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Dyster Must Shoulder Most of Blame for Crisis

By: **Tony Farina**

The fiscal crisis confronting the City of Niagara Falls has been in the making for years and Mayor Paul Dyster, who is now in his third term as the city's chief elected official, must shoulder considerable blame for the mess along with other elected officials who went along for the ride.



Dyster survived one gaming crisis that ended in 2013 with the infusion of \$89 million in slot payments to the city that accompanied the settlement of the four-year stalemate between the state

and the Seneca Nation that had put Niagara Falls on the brink of financial ruin.

Unfortunately, the city went through the money in short order, using \$9 million

a year in casino cash and nearly \$3 million a year of reserve funds to balance city budgets from 2014 through 2017 instead of approving realistic spending plans in

(Cont. on pg. 2)

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North Tonawanda Common Council to hold Special Budget Listening Session



By: **Brendan McDonough**

Residents in North Tonawanda will have a special listening session to voice any questions, concerns,

or ideas they have on Mayor Pappas's proposed 2019 budget.

Public officials will be on hand starting at 6:00pm on Wednesday,

(Cont. on pg. 10)

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NIAGARA FALLS

(Contd from cover)

which recurring expenditures are funded by recurring revenues, as urged by the state comptroller.

Now, with a second gaming stalemate at hand between the state and the Seneca Nation, the city is facing a more than \$13 million deficit for next year with no casino money in sight as the Senecas and the state prepare for arbitration in December.

State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli has warned the city for years to rebuild unrestricted fund balance and to develop and regularly update a comprehensive multiyear financial plan that includes realistic measures for rebuilding fund balance levels.

The city, instead, spent down the reserves, used casino cash to balance the budget, and fell short on the comprehensive financial plan. Now, Dyster and city lawmakers are feeling the heat and will be relying on a \$12.3 million loan from the state and the likely approval of a \$168-a-year garbage user fee to make it through next year, all the while praying the state and Senecas reach a settlement at the December arbitration.

As Council Chairman Andrew Touma puts it, "we are facing tough decisions in the coming days," as the council must act on the mayor's budget by Dec. 1. Those tough decisions include the unpopular garbage user fee and the possible rejection of a \$2.5 million tax cut in Dyster's proposed budget. The public will get a chance to weigh in on the user fee at a hearing on Nov. 14, but it appears lawmakers will probably have to approve it and in their favor, it is consistent with the state comptroller's position that the city needs to find recurring revenues and

not rely on one-shots.

The Seneca Nation is abiding by the gaming compact that doesn't provide for any more payments to the state after 2016. The state will contend at the arbitration that the mere extension of the compact means revenue sharing continues. It will all be up for argument at the December arbitration with Gov. Andrew Cuomo, assuming he wins re-election to a third term, and the new Seneca Nation administration.

So all this begs the question what about next year? If there's no resumption of casino revenue, will Niagara Falls go bankrupt? How will the city recover without the casino revenue?

In its recent downgrade of Niagara Falls bonds, Fitch Ratings cited "erosion of the city's gap-closing capacity given the Seneca Indian Nation's decision in mid-2017 to cut off casino gaming moneys it paid to the state."

The Wall Street credit rating agency cited the weakening of reserves with limited prospects for a near-term resumption of the revenue transfers.

It all spells big trouble in the coming year and for years to come, and the city's failure to act on the comptroller's budget recommendations while it was still receiving casino cash has made the latest stoppage all the worse.

As Touma and his fellow lawmakers know, there is no quick fix to the crisis and the decisions will be tough. Simply put, the city is at the mercy of the gaming arbitration and there is no guarantee of success.

Will Dyster's hand-picked successor Seth Piccirillo be successful next year with the city's fortunes at an all-time low? We'll just have to find out.

EDITORIAL: Niagara Gorge 'Renewal' Likely to Destroy Beauty of the Gorge

There is a program in progress to "remove non-native species" from the gorge and "beautify" it.

If you go for a hike between the Whirlpool bridge and the sewage plant, you may notice that almost every tree has been girdled (killed). This section of the gorge will likely be nothing but dead trees next spring.

