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Memorial Medical Center Gala Sold Out Again

By: **Tony Farina**

Analysis

The 15th annual Memorial Medical Center black tie gala will be held Saturday at the Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino, and as in every previous event, it is sold out with 985 guests expected to attend.

The 2019 Premier, as it is billed, this year will honor Dr. Neil Dashkoff, director of



the county's first and only catheterization lab at the Heart Center of Niagara, located next to the Medical Center, and the Strangio

family, owners of the Quality Inn, Antonio's Banquet Center, and the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel. The hon-

(Cont. on pg. 2)

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OFFICIAL HOME OF **THE CRIME** PAGE 4
Niagara Falls

From Painter to Politician

By: **Brendan McDonough**

He is a father, businesses owner, community member and now Jesse Gooch can add politician to his name. The long-time North Tonawanda business owner was recently appointed to the 7th District Legislators seat; a position that was vacated by Kathryn Lance after she resigned on November 9th of last year. Gooch, 40, a registered republican, was picked for the spot by the Legislature's ad-hoc committee. Six other people were interviewed for the post.

For Gooch, deciding to apply for the position was an easy choice.

"I am super connected to my district," said Gooch. "I always have been and when that position came open, I thought it would be the perfect



(Cont. on pg. 6)

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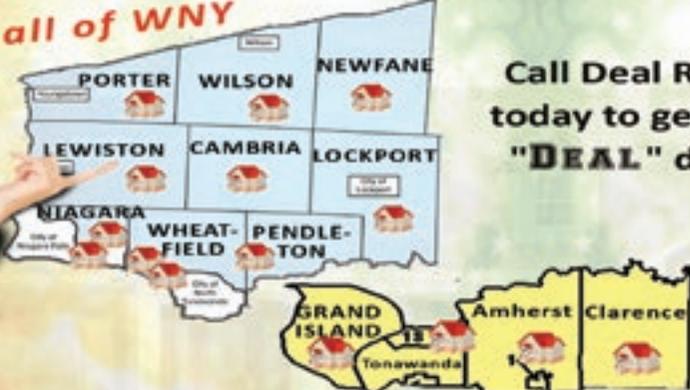
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Memorial Cont.

cees are being recognized for their service to the hospital and the community.

Proceeds from this year's gala will be dedicated to the hospital's imaging services. Proceeds from past events have supported new programs for heart and stroke care, critical care, specialized care for people with developmental disabilities, behavioral health care, women's health care, and much, much more.

Dr. Dashkoff joined Memorial in 2017 as medical director of the heart catheterization lab. Dr. Dashkoff is a cardiologist and clinical professor of medicine at UB's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and is board-certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular disease and intervention cardiology.



Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center CEO
Joseph Ruffolo

A member of many professional societies including the American College of Cardiology, Dr. Kashkoff's leadership is credited with helping to contribute to the continuing success of the cath lab. He is also being recognized for his ongoing efforts to teach and promote Memorial's cardiac services.

The Strangio family, including Antonio Strangio and his sons Anthony and Frank, is being honored for their endless generosity and leadership in the expansion of tourism in Niagara Falls.

Antonio's Banquet Center is considered one of the area's very best choices for important events, and the family's commitment to customer service is one of the major reasons for its success and tremendous following.

The Strangio family will receive the Nancy Gara Spirit Award, presented in memory of a Western New York banking executive and former Medical Center board member who was renowned for her positive attitude and personal commitment to serving the community.



Dr. Neil Dashkoff who is being honored at the event.

Co-chairs for Saturday's gala are Sanjay Chadha, vice president for Memorial's Service Line Operations; Dr. Sunita Chadha, his wife, who practices at the Williamsville-based WNY Rheumatology Center; Dr. Sachin Wadhawan, chief of Memorial's cardiology department; and Dr. Deepa Sharma, the wife of Dr. Wadhawan, who practices dentistry in Ontario.

Refreshments will be served at a welcoming area

outside the actual dinner hall, beginning at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Since its beginning in 2004, the Premier has continued to gain stature and has become one of the most highly anticipated social events of the year in the Niagara Falls community, focusing attention of the important advances in medical technology and treatment at the Memorial Medical Center.

