforcement Team - sucked away \$58,558 of casino dollars to hire three people and create a trash office within DPW; the rollout of the trash plan was anything but smooth and the mayor had to revisit the plan and give the waste hauler an additional \$284,622 of casino cash to tide the city over from May to the end of 2014; petunias along Buffalo Avenue cost \$100,000 in casino cash for a contractor to "streetscape" that portion of the street; City Hall received a new paved parking lot at a cost of \$468,720 courtesy of casino money; Dyster kicked in an additional \$350,000 of casino resources to consultants to cover a suspicious "re-bidding" of the train station project; the Underground Railroad Interpretive Center tapped the casino funds for \$2.1 million; and since 2009 John Percy's NTCC has knocked down \$7.3 million in casino cash and nobody knows what they did with it.

Throughout this rampant spending, the tax base continued to shrink and no new private sector jobs were created by the mayor's spending.

So now we are to trust him that he needs to increase taxes and impose a garbage user fee.

Sounds logical.



Totes McGoats & Mayor Paul Dyster riding on a bicycle together during his administration's campaign to push the new garbage tote system.

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WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Niagara Falls Fireman responded to reports of a fire started by kinds in Packard Court who set a baby stroller on fire.
 Police and medical responding to 63rd and Buffalo Avenue for a female passenger that was pushed off of a bus by another passenger after refusing to exit the bus. A female rider who was possibly drunk was being unruly and asked to get off of the bus by the driver. At some point a confrontation broke out between the unruly passenger and two other riders which resulted in the victim sustaining injuries and the two other people being arrested.
 -Police and medical on location in the 2800 block of Linwood for the possible heroin overdose.
 -Niagara Falls Police on location at 19th and Niagara Street for the attempted robbery/assault of a Cab driver. The suspect is described as a white male, bald head, wearing a white shirt and red shorts or pants.
 -Stemming from a police raid on North Military Road in January, Sean Polley took a plea offer from prosecutors and pleaded guilty to a single count of attempted second-degree criminal possession of a weapon during a hearing Wednesday afternoon in State Supreme Court in Lockport.
 -Niagara Falls Police and Fire responded to 17th and Ferry Avenue late Thursday / early Friday morning for a vehicle that crashed into a building with injuries. The driver fled from the scene leaving two young passengers behind.
 -Niagara Falls Police reported to an attempted robbery attempt on 6th St. that turned bloody after the victim was shot through both legs. According to the victim, he was shot after refusing to turn over the contents of his pockets. The culprits have not been identified.
 -One person was taken into custody after this late-night raid in the 1300 block of Ashland Avenue on September 13th.
 -Niagara Falls Police and Fire responded to a vehicle fire on the 2600 block of Main Street.
 -Attempted robbery of 7-Eleven on 15th and Pine . Description of Suspect: White male, thin build, about 5.5 with a facial hair and a blue hoodie and mask Suspect did not display weapon but suggested he had one.
 -According to Niagara Falls Police, a 20-year-old man took off his belt and beginning whipping a 12-year-old boy who refused to stop swearing in public. The man, who had originally asked the child to stop swearing, then became the target of profane language before taking off his belt and whipping him. Police have not yet identified the suspect.
 -Male driver arrested for DWI after this two car motor vehicle accident in the 1300 block of Main Street. The driver blew 3x the legal limit and luckily there were no serious injuries reported.
 -Niagara Falls Police are investigating a shooting near 17th & Pierce Ave. It was reported that the victim jumped into a cab and was taken to the hospital. Bullet casings found at the scene was that of a .9mm. The victim was reportedly uncooperative with police.

Victim Shot Through Both Legs During Attempted Robbery



Photos courtesy of Samar Hamilton, The Action Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls Police reported to an attempted robbery attempt on 6th St. that turned bloody after the victim was shot through both legs. According to the victim, he was shot after refusing to turn over the contents of his pockets. The culprits have not been identified.



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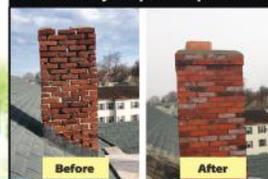
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Grand Island Supervisor Pushes for Open Posting of Town Jobs



Nate McMurray
Grand Island Supervisor

You would think that all jobs in Grand Island are openly posted. They're not. And I have been deferential to the decisions of our department heads. You see, most of the people who work for the Town do a very good job. Still, the process never sat well with me. There's too much nepotism, too many related parties though blood ties or some other bond.