They will turn a beautiful forest into a barren rocky wasteland.

"I am heartbroken and appalled" said one hiker who saw this monstrous deforestation. "The gorge is one of the hidden gems of Niagara Falls and what they've done is terrible."

Another local who brought her children down to enjoy nature shared a similar sentiment. She had heard of the restoration program, but had no idea that it would entail mass deforestation.

Unfortunately girdling is 100% fatal to the tree - the leaves falling off the trees as you read this are likely the last leaves they will ever have, there is no turning back.

This begs the question: Is every tree in the gorge non-native? Why would they do this? What could be going on?

We will have to follow the money trail to find out who is going to profit from this killing a living forest - that for years thrived on the walls of the gorge.

A hiker said, "I'm upset about enough about this to lose sleep. This whole thing stinks."

There was a feasibility study done on local species restoration by the New York Power Authority in 2008.

(<http://niagara.nypa.gov/RTE.pdf>). At section 4.2.1 it states that "community-level restoration throughout the Niagara gorge and gorge rim is not likely feasible."

Apparently \$1M was awarded from the Buffalo Billion, and \$1M from the Greenway Ecological Standing Committee and given to the Western New York Land Conservancy for their "Restore The Gorge" project.

They've hired a landscape designer and have made hopeful promises about how beautiful the forest will be once they kill all the present trees and then plant the little trees and when they grow up.

In some 50 years, we may be glad we killed the forest.

In the present, the project entails two phases: 1) Removal of invasive species, and 2) planting of native species.

They are currently in Phase One of this project - and it appears that that's all they have funding for.

This situation reminds one of the "Urban Renewal" that once took place in Niagara Falls. They knocked down half the city - historic buildings that were functional and gave the city ambiance and warmth and replaced it mostly with empty fields and a convention center - a largely vacant mall - which the state gave away for \$1 to the Senecas and a mall which has been mostly vacant for decades.

Urban Renewal in Niagara Falls was a terrible idea; the funds dried up. They never built anything and did irreparable damage to the local economy.

NIAGARA



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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

Wilson: Lakeside Market

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

Weekly Update on Veteran House Renovation

Ken Tompkins NF City Councilman

Given that this is our fifth 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 it 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.

As I write this today, I can see the light at the end of the tunnel of a truly inspiring project. To have pulled together so many craftsmen and suppliers to donate their time and skills, not to mention all the time away from their own scheduled projects and businesses, has been an incredible feat.

The drywall, donated by Niagara Coatings and Henrietta Building Supply, is up. It was hung by members of Carpenter's Local 267. These young men made hanging 12' and 14' sheets of drywall look like shuffling a deck of cards. I must thank Bill Bing and Scrufari Construction for the men as well as the tools to do the work. Bill personally delivered some of the materials.

Dominic Zirilli, Business Rep from IUPAT, Painters and Tapers Union, sent a fine young veteran himself, William Bentley, to do the taping and finishing. He is a very tall, hard-working fellow that worked long into the night Saturday and then stopped back in on Sunday to make sure it was ready for the painter.

As this was progressing, I reached out to Brian at 2 Guys Construction. This is a company big on giving back to the community, donating over 100 flag sets this past summer and now doing a backpack give away at Thanksgiving. Never having met Brian, he didn't hesitate to meet me at the house and stated that if I couldn't get the trim donated, they would cover it. Later he called me to ask who was painting the trim. Something my wife will tell you, I forget that on every job at home as well! Truly a solid company that cares about others more than the bottom line.

Cataract Lock & Safe Co., didn't bat an eye when I asked for door hardware. They readily supplied and offered to install it. No wonder this company has been around so long.

One of my favorite phone calls came from a painter. He had read our story and wanted to paint the room. He also set me up with Mike, the manager, at Sherwin Williams. They, in turn, provided the primer and paint. Today the painter and his helper are onsite making a beautiful colored room.

Bill and Mike from Blue Ox Roofing reached out asking if we needed any help. I had mentioned gutters still had to be made and hung. Bill stopped by the house and measured and saw the existing ones looked banged up. They had the gutter team from B&L Wholesalers come out and replace them all. Talk about doing a job right and pride in your work!