NIAGARA

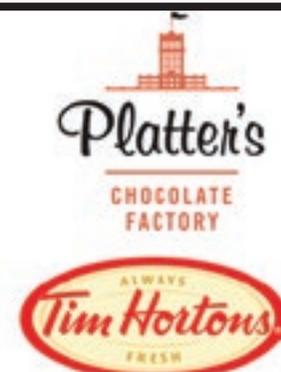


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North Tonawanda: Bishop Gibbons, Broadway Hotel, Budwey's Market, Carousel Park Apartments, City Hall, DMV, Kimek's Tavern, Lou's Diner, Platter's Chocolates, Public Library, Olympia Restaurant, Tops, Roman Café & Save-A-Lot

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



Ken Hamilton

Even though Councilman Ezra Scott wasn't even the glimmer in his father's eye back in the 1960s, he nonetheless appears to know and understand the nature of something that industrial arts teacher Mr. Simonian then taught his classroom of boys about the advantages of using the right tools to get a job done effectively and efficiently.

Based upon a unanimously approved Niagara Falls NY City Council Driver's License Scofflaw Reform Initiative resolution that passed in July of 2017, it's a principle that Scott wants applied in law concerning the suspension of a driver license for a person's failure to pay child support. I think that it should be an amendment to the hell-bent New York State law concerning the legalization of recreational marijuana.

Mr. Simonian was the industrial arts teacher at what was then Beech Avenue School when at the beginning of their first class he gathered the boys around a workbench that had boards, nails, rags, a brick, a pair of rubber gloves, a bucket of paint, a hammer and a paint brush. He then

proceeded to show us how to use a brick to drive a nail into the board; and after many strokes and adjustments, the nail's head was flush with the brick-scarred board.

Simonian then took the second nail and the hammer, and with far fewer strokes the nail's head was driven flush into the board with nary a hammer mark. Then putting on the rubber gloves, he dipped the wadded rag into the bucket of red paint, picked up the second board and then smeared the rag across the board's covering it with red paint and showed us the results. Picking up the paint brush and dipping the tip into the bucket, he proceeded to put on a nice, neat and even coat of paint on the board. When finished, he asked which side looked the best. We all agreed that it was the side painted with the brush as was with the hammer-nailed board. He then explained that it is always best to use the proper tools to do a good, quick job.

When the state's scofflaws uses the suspension of driver's licenses to punish parents over child support payments, it's far worse than elementary school boys using bricks to pound a nails, and that's a point that Scott seemingly wants to hammer into the heads of lawmakers at the county and state level. Buffalo's Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes is the most recent New York State Assembly's Demo-

Councilman Scott is right on the effects of the Child Support Scofflaw Resolution

cratic Majority Leader. She wants to legalize recreational marijuana. Though I am against it, I am far more against her using the often jobless, poor inner-city, young males as the poster boys to pass her bill. In today's culture, inner-city no longer connotes just African-Americans, of which is Stokes. She claims that it will stop the police from picking up these young men for being in possession of small quantities of the drug. Everyone knows that the bill is really about the additional tax revenue, and in the end you'll have even more of these young jobless people out on the streets. It's easy enough to simply decriminalize "small quantities" to stop the cops, if it was just about the boys. Is it so that lawmakers can now have legal pot parties? Who knows?

My argument is that the police don't know that these youngsters even have marijuana until after they pick them up! As it relates to suspension of driver's licenses, those caught driving while using any quantity of an opened container of the buzz-bud ought to have their licenses suspended, because the purpose of a driver's license is to ensure the safety of other drivers on the road.

So then, how does a parent who's behind on child support – often the other kind of inner-city parent who is struggling to make the car payments that they need to get to work to earn the money to make the child support



payment – make the money to pay child support if the state takes their license away, even though they are no danger to other drivers? It would appear that the state is pounding nails with bricks and painting with rags in order to reduce the red in the state's budget while hammering parents who try their best to comply with their child support requirements. According to his languishing resolution, it would appear that Scott's point is just that.