And so, when yet another recommendation to hire a former elected official came across my desk, I opposed it. I put forward a

resolution requiring open hiring (by posting on the Town website and Town Facebook page) for all Town positions — no matter how small. After all, a small job to one person might a life saver for someone else.

It passed, but not easily. One councilperson voted no, and one fought it until the last second.

There is a problem — which I will fight till the end

The problem is that there is something to see. The system I fought against is creeping back. It's a system that protects and coddles some and destroys others. It's a system where if you're in, you are way in, with pensions, attention, and praise. But if you're out, stay out.

Now, you may point to my Deputy Supervisor (a man I first met three years ago) as a symbol of my reflection, but such a comparison denies good logic and common sense. My Deputy Supervisor works for free, although I have two paid political appointments I could, under the law, pay him. I never would, and he doesn't want it. He does this work out of love for his Town. His partnership has helped bring millions in grant money, and his expertise is invaluable. He's the best. If anyone else wants to work for free (e.g., cut the grass for free) I'll take them too.

I will continue to tear apart the insider's game. Open posting is just another step, as was passing a term limits law and inviting cameras into our public meetings. Both were the right things to do, just like every other decision I made as Supervi-

sor. I tried to do what's right, not what will get me votes. And if all this fighting the system means the system comes back to throw me out, so be it. I'm here for all of you, not just a select few.

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ANALYSIS

Summit Life Outreach "Let Life Shine"



Ken Hamilton

Let's face it, we support the things that mean the most to us, whether it is because of the good things that we have done or for penance for the bad things. No matter, the outcome is what matters, and I am proud to be associated with the outcomes of our own Summit Life Outreach Center at 1622 Pine Ave. at 17th Street, Niagara Falls, NY. These fine people bring life to what many consider a dying city.

Quite frankly, we need your help.

There are those who believe that people who say that they believe in the sanctity of the life do nothing to help the mother after the child is born. Those people are so very wrong. There is nothing more precious than a newborn child, and no one more responsible than a mother, despite her hardships, decides to carry her baby to term, and then love that child with all that she has. Summit is there to help, not only such women, but the fathers of those babies as well.

According to our web page, "Summit Life Outreach is an organization composed

of women and men who recognizes the poor options facing women and men in an unexpected pregnancy. Together with the support of our community, we have opened a center that provides a warm, safe, confidential environment to everyone, regardless of your age, race, income, nationality, religious affiliation, or circumstances."

It goes on to say that, "Our staff of active volunteers is trained to walk through your pregnancy with you, supporting you with the freedom to explore your fears and the issues in your life that make your pregnancy an overwhelming experience."

For me, their mission is personal. I was once confronted with an unwanted pregnancy. I was a stupid 22-year old sailor in Virginia Beach who met and spent a few evenings with a young Navy woman whom I met there. Upon returning back to port from a 3-month cruise, the woman told me that she was carrying my child. Her roommate had advised me that she was as promiscuous as I was, and that during the duration of my cruise she had been with a dozen other guys as well. It was a different time in my life, and the last thing that I wanted was neither the woman nor the child, and I convinced her to terminate her pregnancy.

Years later after my return home to Niagara Falls I came to realize the sanctity of life, and I regretted what I had done. Even if it was my child, I had no right to request her to terminate the pregnancy. Furthermore, because there was a great deal of doubt that it was my child, I certainly had no right to make that decision for another man who may have wanted, or not, to become a father.

One day, I was walking through the Summit Park Mall with a family of my friends when I stumbled upon the closed Outreach Center. Remembering my Virginia Beach mistake, I vowed to return the next day. I did and I found out the wonderful things that those kind people were doing; I thereby dedicated myself to support their very worthwhile efforts.

I once crawled into burning building and carried a woman to safety, not initially knowing who she was. I previously had been responsible for pulling 4 drunken sailors from their overturned vehicle that dangerously teetered on an overpass high above Military Road in Virginia Beach, and later, in Niagara Falls, waded into traffic to protect a pregnant woman who had been thrown from the passenger side of a vehicle at Hyde Park Blvd and Porter Road. But I am here to tell you, no matter what I did, it

doesn't make up for what I once did, nor does it



compare to the fine work that Summit Outreach does every week in aiding your families in the decision for life, supporting them through the pregnancy, and then providing follow-up and support to them for up to 2 years thereafter.

What can you do to help?