Meier Supply, Mitsubitsi Electric Company and Upstate Systems provided a top quality Mini Split Heat and A/C Unit. H.W. Bryk & Sons will be installing this unit on Wednesday.

IBEW 237 will be providing all the fixtures and Mike Siekh and his crew of apprentices will be installing the electrical trim. This will be the same crew that will put the solar panels back up on the roof and bring that system back up on the grid.

We're still looking for someone to build a 4' x 9' deck on the back to complete this project. If not, come Spring, I have a hammer....



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THE CRIME

WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Updating a story from Monday of an individual who barricaded himself in a 10th floor hotel room at the Seneca Niagara Casino, police say a 45-year-old Rochester man made suicidal threats before eventually surrendering himself and being taken to the hospital.

-Donald Smith, 32, of Niagara Falls, was arrested on Monday, October 29th after police discovered his license was suspended for failure to pay child support. He was charged with second-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and inadequate plate lamps.

-A Niagara Falls teen, Trinity Nunez, 17, of LaSalle Avenue, was arrested Sunday and charged with petit larceny for allegedly taking more than \$125 of merchandise from a store on the 1500 block of Military Road. According to reports, she hid it all within her clothing.

-Niagara Falls Police are currently investigating a burglary on the 1100 block of Linwood Avenue. According to reports, a 23-year-old woman told officers that sometime between 8pm Wednesday & 11am Thursday her apartment door was kicked in & apartment trashed. Nothing was taken.

-In the last hour, Niagara Falls Police engaged in a foot chase with an individual who jumped out of a moving vehicle when it was being pulled over in Elmwood and 15th. The suspect was later detained on the 800 block of 15th Street. Police believe he was in possession of drugs.

-Niagara Falls Police are reportedly looking into the multiple hit and runs that have occurred Downtown in the last few hours. According to police, there have been three hit and runs resulting in multiple injuries. Police believe the same vehicle is connected to all incidents.

-Niagara Falls Detectives are investigating a robbery that occurred on Thursday, October 25th, around 6:45pm. According to police, three male teenagers tackled the victim, a 16-year-old boy, punched and kicked him before taking \$15 from him and riding off on their bikes.

-A home visit by NF Police & Probation resulted in an arrest Tuesday after they found a stolen firearm - loaded & with a laser mounted on it - in the home. Devante Gregory, 25, of 17th St., was charged with criminal possession of a weapon & criminal possession of stolen property.

-Niagara Falls Police and Fire Department are currently responding to 17th & LaSalle Avenue for a reported assault on a school bus with serious injuries.

-Updating a previous report of a fight on a school bus, we have been told a mom sent her children on a bus at Packard Court to beat up another girl. The mom then stood outside the bus cheering them on. The victim sustained injuries but none were life-threatening.

-Niagara Falls Police are warning residents to be vigilant while trick-or-treating this year after six hit and run incidents resulting in property damage occurred over the past twenty-four hours.

-Niagara Falls Police officers are currently engaged in a foot chase with a suspect who fled from a routine traffic stop. This is at least the second incident of an individual fleeing this week.

-Three individuals - at least one of which from Niagara Falls - was arrested Monday after attempting to steal more than \$400 worth of merchandise from Home Depot. The suspects allegedly filled two carts with the same merchandise (about \$900) but only paid for the contents of one.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the early evening hours of Thursday, November 1st. According to reports, a vehicle with North Carolina plates, after being left running and unattended while the driver entered a home, was stolen.

-Around 7:00pm on Thursday, November 1st, Niagara Falls Police & Medical responded to a call of a cocaine overdose at Niagara Rehab. According to reports, the patient was "out of control."

-Updating a report from Wednesday of a foot chase, the 26-year-old who fled after being pulled over left his child in the car. Police pursued & later captured him after an altercation where he sustained injuries. The officers body cam was turned on & off during the altercation.

-Niagara Falls Police Chief Brian DalPorto announced Friday afternoon that no charges would be brought against the Rochester man who barricad-

ed himself in a 10th floor hotel room on Monday morning stating that "no laws were broken" and that it was a "mental health situation."