The time is right for Scott's resolution to pass through the county and into state law. He needs to start hammering Legislator Steed to get off his butt and get it done, and for Scott to hit the Buffalo bricks and keep ragging Peoples-Stokes until he's red in the face and getting it done.

It's elementary. Ask Simonian.

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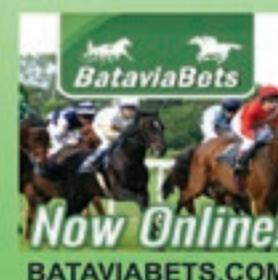


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THE CRIME

WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Niagara Falls Police responded to Harry F. Abate Elementary School in the morning hours of Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019, after a physical altercation between two women escalated into a motor vehicle accident. According to eye-witness accounts and police reports, the two women began shouting at one another before one began attempting to swing at the other. One of the women then went into her car and retrieved a hammer which she began swinging at the other woman. It is unclear whether either individual was seriously injured up to this point in time. Upon re-entering their vehicles, one of the women ran into the other car with her vehicle. Medical response teams were called to the scene due to injuries possibly sustained by one of the women who was pregnant.

-Niagara Falls Police, Fire and Medical responded to 19th and Walnut Avenue in the evening hours of Wednesday, January 2nd, 2019, after an alleged assault. According to reports, one person was taken to the hospital and three male individuals detained after a physical altercation stemming from an attempted car theft. Witnesses at the scene told police that the victim of the assault in fact tried to steal a vehicle, which then prompted the assault.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 7-Eleven on Hyde Park Blvd. in the early morning hours of Thursday, January 3rd, 2019, for an attempted armed robbery.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the City Market in the early morning hours of Friday, January 4th, 2019, after a woman reported being robbed by a man with a gun of \$500 that she had just withdrawn from an ATM. Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 400 block of 8th Street in the early afternoon hours of Friday, January 4th, 2019, after a report of shots fired that resulted in two black males fleeing in a tan mercury and fled. According to reports, officers found two shell casings at the scene. There were no injuries reported as a result of the shooting.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1500 block of 18th Street between Willow Avenue and Linwood in the evening hours of January 6th, 2019, after a report of shots fired. According to reports, the shots went off outside of Hometown Mini Mart and were aimed at someone inside of the store. No injuries were reported and police are continuing to investigate the incident to determine why the individual inside the store was a target.

