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FREE

September 5th, 2018 - September 11th, 2018

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285-8185

End of an Era: Forster to Leave Top Democratic Post

Forster will remain as Director of Water Board & support Jason Zona as new Democratic Party Boss.

By: Frank Parlato

Nicholas J. Forster will not seek reelection as Niagara County Democratic Chairman this October and will throw his support to Niagara County Legislator Jason Zona.

Forster served as Democratic Party Chairman for an unprecedented six terms, the last time – in 2016 – he won unanimously.

Forster has been an old-fashioned Democrat, with an inclusive attitude. Unlike present-day Democrats on the national scene – who support the creation of a Super State – with increasingly socialist/communist viewpoints, Forster fought for freedoms including economic freedom, and the right of small business-

men and unions both to thrive.

He tried to support middle-of-the-road candidates who wanted to see tax reductions not bigger nanny state government.

Throughout his tenure, he tried to be inclusive. His famous saying that he would lead by "building bridges for people to be able to cross over their differences and come together" was the hallmark of his success.

Forster was first elected party chairman in 1995 and served three two-year terms until 2001. During those years, Democrats rose to have parity in the county with Republicans in elected offices.

Before that Forster was the City of Niagara Falls Democratic chairman from 1990 to 1994.

After Forster chose to leave his position as Niagara County Chair in 2001 – the Democrats lost significant seats in the County Legislature and Republicans, under the able and clever leadership of former Republican State Senator and the de-facto party boss, George Maziarz, Republicans came to dominate the county political landscape, nearly sweeping all Democrats out of office – outside the City of Niagara Falls.

Some 11 years later, Forster returned as Democratic County Chair – being elected in 2012 – and against all odds, upped the number of elected Democrats locally – while fighting against the much more highly funded Republican machine – usually with a shoe string budget.

The sheriff, the district attorney and

(Cont. on pg. 2)

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Stamm-Philipps Endorsed for Wheatfield Town Justice

By: Nicholas D. D'Angelo

The Niagara Falls Reporter is pleased to announce its endorsement of Angela Stamm-Philipps for Wheatfield Town Justice. Stamm-Philipps has also been endorsed by the Wheatfield Republican committee, the Niagara County Conservative Committee, and the Niagara County Independence Committee. A former Town Prosecutor in Wheatfield, she brings over 20 years of legal experience and knowledge to the bench.

Stamm-Philipps has prosecuted criminal and traffic violations, diligently fought to protect children in abuse cases, is a highly respected trial attorney

who has tried cases in all levels of trial courts, and is currently the Chief Clerk of Niagara County Surrogate Court. Her vast legal experience will serve her well on the bench.

"First and foremost, I want to make sure our community has peace of mind when it comes to the justice system. As an attorney and a mother of two, fairness is an essential pillar of my foundation," said Stamm-Philipps. "My experience and knowledge will allow me to see all sides of the issue which will translate into the highest respect for the law."

Stamm-Philipps has also served as an adjunct professor



at a local college and has been a panel speaker at numerous continuous legal education sessions, where she helps train attorneys on certain aspects of law.

Angela Stamm-Philipps resides in Wheatfield with her husband, John, and their two children.

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NIAGARA FALLS

Forster Cont. from Cover

county treasurer went to Democrats under Forster and he gained one seat in the Niagara County Legislature, a Democratic supervisor in the Town of Niagara and a Democratic highway superintendent in the Town of Lewiston.

In 2017, Forster took on a new role in public service. He was appointed by the City of Niagara Falls City Council to be their appointee for the badly mismanaged Niagara Falls Water Board.

He became the first hands-on director in the Water Board's history. Working with the subsequently appointed Dan O'Callaghan – and with the support of Renee Kimble – the Water Board was revolutionized.

Waste was cut – the longstanding stench that wafted over the city every summer was eliminated, all the fire hydrants were fixed and the incredibly scandalous underground water leakage – at more than 66 percent – was reduced to under 18 percent. The overtime theft was addressed, union issues were resolved, needed equipment was purchased from the savings and the Water Board is on the high road of making water rates as competitive as anywhere in the USA.

But, there is more to do. With an aging facility that will require 10s of millions of dollar in upgrades and modernization, Forster has chosen to focus on this as his top public service priority.