You can help us save lives by attending the Summit's annual fundraiser. It takes place between 7:00 - 9:00 PM on Thursday, October 11th, 2018 at Antonio's Banquet & Conference Center, 7708 Niagara Falls Blvd. Niagara Falls, NY. Tickets are \$50, well-spent.

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Ages 8 - 12 : \$4.99
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\$6⁹⁹ Breakfast Buffet

With Beverage Purchase

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NORTH TONAWANDA

Live 'High on the Hog' at Sticky Face BBQ

Brendan McDonough

Almost two weeks after opening their doors, 'Sticky Face BBQ' in North Tonawanda has the City clamoring for delicious BBQ.

Located at the former Gran-ny's Restaurant, 297 Oliver Street, "Sticky Face BBQ" is a dream come true for owner Steven Mineo who, after working in the restaurant industry for more than ten years, decided to open a place of own.

It's a dream come true for bar-beque lovers also. The new restau-rant is becoming famous for its slow cooked and tender ribs, chicken, pulled pork and much more.

Come in and try a sample and let your taste buds be amazed.

Although this is his first time specializing in BBQ on a commer-cial basis, Mineo has had a lifelong passion for the unique and wonder-fuo way of preparing meats – slowly and delicately to bring out the best of the flavor.

This is the way meat is sup-posed to be prepared.



But what's a BBQ joint without great sauce and the right kind of rub?

At Sticky Face, Mineo serves customers meats prepared with his own special rub.

It's so good that some people don't even use BBQ sauce – be-cause the meat is so flavorful and tender.

"The recipe for this rub is something I worked on for years," said Mineo. "Constantly tinkering and adjusting it ever so slightly and now I have perfected it. I hope the people of North Tonawanda fall in love with it as I have."

Mineo says there is a need for authentic BBQ in North Tonawan-da, and across all of Western NY.

Mineo said. "Yeah there might be a lot of places that say they fea-ture BBQ, but they are very Amer-icanized and inconsistent. The true method is slow wood cooking, with low heat carefully smoking the food to get that rich unmistakable taste."

Sticky Face BBQ also serves southern breakfast on weekends which includes biscuits and gravy or duck and waffles. [Yes you read that last one right].

The menu includes something for everyone and a few things that most people who live north of the Mason Dixon have never seen before.

"One thing no one else has in



Western New York is beef back ribs, delicious and tender and nourish-ing" said Mineo. "We also do beef the best most tender beef brisket, juicy pork ribs, succulent rib-eye steaks, and an array of specialty dishes that you won't normally see in a BBQ joint such as shark steak, lasagna and even a portabella sandwich with onions mushrooms and cheese for vegetarians."

The pork is so tender and juicy it seems to say "oink, oink" right in your mouth.

Live high on the hog – at Sticky Face.

You won't regret a visit and help support this brand new business in North Tonawanda.

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Saturday - Sunday: 9am - 2pm // 3pm - 9pm
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Smoking Ban Discussed at North Tonawanda Council Workshop

By: **Brendan McDonough**

During the Common Council Workshop held on Tuesday September 11th, North Tonawanda Mayor Art Pappas said he has received complaints from residents entering City Hall about smokers standing outside the entrances filling the air with their noxious tobacco smoke.

He suggested to the council that smoking be prohibited altogether on the city hall property. Smoking is already prohibited inside City Hall.

"We are starting to see concerns from employees trying to enter the building," said Pappas, "and I would like the council to consider prohibiting smoking on city hall property."

Alderman Donna Braun agreed with Mayor Pappas.

According to some members of the Council, cigarette butts are littered throughout the property.

"I do not know if you can designate a place behind the building for smoking, but it is becoming a health hazard [and] a mess with cigarette butts being thrown around," said Pappas.

Council President Eric Zadzilka

said this is something the council should consider adopting. The issue could come up for vote as early as September 18th.

Cigarette smoking is legal in outdoor areas in all 50 states. According to the US Centers for Disease Control, "Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of death and disease in the United States. Cigarette smoking kills more than 480,000 Americans each year, with more than 41,000 of these deaths from exposure to secondhand smoke. In addition, smoking-related illness in the United States costs more than \$300 billion a year, including nearly \$170 billion in direct medical care for adults and \$156 billion in lost productivity.

"In 2016, an estimated 15.5% (37.8 million) of U.S. adults were current cigarette smokers. Of these, 76.1% smoked every day."