-Niagara Falls Police are investigating a burglary that occurred between 6pm Friday & 6pm Saturday on the 600 block of 18th Street last week. According to reports, a 62-year-old man told officers someone broke into his rental property & took a drill, a circular saw & a Firestick.

-Multiple law enforcement agencies responded to a series of related events Saturday. After a suspect stole a vehicle from 15th & Pine he went to Wegmans where he attempted to rob the store. He then went to Tops where he stole an elderly woman's purse and assaulted her.

-Niagara Falls Police engaged in a foot chase with a Niagara Falls man who had a warrant out of the City of Lockport for robbery. The chase began on 8th and Pine and ended on the 600 block of 9th Street with the suspect in custody. No police officers were injured in the chase.

-Niagara Falls Police are currently responding to the 3000 block of 9th Street for a stolen 2004 white GMC Yukon that was left running and unattended. Police are asking for public assistance in finding the vehicle. The license plate number is HSX 5708.

-Niagara Falls Police released details over the weekend of a Sheraton Hotel employee who stole at least \$300 from a cash register Thursday, November 1st. According to reports, the employee would check in multiple visitors taking cash, charge their credit card & pocket the cash.

-A 46-year-old Niagara Falls woman told Niagara Falls Police that during an overnight stay at a Lafayette Avenue home her debit card had been used to run up more than \$600 worth of unauthorized purchases. Police believe the suspect is a Buffalo woman who was also in the home.

-Town of Niagara Police are searching for a pair of thieves who stole more than \$1400 worth of merchandise (in less than ten minutes) from Victoria's Secret at the Fashion Outlet Mall. Police say the suspects were seen driving away in a green Chevy Aveo. No license plate provided.



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ANALYSIS

Veterans Day & America's Greatest Generation Lives On



Ken Hamilton

On the occasion of his father's death, my friend Andy Ligammari received and recently posted on Facebook a certificate that was signed by President Barack Obama. The decorative document simply said, "The United States of America honors the memory of Alfred D. Ligammari, Sr. This certificate is awarded by a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States."

I remember when Andy would bring his sickly World War II veter-

an father to Hyde Park to watch the American Veterans Monuments at Niagara Falls being built behind the screening of the chain-link safety fencing. I would watch the frail gentleman's eyes fill with briny pride as he peered through and saw those huge pieces of granite being placed. Those stones would not only honor the dedication of those war-ravished fallen Niagarans, but also to those Americans from across the nation and around world who returned home either maimed or safe. It is dedicated, as well, to all of those who served in the peace, the guardians of great deterrence to any aggression against America and our allies. In a sense, every piece of polished stone was a testament to Ligammari's service. It was so, because he was every soldier, and all were he as well. For you see, regardless of the spans of time that passed between our services, we all really served together. Therefore, we all were honored together in

that one place and in that one time where anyone stands glassy-eyed before any such monument, so conceived.

Journalist and NBC news anchor Thomas John Brokaw attended the 40th Anniversary of the D-Day landing in Normandy France. He was so moved by what he felt there, he wrote the 1998 book *America's Greatest Generation* that profiled the efforts of those types who fought there. The title attached itself to only those who had landed there.

June 6th, 1944 is also now, and that the one spirit of service continues to stretch from America's founding, through WWII, and on into the future. It does so because there is but one Soldier, one Sailor, one Airman, one Coast Guard, one Marine and one Merchant Mariner as well, and all are one. We veterans are the singularity of every race and stripe that makes up our nation. Brokaw wrote, "... [WWII] is, I believe, the greatest generation any society has ever produced". He was wrong. Each generation stood upon the shoulders of the giants that went before them.