In addition to working full time in his paid job with the state – as a Senior Inspector for the Gaming Commission, Forster has been spending an additional 20-40 hours per week at his unpaid job at the Water Authority – helping to correct the long years of neglect there.

This year, rather than seek a 7th term as Chairman of the Democratic Party – and spending long hours managing and supporting candidates in their campaigns – he has chosen to concentrate on finishing the job he started at the Water Board.

He said he is contemplating possibly running for elected office in the future.

In many ways he is the epitome of public service.

Forster will lend his support for Democratic Party Chair to his longtime friend and a man he first helped bring to public office, Jason Zona – who, with Forster's support, may run unopposed for Party Chairman

In announcing his decision not to run for reelection as Party Chairman, Forster issued the following statement:

"I've always said that a time comes when a good politician knows that he or she should get out of the ring. For me, after two stints as County Democratic Chairman totaling 12 years, that time is now. While I love being County Chairman, I must admit that I am tired of it. I realize that I have served long enough, and I have decided to devote my attention to other matters that may include seeking local elective office.

When I became the chair of the city committee in Niagara Falls in 1990 I followed the direction of the late Hubert Humphrey that the "test we must set for ourselves is not to march alone but to march in such a way that others will wish to join." That approach worked for me in the city and stayed with me when I became county chair in 1996 and continued until 2001. Later, when I returned to the county post in 2012, it remained my goal that others join me in what I consider the noblest of pursuits: electing Democrats to public office. That goal wasn't always easy to accomplish, hard fought campaigns sometimes ended in painful defeats.

Still, there were successes that help elevate competent, honest and public service minded individuals to positions in village, town, county, state and federal offices. To all of those – win or lose – who sacrificed their time and resources and put themselves out there for the Democratic Party, I am profoundly grateful. I am equally grateful to all those who toiled with me on behalf of those candidates, my fellow committee members, financial supporters, my family and the strong and consistent support of organized labor.

Of course, the work goes on and the cause endures. As Bobby Kennedy said: "elections remind us of our right to vote but also of our responsibilities as citizens in a democracy" – I view party leadership as crucial to the exercise of those responsibilities and am hopeful therefore that the County Democratic Committee will nominate and elect County Legislator Jason Zona as my successor. Jay knows the ropes, is a tested campaigner and organizer and has the brains, determination and energy to lead the party to new heights. He has my full and unqualified support.

Businesses & Community Coming Together

NF City Councilman Kenny Tompkins

As many of you may have seen in various news stories, I was recently contacted by a neighbor of a disabled veteran that lives here in the city. The couple was shafted out of their savings when they hired Kyle Edwards to put a bedroom addition on their home.

After Mr. Edwards made their backyard look like a mine field and never returned, they took him to small claims court. They were awarded the maximum of \$5,000, of course; he never paid the judgement.

This is where I was called in. No, not a normal call for a city councilman, but; I am always willing to see if I can find a solution. I went to see the yard, returned and had a meeting with my employers, the owners of H. W. Bryk & Sons. There was no question that they would help fix the yard. We spent a day, along with Kenny Smith of KJ Enterprises landscapers, giving the couple a safe, smooth yard and grass.

Most people would be happy at this point,

but; it stuck in our minds at Bryk Plumbing. We are a proud veteran owned company. We started to brainstorm.....what if? Channel 4 did a story and I received a few phone calls offering donations of products and labor. Once again, meeting with the owners of Bryk and getting their support; I started calling businesses we work with to see if they could help.

Cortese Brothers out of Buffalo sent a project manager to meet the couple and view the jobsite. Dave Guisiana sent me a set of stamped prints with an offer of more help and guidance, as needed.

The ball was rolling.....every single contractor and supply house contacted said yes. Big companies, little companies....it did not matter.....they would all help!

I can happily report that as I write this today, all permits have been pulled and we break ground this week.

I will keep you all updated and will list all involved in the project in The Reporter as we go along.

This is community coming together for a great cause.

Led by April Robertson, Caiden's Ride Makes \$11,000 Donation to 3rd Annual Pediatric Cancer Awareness Walk Led by 'Baby Shawn'

Nicholas D. D'Angelo

One day before the 3rd Annual Pediatric Cancer Awareness Walk was to take place I had the privilege of meeting an incredible group of people who traveled more than ten hours – many on motorcycles – to support 'Baby Shawn' Kennedy.