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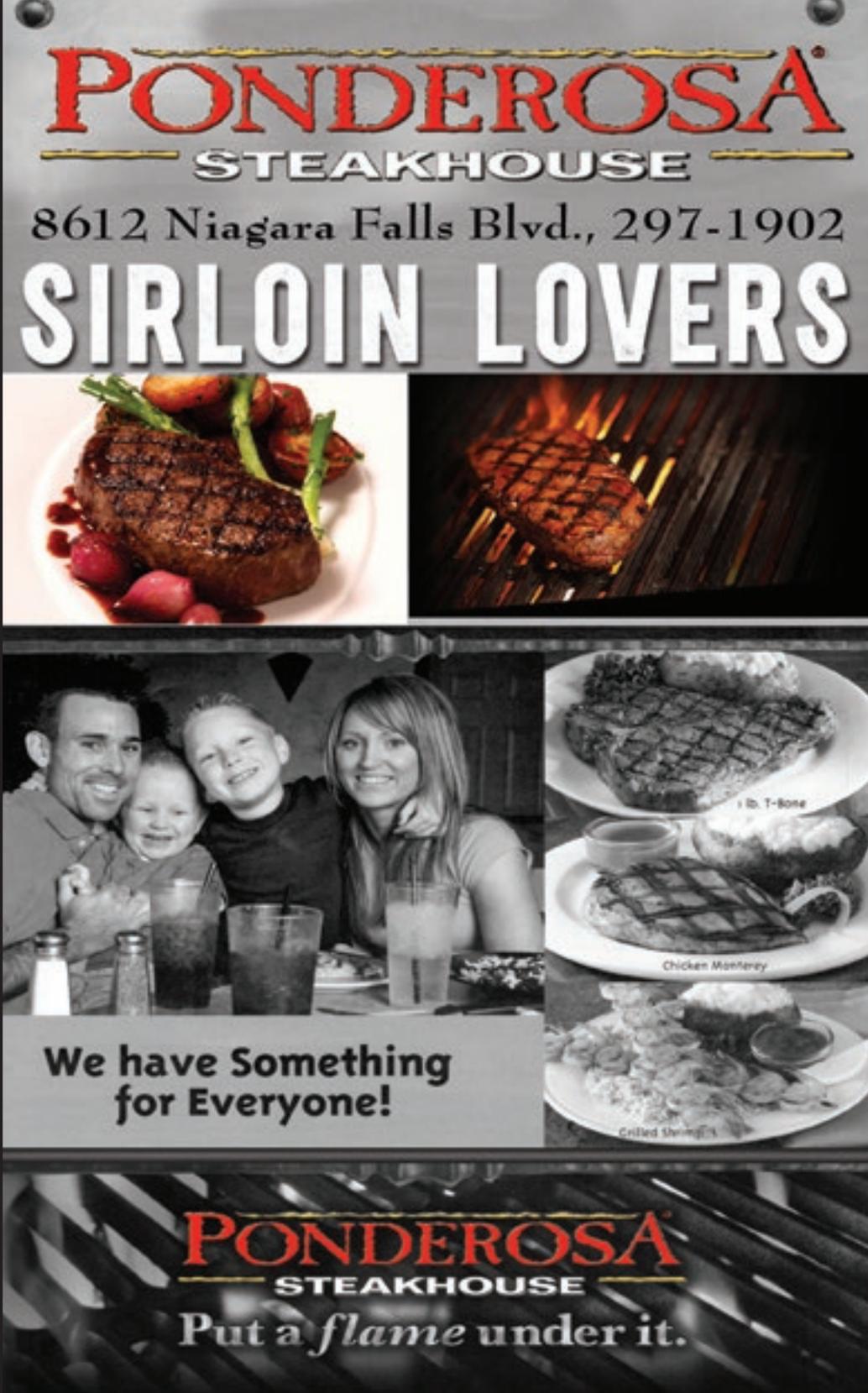
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NORTH TONAWANDA

Gooch Cont.

opportunity to give back to my community in a larger way."

For him giving back to people across the Tonawandas is something he has been doing his whole life. One step at a time.

His passion to help people is amazing. He is kind, considerate and that drive to improve the community is something he has been doing for a long time.

Right out of high school at the age of 19 he started "Painters Plus," a business he built from the ground up and turning it from a small company to one of the most recognized businesses across North Tonawanda.

The business has employed dozens of people across Niagara County. In 2006 and 2007 it started as a small operation on Niagara Falls Blvd., and Gooch says that after a couple years he outgrew the garage - his own personal garage - that he had been using.

"I would answer the phone. I would paint. I would be on the ladder with a brush in one hand and a phone in the other hand with a customer. I would be doing the estimates at night and on the weekends. I literally did it all like that until I built a team," said Gooch.

That hard work paid off for him and in 2010 he moved into his current location at 800 Walck Street in North Tonawanda.

"I took it over and remodeled everything. It used to be next to a grinding wheel and was in pretty bad shape," said Gooch.

After moving into the new location, he came up with Project Hope, where one lucky family gets their home painted for free. This past year things were a little bit different and instead of only picking one family Gooch says he picked a family from Tonawanda, as well. Helping to put a fresh coat of paint on the home and a fresh start

for two deserving families who needed it the most.

"This past year there was a family that applied but they were from Tonawanda and, although I like to keep it in North Tonawanda, their story was so terrible and touched my heart that I felt as though I had to pick them in addition to the North Tonawanda family," said Gooch.

When he is not painting, he is helping to put out fires; literally. Gooch is a volunteer firefighter and has been a member of the St. Johnsburg Fire Hall for the past 15 years.

As if that was not enough to keep him busy in 2017, he started another company called Jesse Gooch productions or JG Productions. They stated an event called "Thursday's on the Water."