In North Tonawanda – it may become just a little harder for workers to auto-poison with this dreadful addiction – sold in nearly every market and convenience store in America.

Going Green at the Common Council Workshop

By: **Brendan McDonough**

Last January, "Imagine Community Gardens" – a project devised by Lumber City Church -was just a dream.

Today, it is in full bloom; growing everything from tomatoes to carrots and beyond.

On Tuesday night, before the North Tonawanda Common Council, members of Lumber City Church gave an update on how a once-empty lot has been transformed into a sea of green space.

"Many people that lived on the street did not even know each other," said Bob Zema, Imagine Community Garden Organizer, "but the garden is bringing people together."

According to members, the garden has become a meeting place in the community where people can come together in fellowship; working the soil



and giving back a portion of what they grow to the Tonawanda Food Pantry. "10% of what every gardener



grows is given back to the Food Pantry to help those in need," said Zema.

It's not just vegetables that are grown there. The group also held several events at the garden including 'Meet the Chef' day where people presented dishes they made with items from the garden.

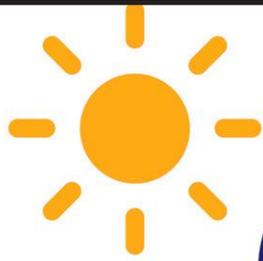
In fact, a cook book is planned featuring the recipes brought to the event.

"People who are not necessarily utilizing the garden but who drive by it, see the amazing things going on there and are really impressed by it," said North Tonawanda Mayor Art Pappas.

There are also free pantries at the garden where people can take what they need and give what they have. The pantries, which are unlocked and unmanned, are filled with non-perishable foods and other items.

"Often times," said Pastor Chad Zima, "the people who take food from the pantry come back to leave food items as well."

The Imagine Community Gardens is located at 228 Sommer Street.



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New energy choices are coming, and people have a lot of questions. We'd like to help provide some answers.

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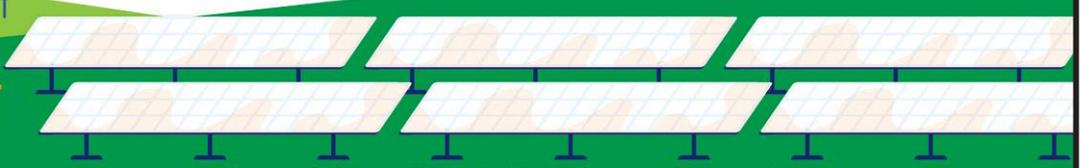
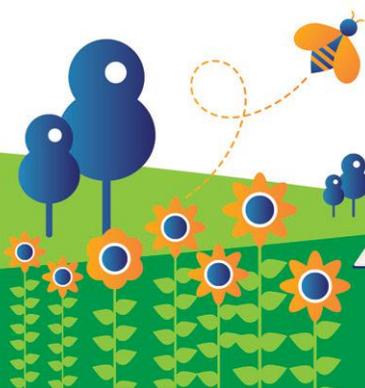
Bear Ridge Solar's proposed facility in Cambria and Pendleton, NY will deliver clean, reliable, renewable solar energy into the grid in Western New York. That's power for nearly 25,000 homes and businesses, construction jobs for up to 300—and economic benefits for the community.

October 3, 2018

Niagara County Community College
3111 Saunders Settlement Rd
Room E-107, Sanborn, NY 14132
4-7 PM

October 4, 2018

Cambria Fire Hall
4631 Cambria-Wilson Road,
Lockport, NY 14094
4-7 PM



Refreshments will be served. Children's coloring area will be provided.

Mental Illness Awareness Event Held At Gratiwick Riverside Park

Brendan McDonough

On Saturday September 15th, more than two dozen people gathered at Gratiwick Riverside Park, filling the sky with kites of all shapes, colors and sizes, for the fourth annual 'Kite Festival' to raise awareness for mental illness.

The event was held by the Mental Health Peer Connection, an advocacy organization dedicated to facilitating self-directed growth.

The event was free.

Organizers said the goal is to educate people that those with mental

illness are not a danger to others and try to remove any shame associated with it.

"There is so much negativity about people with mental illness," said Maura Kelly, Event Organizer. "And that just couldn't be further from the truth. 97% of people with mental illness are not violent or a detriment to society. ... It's nothing to be ashamed of and that's what we are here to show people."

"One in five people have mental illness," said Kelly, "so it effects every community."