The group was led by their fearless leader, April Robertson, a co-founder of 'Giddy Up! Kids Kicking Cancer's Butt,' who is also battling cancer herself.

From January 21st to August 31st 'Caiden's Crusaders' joined together in a mission to raise funds and spread awareness for pediatric cancer on behalf of April's lost family member Caiden. It was then that 'Caiden's Ride,' which consisted entirely of planning, several fundraisers, and gathering friends to travel to Niagara Falls for the 2018 Pediatric Cancer Awareness Walk, was born.

What she was able to accomplish in that short period of time for a little boy who she had only met once before for five minutes is nothing short of heroic.

Unsurprisingly, April gives the credit to her



incredible friends and family that accompanied her on the trip: Brian, Lynn, Tim, Arthur, Ellen, Dennis, Tracie, Robert, Brenda, Drina, Dave, Ralph, Melissa, Rich, Pam and Sean.

"She is our rock and inspiration," said Drina Ramsdell. "Despite all of the pain she lives with going through cancer herself, April shows us each and every day what true strength and passion is."

With an official contribution of \$11,348.86, April and her group of 'Caiden's Crusaders' have undoubtedly left their mark on the Niagara Falls community.



Democrats Robert F. Kennedy, Nicholas Forster and Hubert H. Humphrey

NIAGARA



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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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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

Chris's Corner: A Plan for Niagara Falls



Chris Voccio
NF City Councilman

Chris Voccio is a Niagara Falls City Council member and can be reached at ChrisVoccio@gmail.com.

into our coffers, or if we discovered gold or oil buried under Hyde Park, the question remains how should those monies be utilized.

Here's a three part plan to consider:

FIRST, let's recalibrate the city's budget so that it matches recurring revenues, things like property taxes, sales taxes, state aid, etc. Let's use rough numbers and say that number is \$82 million. (We currently spend closer to \$95 million because we increased our day-to-day spending with casino monies instead of investing them in infrastructure, etc.)

The hard part, of course, is where to do we cut expenses. I've been saying the following:

- Ask city employees for ideas to reduce expenses by 5%, which was part of my 10-5 Plan. (The plan was for the 5% reduction to happen in 2018, which would make cuts in 2019 easier.)
- Negotiate with unions to have city employees contribute 25% of their health insurance premiums, which is still a bargain.
- Negotiate with unions to change work rules that force up overtime or cause inefficiencies.

- Consolidate departments as per a state auditors' recommendation.
- Lease the golf course to a private operator.
- Resurrect the financial advisory panel.

invite them into city hall, and have them vet all operations.

SECOND, when the "windfall" revenue flows in, we determine what it costs to service the casino, things like police and fire protection, etc., and put that amount into the budget accordingly. Divide the remainder into four equal parts. A quarter goes to infrastructure. A quarter goes to economic development projects. A quarter goes to equalize our property tax rates. And a quarter goes into a rainy day fund. These things live up to the principle of the original casino revenue law, affectionately known as 99h. (You may note that this plan is different than a recently adopted casino spending plan that was unanimously passed by the council. As I said during that process, I had issues with that plan but I viewed it as better than no plan at all.)

THIRD, hang out a sign in front of city hall that reads, OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

Of course, this entire plan can be summed up in two words, words that I used frequently during my campaign for city council: Fiscal responsibility.

It was just over a year ago. I was a candidate for city council, sitting at a council meeting and listening to an auditor from The Bonadio Group give his report on the city's finances. One line, in the form of a question, struck me: "Does the city have a plan?"

He was alluding to our deteriorating financial condition and bond ratings and how the city lacked a plan to get out of the mess we were in, and remain in to this day. I was pleased to see the Niagara Gazette, when reporting on that meeting, quoted the auditor: "I think the issue is, does the city have a plan?"

At our last scheduled council meeting I pointed out that here we are a year later with no plan in place.

I was recently talking with a leader of the group Reclaim Niagara, which seeks to keep some monies generated in the Falls here instead of sending them to Albany. When I asked how these monies would be utilized, he inferred city government would determine that. That concerned me. Government doesn't have a good track record when it comes to managing finances, so giving us more money may not be a smart bet.

Meanwhile, the state and the Senecas are going through an arbitration process that may yield millions of dollars to both the state and the city. If that were to happen, the city could suddenly see millions of dollars begin flowing into the treasury.