"I have been involved in the concert, promotions and production business for years and years. I started something back in 1996 called Gooch Fest., when I lived in my mother's house," said Gooch.

It was basically a back-yard party that started out with just fifty people and growing to the point where hundreds of people would come to his event. He stopped the event for a while but when people starting asking him about reviving it he decided to have it in the back yard of his current home.

"I decided I wanted to have a neighborhood party and charge a fee," said Gooch. "Any proceeds we raised would be donated to a local charity and I let the community decide what charity we would donate to. One year was to Hospice and another year it when to SPCA. They wanted us to do a project and create a rubber path where the dogs can walk and not get their paws wet in the snow or mud, so that's exactly what we did."



Whether they are on two legs or four, if someone needs help Jesse says he will step up for them.

"What I have done with Painter's Plus, project hope, what I have done with Thursday's on the Water, Meals on Wheels, several other things, my community involvement, my volunteerism, being a volunteer fireman, I just really felt a need to give back in a bigger way. When this position came up, I was really interested, I got interviewed," said Gooch.

With a vote of 11 to 3 he won the appointment. It is for a year and he says he is already planning for the next election.

"It's an election year so right now I am planning on running for 2019," said Gooch. "I am in and I am running. I am going to give it everything I got."

For Jesse Gooch stepping into the spotlight is something he says he is prepared for. He says his goals will be to help people of all ages, across his district, in any

way he can.

"My top issues are public safety; first responders. I feel it's important for them to have the equipment and technology they need to do it safely. Public safety is number one and the environment I think is super important. We have the Niagara River right next to us and it's important to keep that clean for our families and future generations. The farmers are also one of my top priorities and I want to help them as much as possible," said Gooch.

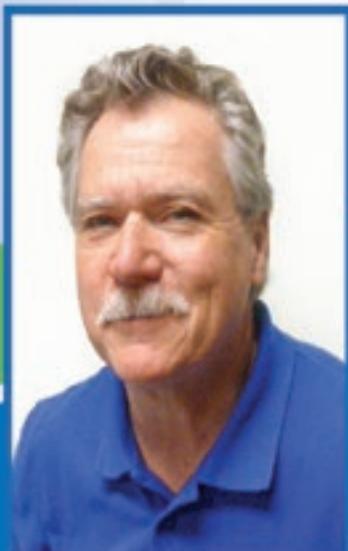
As a small business owner, he also wants to help others who are thinking about starting a small business. Helping to grow economic development and those residents who want to take one the American Dream of owning their own business. It's not an easy path to take but Gooch has done it and done it successfully and it's that experience that he says will help others.

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Common Council President Zadzilka Looking Forward to 2019



Eric Zadzilka
NT Council President

My fellow residents, Happy New Year!

2019 will be a year of continued momentum with unprecedented growth initiatives for North Tonawanda, continued downtown development, continued investment in our infrastructure, a continued influx of new businesses coming to North Tonawanda, and continued hard work by this Council body and our Mayor to deliver the best city services for our taxpayer dollars. We will finish the projects of yesterday and see them to completion.

We have seen achievements such as the completion of the Children's Remembrance Garden and the groundbreaking of new ventures such as Matt's Music expansion on Oliver Street. As recently as a few weeks ago we learned that Spot Coffee will add North Tonawanda as a new home and there are some big announcements still to be made about development happening in 2019 from Woodcock Brothers Brewing and others.

It was recently announced that Dan Quinn will be leaving his current job as North Tonawanda Clerk/Treasurer. I would like to thank him for all his years of service to the city, its residents, and to this Coun-

cil. At the same time, we look forward to Matt Parish coming on as our new Clerk/Treasurer effective January 8th, 2019.

I know from our conversations, Matt offers a new drive, a tenacity, and an energetic hit the ground running mindset we will need for the challenges that lie ahead.

The CFO of the city is an important and crucial role that can't be vacant for even a short time in starting on our budget when we have such a highly qualified candidate with pertinent experience to execute these duties effectively. His qualifications on Formulating and weighing in on County budgets speak volumes so he needs to be appointed as North Tonawanda Clerk/Treasurer.