Joseph Monaco wrote of the senior Ligammari's exploits, "God knows we need at least some of what they had today." I agree with Monaco. Well, at least the part that applies to God knowing; for in God's infinite wisdom, He quietly

and almost invisibly provided today with a great measure of 'some of what they had.' Take, for instance, the family of WWII sailor and belated County Legislator Arthur V. Curcione. His son, retired city worker Arthur L. Curcione, said that he, too, would have joined the military had it not him being the only son to take on the responsibility of running his father's flooring business. But he is proud of his two sons that followed in their grandfather's footsteps. The oldest son, Arthur T. Curcione, has served in the USAF and USAF Reserves since 2001. Art's beloved step-son, Jeremy C. McKenna, has been with Art since he was 7, and was 4-years a USMC sniper. Curcione also has a son-in-law, Thomas A. Luca, who also joined the Army in 2001 and still serves in the USA Reserves. Each of Curcione's veteran's names is enshrined upon the Wall of Honor at Hyde Park.

Perhaps unrealized by Brokaw when he wrote his book, it is indeed with neither constraints of front nor back covers. The Greatest Generation is a series of men and women, and not simply just a contemporary and static snapshot. Thank God that there is a greater-still generation that lies dormant in the loins of our fine servicemen and women of today. Please remember them on at 11 o'clock on November 11th.

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NORTH TONAWANDA

Second-Hand Books Getting New Looks in NT

Brendan McDonough

Second-Hand Books Getting New Looks in North Tonawanda

This past week residents and public officials took part in a ribbon cutting at the Old Editions Bookstore on Oliver Street where thousands of used books are for sale.

All of the books are personally collected by the owners, Ronald Cozzi and his wife. As it turns out, they have a passion for history.

"People collect books and there is a demand out there," said Ronald Cozzi. "We have all kinds of books including a 500-year-old bible."

Ron, who is a former chess player turned bookstore owner, also owned a bookstore in Buffalo but because of his age, he and his wife started looking for a new bookstore location that would not have stairs.

After some searching they found 954 Oliver Street, which is the former location of Platter's Chocolates.

Old Editions Bookstore sells books



in the store and online.

"We have been on the web since 1995," said Cozzi, "so we have got thousands of books and the way this building is set up we will be putting more books online."

According to Ron and his wife, the best is yet to come!

Over the next four months they will be bringing thousands of books from the old location in Buffalo to the new North Tonawanda location.

For City officials the new bookstore is a welcome addition that they hope will not only get more people interested in reading, but will help create growth on an often forgotten part

of Oliver Street in need of economic revitalization.

"This end of Oliver Street has not had a lot of development between Matt's Music and this," said Mayor Art Pappas. "I kind of look at it like a sandwich. Like the south side and the north side and then all those that might take an interest in the middle, they become the meat of that sandwich. I think that is what we are seeing here and I am optimistic that things are going to work out. It is going to take a little bit of time but good things sometimes require a wait."

Matt's Music has been amongst the most patient waiting for development to hit that end of Oliver Street. Before expanding their business, they say they intentionally waiting and would not do any development until they knew what was coming to this location.

"So many of our parents have a half hour between lessons to wait for their kids and they are always looking for something to do," said Kathy Carr of Matt's Music. "We know this will give them a wonderful thing to do while waiting for their kids. We are hoping that both of the business will enhance each other. Our decision to add

on to our store, we did not make that final decision until we were sure what was going in over here and that really solidified our decision to add on and stay here on Oliver Street."

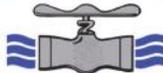
The Cozzi family hopes to improve the areas and get people interested in reading one book at a time.

"Collecting books is a wonderful hobby and we want encourage young people to read and to collect books," said Cozzi. "We have a huge children's book section and this is what we are primarily interested in is getting young children to come in here and read."

The bookstore does not plan to add a café at this time and say they hope to have all the books from the Buffalo location moved to North Tonawanda by March of next year.



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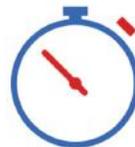


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Veterans - YOU Make a Difference!



Bob Pecoraro
NT Alderman-At-Large

We celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, as this date marks the anniversary of the end of World War I when the Armistice took place on the 11th hour of the 11th day in November 1918.

Whereas on Memorial Day we reflect on those who made the ultimate sacrifice when defending the United States, and on Armed Forces Day we honor those currently serving, Veterans Day is a celebration of those who served in the United States military.