So, if the Reclaim Niagara group were to be successful, or if casino revenues started to flow

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Reclaim Niagara Set to hold Third Rally September 15th

Nicholas D. D'Angelo

Just over a month ago, on July 28th, Reclaim Niagara held its second Rally in the heart of Niagara Falls' tourism district to call attention to the exploitation of the City's resources. This time, the attendees marched from the State Park entrance through the park to the brink of the Falls.

The event was widely attended and, like the first Rally, was a huge success. The two rallies drew hundreds of residents clearly dissatisfied with the State's parasitic relationship with the City. Yet despite the clear unified voice, the State still ignores Niagara Falls and its residents.

Reclaim Niagara, which is a not-for-profit organization that is seeking to unify the voice of Niagara Falls and bring these issues to the attention of our elected officials, is set to hold its third and final rally of the year on Saturday, September 15th, 2018, from 11am to 1pm outside the New York State Power Authority Power Vista at 5777 Lewiston Road, Lewiston, New York.

"The City needs to become partners with the State in the resources that are in our own backyard," said Organizer Jason Cafarella. "These resources had once been City resources but over the course of generations the State has swooped in and taken control of these resources and kept the profits for themselves."

So what is Reclaim Niagara asking for?

1. The City needs to receive two dollars for every car that is parked in the Niagara Falls State Parks parking lot and twenty dollars for each bus. This can be a surcharge added to each vehicle. This will not affect the State budget, but will be a huge help to our City.

2. The City needs to receive one dollar for every attraction ticket sold in the Niagara Falls State Parks, including the Cave of the Winds and The Maid of the Mist. This again can be a surcharge added and will not affect the State budget.

3. The New York State Power Authority must pay property taxes to the City of Niagara Falls for the property that they own and all of the underground



infrastructure and conduit. Again, will be cost neutral to the State taxpayers but will be an invaluable benefit to the City taxpayers!

4. The New York State Power Authority must offer free power to all industry within the City of Niagara Falls with no strings attached and no bureaucracy. This will create a catalyst for future economic development for generations to come as industries will quickly migrate to our City.

5. Any private or "for profit" enterprise operating on State Park property within the City of Niagara Falls shall pay an annual property taxes. This again will not cost State taxpayers a cent!

6. Renegotiate the Seneca Casino compact to allow the City, as the host municipality, to receive 75% of the slot revenue.

What will this mean for the Residents of Niagara Falls?

"If we are successful," said Cafarella, "the City will receive immediate revenue from the State and its authorities. These funds should be dedicated to the repair and maintenance of our streets, reversing the trend of decaying neighborhoods and lowering the crushing tax burden that hinders strong economic development."

Equally important to Reclaim Niagara is obtaining free power for all industry in the City of Niagara Falls.

"If industry is given free power, with no bureaucracy or 'red tape,' it will create a catalyst for future development," said Cafarella. "Industries will flock to Niagara Falls with the ability to manufacture products with the reduced overhead of free power. This will create jobs that pay living wages for our residents. Those residents will stabilize the tax base, build neighborhoods, and reduce poverty in the City."

"In the end, Niagara Falls will be more prosperous, with less crime, more opportunities, and stronger neighborhoods. But we cannot achieve this without the State and its authorities making us partners in the resources in our own backyard. Further, the State can partner with the City at a zero impact to the State budget. Given the enormous impact that this could have on Niagara Falls, why wouldn't they want to help?"



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WEEKLY HEADLINES

-A man was arrested outside the McDonalds on Pine Avenue for what police described as "aggressive panhandling." According to patrons of the restaurant, the individual was going up to windows of cars in the drive thru begging for money or food.

-In the early morning hours of Tuesday, August 28th, a female driver struck a parked car and then a tree along Hyde Park Blvd between Jerauld and North Avenue. The driver was charged with DWI and taken to the hospital for evaluation.

-Police were out at the 2700 block of Woodlawn around 3:00am after reports came in about kids going through vehicles. Police reported that residents saw multiple vehicles with doors wide open throughout the street and kids / young adults fleeing.

-Niagara Falls Police have arrested David Pryor, 26, for the assault of Seth O'Harrow, critical condition, & Samuel Musino, stable condition. Police say Pryor shot the victims in the parking lot of Poppy's Place.