Registered Apprenticeship

The US and New York State Departments of Labor recognize and monitor registered skilled apprenticeship programs in NYS and throughout the United States. The Laborers' International Union of North America publicly promotes our successful model of labor-management registered apprenticeship programs to combat the growing emphasis on employer programs supported by taxpayers.

What is Registered Apprenticeship?

It's a job. Apprentices start working from day one with incremental wage increases as they become more proficient. It's on-the-job learning and education. Registered Apprenticeship includes on-the-job learning from an assigned mentor combined with technical training provided by apprenticeship training centers, technical schools, community colleges, and institutions employing distance and computer-based learning systems.

It's a credential. At the end of the apprenticeship, all apprentices receive a nationally recognized credential. Some apprenticeship programs offer interim credentials as apprentices achieve important milestones during their apprenticeship.

What are some advantages of Registered Apprenticeship?

The benefits to employers are: more highly skilled employees, reduced turnover rates, higher productivity, lower investment in recruitment, a more diverse workforce, a new pool of workers and the creation of career pathways. The benefits to registered apprentices are: being nationally recognized and portable credentials, improved skills and competencies, higher wages as skills increase and career advancement.

Registered Apprenticeship programs are operated by partnerships of employers, labor management organizations and government. Apprenticeship sponsors – employers, employer associations and labor-management organizations – register programs with federal and state government agencies. Sponsors provide mentors, on-the-job learning opportunities and required technical instruction to apprentices. Incorporating Registered Apprenticeship directly into your workforce development system will strengthen your local and regional economy by offering highly trained and educated residents. Let Registered Apprenticeship be your competitive advantage. Laborers' Local 91 accepts apprenticeship applications the first Tuesday of every month from 8 AM – 12 noon at our training facility located at 4500 Witmer Industrial Estates Niagara Falls, NY 14305.



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Behind The Scenes: A Day in the Life of a Microbiologist



One thing we should never take for granted is the safety of our drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency sets rigid national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally-occurring and man-made contaminants that may be found. At the end of the day however, front-line water professionals monitor, test, and ensure that our drinking water is clean and safe. At the Niagara Falls Water Board, microbiologist Patrick Fama is tasked with this important duty. Patrick's fundamental responsibility is to safeguard all aspects of drinking water quality.

At the O'Laughlin Water Treatment Plant, Patrick runs the Water Quality Laboratory and is charged with planning, directing, and conducting all laboratory duties. His typical day includes constant sampling of water, strict quality control, detailed record keeping, report preparation, research on water treatment purification, lab administration and management, and much more. He also tests water at the scene of water main breaks to ensure that restored service conveys uncontaminated water.

Outside of the lab, Patrick also tests water for outside agencies, businesses, not-for-profits, and various others.

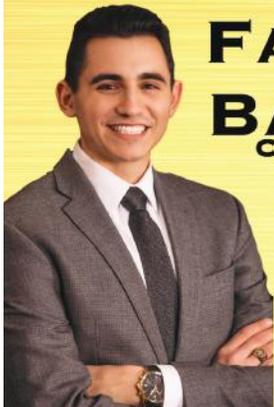
Board member Nick Forster sums up the importance of the lab and Patrick Fama's work by stating, "The Niagara Falls Water Board not only has a top-notch testing laboratory, but a top-notch microbiologist in Patrick Fama, a highly regarded professional, assuring our community of clean and safe drinking water, widely recognized as second-to-none.

"I'm pleased that he has the vision and ability to continuously upgrade the lab, as well as to grow outside testing opportunities as a needed service for businesses and other users, which has brought in revenue and helped offset ratepayer cost."

DID YOU KNOW?

A microbiologist is a scientist who studies microscopic organisms including bacteria, algae, and fungi. These professionals study organisms that cause disease and environmental damage, or are of industrial or agriculture interest. And they also evaluate the characteristics of nonliving pathogens, such as viruses and prions.

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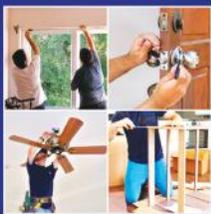
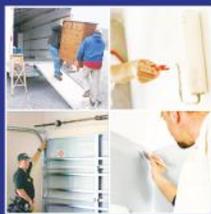


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- REPLACE SHOWER FIXTURES
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- REPLACE LIGHT FIXTURE (2 PER CALL)
- FIX ROOF LEAKS (1 SQUARE)
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