In closing, as far what lies ahead, it was once said, "there are several kinds of ppl in life and how those may perceive progress..those that make things happen, those that watch things happen, and those that ask, what happened?" We need to remain vigilant on making things happen in our city in a cooperative manner.

With that, I say thank you too residents who attend our Common Council meetings and workshops, for your input, your trust, and your passion for North Tonawanda!



OSHA Steps Up Oversight of Trenches and Excavations

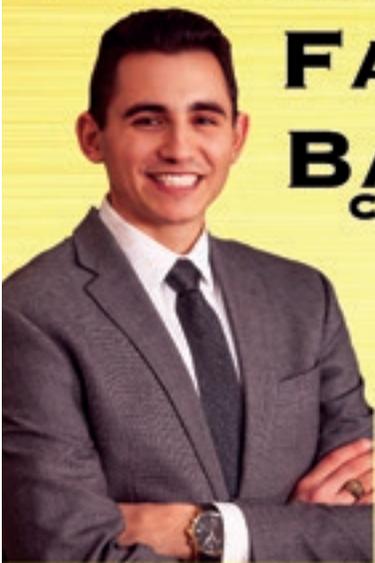
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), trenching and excavation-related deaths nearly tripled between 2011 and 2016. That equates to 130 worker deaths during that time period. As construction activity continues to grow, we must all work together to ensure the safety of every worker who enters a trench. The hazards that trenches can present are well-known, and the steps that must be taken to protect worker safety have been proven time and time again in the construction industry. Now, OSHA is moving to address this spike in trench fatalities through increased enforcement efforts. OSHA has revised its National Emphasis Program (NEP) for trenching and excavation to better target those contractors who continue to disregard OSHA's trenching and excavation standard. Trench fatalities are preventable and OSHA will concentrate the full force of enforcement and compliance assistance resources to help ensure that employers are addressing these serious hazards.

Recent BLS data reveals some trends in trench collapses and fatalities. Fatalities from trench collapses occurred most often in May, August and November; more workers were killed in the South and Midwest than in other parts of the U.S.; most trench fatalities occurred during water and sewer work and site preparation; the largest percentage of worker deaths happened among contractors with less than 50 employees; the majority of victims were between 25 and 54 years old, showing that a trench collapse can happen to anyone and construction laborers were the most likely group to be killed in trench collapses. OSHA's NEP for trench and excavation activities began in October of 2018, although enforcement doesn't begin until January of 2019. OSHA's updated special emphasis program mandates that OSHA compliance officers review all trenches they come across, regardless of the circumstances. In other words, whenever compliance officers see a trench or excavation, they are expected to stop what they are doing – whether on duty or not – and review the trench for compliance.

Now is a good time for construction firms, contractors and any company with a major building project to review their policies, procedures, training and compliance when it comes to trenching and excavations. Employers should be making sure that crews in the field are following proper procedures and conducting all necessary inspections each and every day. It's a good idea for contractors to ensure that every trench deeper than 4-5 feet employs OSHA's cave-in prevention requirements of sloping, shoring or shielding. In addition, employers should be sure to:

- Keep heavy equipment away from trench edges
- Keep loads and piles at least two feet from trench edges
- Know where underground utilities are located
- Test for low oxygen, hazardous fumes and toxic gases
- Inspect all trenches at the start of each shift
- Inspect all trenches following a rainstorm
- Ensure employees aren't allowed to work under raised loads

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- REPLACE SMOKE DETECTOR OR CO (4)
- RE-ROUTE CABLE FOR TV
- FIX HOLE IN WALL (UP TO 12")
- REPLACE MIRROR
- MOVE FURNITURE IN HOUSE
- ASSEMBLE STORE • FIX SIDING BOUGHT PRODUCTS
- INSTALL DRYWALL (3 SHEETS UNFINISHED)
- FIX MINOR FENCE PROBLEMS
- REPLACE INTERIOR DOOR

PLATINUM PACKAGE (\$135 MONTHLY)

3 JOBS PER MONTH FOR TOTAL
OF 3 HOURS

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

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