-Park Rangers at the NF State Park are reporting increased incidences of vandalism.

-Niagara Falls Police responding to Ventry's Pizza on Pierce Avenue for a stolen vehicle. According to police reports, the vehicle was left running and unlocked.

-The Niagara Falls Police Department is searching for a \$300 picnic table that was taken from City Hall. The table, which was on the side of the building, was stolen at some point on Tuesday.

-The missing picnic table that was stolen from Niagara Falls City Hall on Tuesday has been located undamaged in an alley behind Linwood Avenue. A resident in the area stated seeing someone in a pickup truck discard the table in the alley.

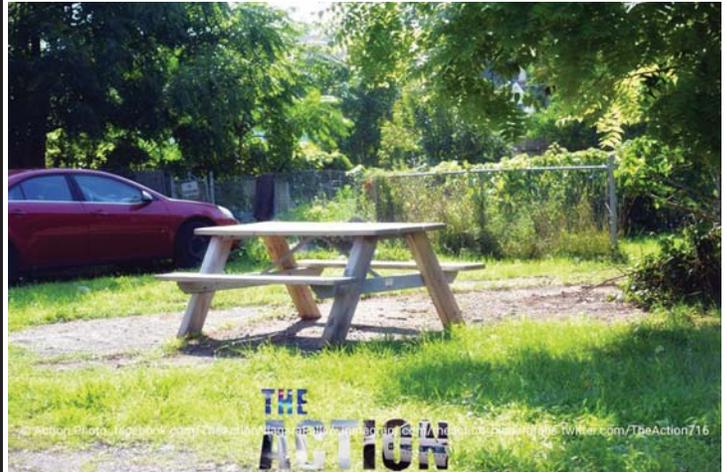
-A body has been recovered from the Niagara River near the Niagara Scenic Parkway about 1 mile West of the water intakes. Authorities are not ruling out this is the missing individual from a boating accident on the Niagara River a week ago.

-Niagara Falls Police detained an individual on the 500 block of 24th Street after he doused a house with gasoline with the intent of setting it on fire. Police believe it was part of a domestic dispute.

-A woman was arrested in the early morning hours of Sunday September 2nd for a DWI after crashing into multiple vehicles while attempting to exit the Seneca Niagara Casino Parking Ramp.

-Police responded to 3030 Highland Ave., Max's Lounge, in the early morning hours of Sunday Sept. 2nd after a man was shot. According to reports, over 200 people had to be dispersed from the scene. The condition of the victim as well as the shooter are currently unknown.

\$300 Picnic Table from City Hall Found Safe



Photos courtesy of Samar Hamilton, The Action Niagara Falls

The search for a missing picnic table has been called off by Niagara Falls Police after a resident spotted it in an alley behind Linwood Avenue.

taken from City Hall on Tuesday August 28th, was undamaged.

The resident stated seeing someone in a pickup truck dump the table in the alley.

The picnic table, which was

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Walmart Customer Has Knife Pulled on Them



Photos courtesy of Samar Hamilton, The Action Niagara Falls

On September 2nd, 2018, Niagara Falls Police got a call from security at Walmart regarding a subject with a knife. According to reports, security watched the suspect pull out a knife and threaten a customer.

As security kept a close eye on the suspect, they observed the individual take underwear, t-shirts and socks before walking out of the store without paying for them.

When police arrived the suspect had already gotten into his vehicle and drove off. However, he did

not get very far as he was met by officers near 80th Street at one of the entrances/exits to the Walmart Plaza.

The suspect admitted to pulling out a knife on the other person after some type of verbal altercation. He states that he did this because the other person pulled a knife out on him. Surveillance footage did not support this version of events.

The victim did not wish to press charges on the suspect but Walmart did for shoplifting.

Body Found Along Niagara Scenic Parkway Suspected to be Missing Jet-Ski Operator Ahmed Umar



Photos courtesy of NC News Service

On September 1, 2018 at 12:51 p.m., while on routine patrol, the Niagara County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol located a body that washed up on the shoreline of the Niagara River near Navy Island.

The body is that of an unknown male victim. The Sheriff's Office was assisted in the recovery process

by the City of Niagara Falls Fire Department along with the New York State Park Police.

The male was secured by Coroner Straussburg and transported to the Erie County Medical Center for an autopsy.

Authorities will not rule out that the body is that of Ahmed Umar.