Some Veterans may not feel that they accomplished enough and therefore do not deserved to be recognized – to that, I can't offer a more emphatic No. A story to make this point, from the book entitled Duty:

A Father, His Son, and the Man Who Won the War, the author, Bob Green, relates when he told his father he met Paul Tibbets (pilot of the Enola Gay) in a store and remarked to Tibbets, "even though you were so important in the war and he wasn't." After some discussion, Tibbets offered the following advice – "who knew about who doesn't matter."

Each military member serves in their mission. That is the message – no one person plays a greater part than any other. It takes teamwork and dedication by everyone to get the job done. So, what does that veteran have to offer to their community when they are no longer in uniform? When I addressed the North Tonawanda School Board on their vote to allow a Veterans Tax exemption to those who served in combat, I considered what value Veterans bring to a community. I found the Got Your Six organization, a nonprofit organization that studied post-9/11 Veterans. Their initial study in 2014 revealed Americans viewed post-9/11 Veterans as "broken heroes" and this organization sought to change this perception. Through partnership campaigns, storytelling videos and a certified program, this organization was able to tell a much different story like:

1. People who served in the military are more likely to vote (60% of veterans vs. 49% of nonveterans)



and;

2. Veterans spend more hours (160 hours annually) as volunteers compared to nonveterans (120 hours annually) and,

3. Veterans have a slightly lower unemployment rate (5.5%) compared to nonveterans (6.1%)

4. Veterans scored higher were on the following issues: trust in their neighbors, favors for neighbors, working to solve problems in neighborhoods, reaching out to public officials and attending public meetings, and participating more in community organizations.

From this and other data, the 2014 notion of veterans as "broken" was a misperception and the study concluded that Veterans return to our communities as trained leaders, team builders, and problem solvers who have great potential to strengthen communities across the country. Communities are stronger when

they empower veterans to be leaders and civic assets using their skills to strengthen communities.

What is your responsibility as a Veteran? Work hard to keep the title Veteran an honorable title – you mattered! How well do you compare to the data presented earlier in this article? Do you vote, volunteer and participate in your community? Do you belong to a local Veterans organization? There are many options: Veterans One-Stop, service specific chapters like the Western NY Chapter of the Association of the US Army, the LD Bell Chapter of the Air Force Association, Niagara Frontier Naval League, or the American Legion.

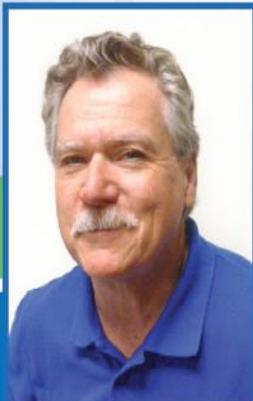
To all Veterans, I wish you well on this important day as we are truly what Shakespeare called a "band of brothers" in Henry V - you should never to think yourselves "accurs'd" for we served together.

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Budget Cont.



November 14th, inside City Hall.

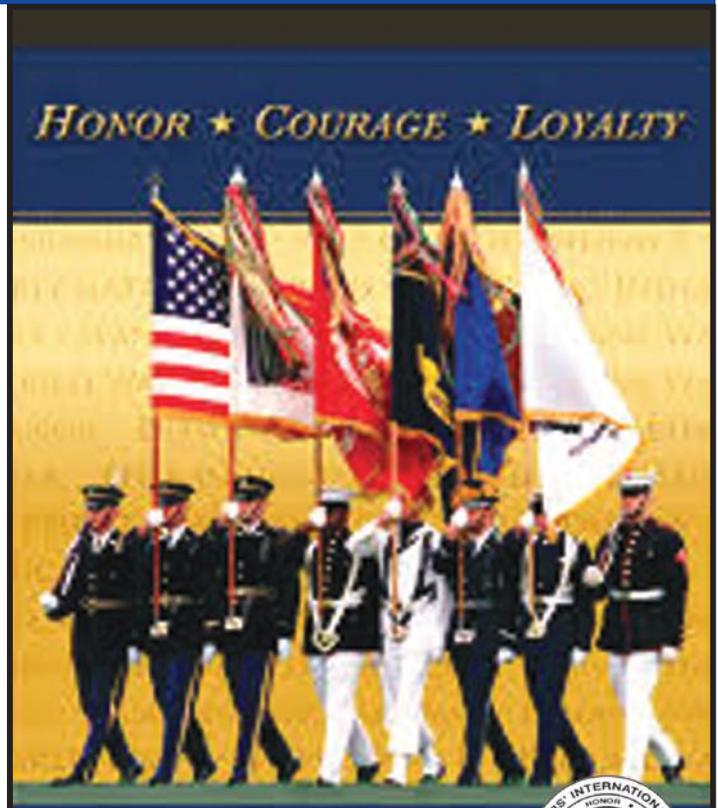
The \$37 million budget will then be voted upon - with any changes that might be made - on Thursday, November 15th.