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ANALYSIS

That's Why Minorities and Women Join the Military... Because We Cannot Make Change if We Aren't Present



Ken Hamilton

Concerned about what she considered to be an over-exuberant love for the military that many of the older generation hold in the idea of service, the bright, young, African-American Army-wife said, "When my husband talked to me about him joining, I was completely against it. History tells me that black men in the military and just the military in general, are not worth the sacrifices. I still struggle with why any minority (especially black folks and women of any race) would join (sorry to interject race but it's reality).

"My husband is an officer," she went on to say, "and I've seen firsthand how his sacrifice is taken completely for granted within this organization."

Even today, from her perspective, and those of many others, she's right. The military isn't all that it is cracked up to be - neither for her nor for many others. But there is a certain nature that exists within those who purposely join the military that transcends even the benefits that were promised, but not delivered upon. It is reflected in the echoes of the Navy veteran and former President John F. Kennedy as expressed in his inaugural on January 20th, 1961.

As his mother lay watching on the couch behind him, a 7-year old boy sat with legs folded in front of a 12-inch black and white Motorola television set. He watched as Kennedy as he poured the words and spirit of service into the ears and heart of Ken Hamilton, saying, "And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man." How many other young boys and girls, men and women allowed the seeds of Kennedy's words to grow within their souls?

But, for me, it was likely more personal than it was for many others. My mother that had lay dying on the couch behind me expired within the month. Kennedy would do likewise some two years later. But both still live on in proximity to Kennedy's words and the deeds of service to nation and community that he

inspired.

Why any minority or woman join would today's military? Further into our conversation I said to the young woman that it is because we cannot quench a thirst simply by taking a bath. She quickly picked upon the idiom by saying, "Wait, does it mean we cannot make change if we aren't present? Because, if so, that doesn't answer the question of why minorities join for me. We're still fighting the same battles."

I understand her statement as well; especially because she qualified it with, "... for me." But she wasn't born when in Great lakes IL in 1971, 3-years after the death of Martin Luther King, when I sewed on what would become my Operations Specialist 3rd Class badge that qualified me to join the 1% of African-Americans in the Navy that did that job. Nor was she born when I had to endure and overcome the intense old navy racism from many of the senior sailors to whose whims I was subject. Nor was she born when I overcame most of those hurdles by my proficiency and innovating service. And get this, she born when, years after my active service, the Navy named another ship after the decommissioned one upon which I served the longest.

I was Jacksonville FL at the Mayport Naval Station that the Navy commissioned the newly-minted USS Farragut DDG-99. She was far sleeker than her predecessor DDG-37. On DDG-37 we had about 45 Operation Specialists, of which the 2 black sailors would comprise about 5% of the Operations Intelligence Division. After the commissioning ceremonies were completed, those in attendance were permitted to tour the ship, and I was able to reminisce with a visit 99's Combat Information Center.

Much of the equipment was the same as it was in the old Farragut's CIC, but uncontrollable tears flowed freely across my face when I beheld the thing that was different. Though their CIC Operations Specialist numbers were a tad bit smaller than that of 37's, the minorities and women in their CIC constituted a little more than half the division. I tried to express my joy in words, telling them what it was like for me, but all that I could do was to stand there and cry.

Our examples, and the heat that earlier minorities and women had taken, lighted the path that 100,000s of others will travel and find their successes. Such change could not have been done if unrequited sacrifices by people like my Niaganan cousin Bobbie Hamilton, who pre-



Seaman Joel Sims, from Birmingham, Alabama, mans the helm aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Farragut DDG-99

ceded me in that job and went on to become a Warrant Officer, and William Hamilton Jr., who followed us, himself a Niaganan, who became a line officer; and first by scores, and then hundreds and thousands more of others who pushed change by the excellence of their very presence.

Why minorities and women join the military? My friend, we join for you.

We just have to be excellently present at more tables and at all tables where decisions will be made that will impact us - and that means in all political parties. That's why minorities and women join the military.

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NORTH TONAWANDA

A Sneak Peak at the New History Museum

Brendan McDonough

The new location for the North Tonawanda History Museum will be opening at the end of the month and workers say it will be dramatically different from the old location on Webster Street.

“We are right on schedule with where we thought we would be for a late September opening,” said Howard Roeske, Executive Director. “We are starting to building the new exhibits now.”

The new location, 712 Oliver Street, will have actual bowling lanes and exhibits about North Tonawanda that have never been seen before.

It is being described as a mix of old and new history that will really give people a true understanding of the area.

“We have some story boards and artifacts that we are excited to share with residents,” said Roeske. “Our reference library is pretty much all set up. We will have an entire gallery area that will tell the story of North Tonawanda

as it was from pre-recorded history all the way up until the middle of last century.”

The museum will also have a community room to be used for fundraising and a special part dedicated to the police force. Roeske says rooms in the museum will be opened up if different community groups want to use the space.

“Because of the bowling lanes we will also have a sports area with high school and semi-pro jackets and things that we will be putting up. We also have a jacket from a major league baseball player umpire who was from North Tonawanda,” said Roeske.

The bowling lanes will be available to use but he says only for school groups and other special occasions. Even if you had previously been to the museum, there is plenty new material to see.

“Research is telling us that Niagara County was pretty much a war zone and there were not many residents here,” said Roeske. “It was a hunting



area that was fought over constantly. We will have displays of the ice age, natives, European explorers and settlements which will end with about the 1812 time period.”

The museum will also have story boards of the canal and the lumber industry. At one time North Tonawanda was the fastest growing city in the state; bringing in ‘big business’ to the area like banking and the chocolate industry.

“We will be having a special section for Wurlitzer and another area where people can read about what they have looked like throughout our history” said Roeske.

He admits there is still a lot more to do before the opening at the end of September but promises it will be a ‘new and improved’ to enrich and educate people of all ages about the rich history of North Tonawanda.

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Woodcock Brewing Company Project Moving Forward



Brendan McDonough

Woodcock Brothers Brewing Company is moving one step closer to calling North Tonawanda home as the Wilson based company was approved for a \$516,000 state grant to expand into a portion of the Wurlitzer Building.

The company plans to construct a 6,000 square foot facility with an accompanying restaurant.

The total cost for the project is \$1.3 million and in addition to the block grant funding they have also received \$110,000 in performance-based funding from the New York State Excelsior Tax

Credit Program. The project, which is expected to be completed in late winter or early spring 2019, should add nineteen full-time jobs as well as thirty-two part-time staff. It is expected that the number of full-time positions would grow to thirty-five in the next few years.

“It is great to see companies excited to call North Tonawanda home,” said Common Council President Eric Zadzilka. “This type of development is great for our community as a whole and also the Wurlitzer Plaza which continues to grow.”

Woodcock Brewing Company Project Moving Forward



Brendan McDonough

People from Tonawanda, North Tonawanda and beyond gathered at Niwanda Park on Sunday September 2nd for the Annual Car Show organized by the Tonawanda Post 264 and the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 77.

The event has been going on for ten years and organizers say that more than 200 cars were on display in this year’s event.

Despite the rain to start the day, people of all ages were out enjoying the show and cherishing

the opportunity to see all kinds of cars during Labor Day weekend.

“We have a lot of cars, even some military ones, that go back all the way to 1909,” said Dennis Smilinich, Event Organizer. “It is the best way to spend the weekend.”

Next year they are hoping even more people attend the event.

“Seeing all of the people that come out from Tonawanda, North Tonawanda and elsewhere make us excited to put this event together every year,” said Smilinich.

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Healing Through Art



Brendan McDonough

Inside the Project 308 Gallery on Oliver Street, art was being used not only to stimulate visual senses but also to heal. It is called Art Therapy and it was part of a show called ‘Connection, self, other and community.’

On display were works of art and in attendance were therapists. Organizers say the goal is to get people to improve their overall

mental health.

“This is a way for people to understand not only what these various mental illnesses such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia looks like, but hear from actual clients about how they use art as a healing mechanism and how it is helpful to them,” said Rachel Sikorski, Event Organizer.

More than 20 artists had various types to work on display ranging from sculptures to paintings.



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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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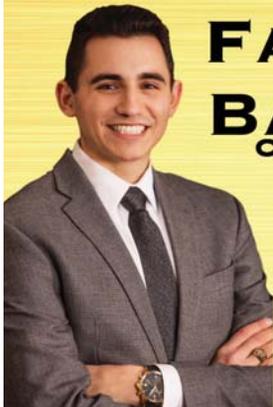
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