Any interested residents who would like to look at the budget prior to the November 14th meeting can do so at City Hall between 8:30am and 4:30pm at the City Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

According to the city charter, the required hearing on the budget must be scheduled no sooner than two weeks after the meeting is published in a local newspaper.

Mayor Art Pappas said he asked all department heads to attempt to cut 10% from their budget.

It is expected that there will be a modest 2.9% property tax increase for North Tonawanda residents.



HAPPY VETERANS' DAY TO ALL OF OUR AMERICAN HEROES

Many Americans enjoy this holiday off from work or school. It is sad how many Americans do not know the reason behind this often overlooked holiday. Veterans' Day is an official United States holiday honoring armed service veterans. It coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, with the German signing of the Armistice. Veterans' Day, unlike Memorial Day, celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, living and deceased. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed Armistice Day for November 11, 1919. A Congressional Act approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday: "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'."

In 1945, WWII veteran Raymond Weeks from Birmingham, Alabama, had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in World War I. Weeks led a delegation to Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who supported the idea of National Veterans Day. On June 1, 1954, Congress replaced "Armistice" with "Veterans," and it has been known as Veterans' Day since. So please take some time this week to thank an American Veteran - or better yet, several American Veterans - for their unselfish dedication to this country. We should not need a holiday to extend an enormous thank you to any one of the thousands of veterans living in Western New York. Any day is the right day to thank a U.S. Veteran for all they have done, all they continue to do and for everything they have preserved and protected for every American. So to every United States Veteran, a very heartfelt THANK YOU.

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Behind the Scenes: The Niagara Falls Water Board's Information Technology Team



Information technology services is likely not the first thing that comes to mind when thinking of essential roles within the Niagara Falls Water Board (NFWB), but the work of the NFWB's information technology (IT) team is vital to the success of our organization.

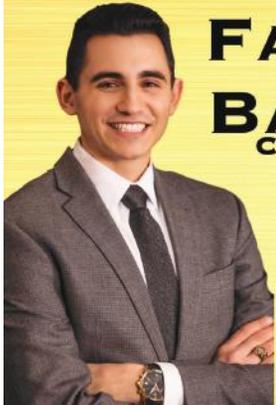
Carl Hubler and Joe Morock are more than the guys who reboot the systems or install new software. And while those are tasks they certainly complete often, there is much more behind the scenes work that many are unaware of. Just a few of the team's critical responsibilities include: maintaining parameters for working units and individuals' use of IT systems; architecture and networks; maintenance of computer network systems; crisis planning and training should the system go down; and more.

Carl Hubler, network and software technician, oversees the software that enables the NFWB to meet requirements for management of assets, customer service work orders, preventive maintenance, resources and inventory, best practices and regulatory compliance, and other reporting and recording demands. He has been instrumental in training and monitoring the NFWB team on Lucity, a computerized maintenance management system software. Carl takes a proactive approach to his role in the IT team, making it clear that the tools of technology change rapidly and that if you hesitate on necessary upgrades, you fall behind.

Joe Morock, systems engineer, handles on-boarding new employees and overseeing file sharing protocols. He develops and implements internet usage guidelines, including social media platforms, and addresses cell phone access issues and the email system. He also tracks assets allocation and coordinates workflow, as well as maintains records management and general systems safeguards.

The IT team is responsive, quality-driven, and resourceful. They provide stability and continuity that bolsters and improves the entire organization.

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CHAPTER 7 & CHAPTER 13

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- 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)

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