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☆ CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS COUNCILMAN (Vote For 2) Participating Districts Reporting: 27 / 37

Choice	Percent	Votes
Dante L. Myles (DEM)	17.79%	3,071
Alicia M. Kanyan (DEM, WOR, LBT)	26.13%	4,327
Kenneth M. Tompkins (REP, CON, WOR, GRE, LBT, IND)	31.83%	5,442
John K. Spambauer (REP, CON, GRE, IND)	24.25%	4,166



(Cont. on pg. 2)

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# NIAGARA FALLS

## Restaino Wins Big Victory in Niagara Falls Mayoral Race; Tompkins & Spanbauer Lead Council Race

### Tony Farina

Less than an hour after the polls closed at 9 p.m. Tuesday night, Robert Restaino thanked his cheering supporters gathered at the Como Restaurant for their support in helping him score a huge victory in the four-way race for mayor of Niagara Falls.

"You have helped start a brand new chapter," the former judge told his supporters as he stated it was "no small task" to win almost 50 percent (49.5) of the vote in the four-way contest, saying voters had clearly embraced his message of change.

As of late Tuesday, Democrat Restaino had 4,431 votes or 49.58 percent of the votes cast. Republican Glenn Choolokian had 2,269

votes (25.39 percent), Working Families candidate Seth Piccirillo 615 votes (6.88 percent), and Independent candidate Jeffrey Elder 1,517 votes (16.98 percent). There were 103 write-in vote. Total voter turnout exceeded 30%.

Unofficial returns late Tuesday showed Republican John Spanbauer with a very slight lead over Democrat Alicia Kenyon for one of two open council seats, meaning that along with Kenny Tompkins' re-election victory, the GOP would take control of the council by a 3-2 margin. But with more than 400 absentee ballots still to be counted, the results could change.

Restaino was excited but measured in talking about his victory which followed his narrow win



Niagara Falls Mayor-Elect Candidate Robert M. Restaino.

by 129 votes over Piccirillo in the Democratic primary in June. Piccirillo had been a top aide to outgoing Mayor Paul Dyster and he remained in the race on the Working Families line but didn't campaign.

Restaino expressed disappointment at the negative tenor of the

campaign for mayor but is clearly anxious to move ahead with his plans for his administration beginning Jan. 1, knowing full well there are no easy answers to help Niagara Falls meet its financial challenges.

The former City Court judge and current president of the city

# NIAGARA

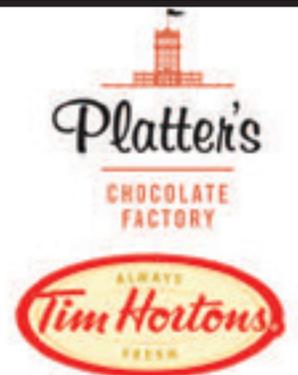


# REPORTER

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## ☆ CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS MAYOR (Vote

For 1)

Participating Districts Reporting:

37 / 37

Choice	Percent	Votes
Robert M. Restaino (DEM, CON, GRE, LBT, IND)	49.59%	4,431
Glenn A. Choolokian (REP)	25.39%	2,269
Seth A. Piccirillo (WOR)	6.88%	615
Jeffrey Elder (DYN)	16.98%	1,517
Write-in	1.15%	103
		<b>8,935</b>

board of education says he will stay out of the current budget deliberations under way in city hall and let the current council work their way through it with a garbage user fee and a slight tax increase among the items being deliberated as the city



Niagara Falls City Councilman Ken Tompkins.

tries to cope with a more than \$4 million budget gap.

If asked, Restaino said he would be willing to offer his thoughts on dealing with the budget deficit-closing measures and various options but said he didn't want to ride in at this point after the deliberations are already well under way.

He does plan to move forward

with a collaborative approach to fixing Niagara Falls, reaching out to neighboring communities to find ways to reduce costs by working together, something he had talked about the entire campaign.

The mayor-elect will soon put together a group of experienced people to interview candidates for leadership positions in his administration after which he will review the list that he receives and conduct his own interviews.

"At the end of the day, I'm the guy they have to deal with," said Restaino, and he knows and said over and over again there are tough decisions to be made to get the city back on solid footing, and that includes working with the Seneca Nation on cooperative ways to help both sides in the future.

"I'll continue to meet with the Senecas, as I have been doing, to find ways we can work together to make conditions better," said Restaino, a nod to the ongoing revenue sharing stalemate that has cost the city millions of casino dollars.



## CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS COUNCILMAN

(Vote For 2)

Participating Districts Reporting:

37 / 37

Choice	Percent	Votes
Donta L. Myles (DEM)	17.79%	3,071
Alicia M. Kenyon (DEM, WOR, LBT)	25.13%	4,337
Kenneth M. Tompkins (REP, CON, WOR, GRE, LBT, IND)	31.53%	5,442
John K. Spanbauer (REP, CON, GRE, IND)	25.30%	4,366
Write-in	0.24%	42
		<b>17,258</b>

Niagara Falls City Republican Chairman Bill Carroll paid a visit to Restaino headquarters shortly before midnight, perhaps a sign of future cooperation to help deal with the city's problems.

If John Spanbauer's lead holds up after the absentee ballots are counted, Republicans will take control of the council for the first time in 50 years.

"For the moment, at least, that's the way it is," said a jubilant Carroll who all along had hoped Spanbauer and Tompkins would win and give control to the Republicans for

the first time in half a century.

The new GOP majority, if Spanbauer's lead holds up, would include incumbent Republican lawmaker Chris Voccio who was not on the ballot this year. Voccio also stopped by Restaino's headquarters to pay his respects to the mayor-elect.

While Choolokian was technically the Republican mayoral candidate, the GOP under Carroll had not endorsed him and seemed to support Restaino from the beginning, extending open arms to the former judge when he showed up at last summer's GOP picnic.



Niagara Falls City Council Candidate John Spanbauer.



# THE CRIME

## WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 2200 block of Niagara Avenue in the late evening hours of Wednesday, October 30th, 2019, after reports of shots fired. According to police, a vehicle and a house were struck by the bullets. Police say six casings were recovered from the alley between Ontario and Niagara Avenue. No injuries were reported and police are continuing to investigate the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police and Fire responded to the 500 block of Tronolone Place after reports of a structure fire. According to police, witnesses stated that the incident started as a domestic as they could hear screaming and yelling. Although police are continuing to investigate the incident, they believe the male assaulted the female occupant with a knife before setting the home on fire. The male was arrested at the scene.

-Niagara Falls Police executed a warrant on the 1800 block of Michigan Avenue in the afternoon hours of Thursday, October 31st, 2019. The warrant allowed police to remove three dogs that lived, according to the warrant, in deplorable conditions. In addition to living in deplorable conditions, the dogs were also not licensed with the City of Niagara Falls. The owner was issued an appearance ticket to appear in Niagara Falls City Court.

-Three Niagara Falls males - Johnny L. Mulkey, Garrien F. Tillman, and



Julian G. Seright - were indicted last week stemming from a shootout that occurred in front of Players Bar on Niagara Street back in June.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1500 block of Willow Avenue in the evening hours of Friday, November 1st, 2019, after reports of a one-vehicle crash. According to police, a car went up onto a curb, ran over a sign, bounced off a tree and landed back on the road. All occupants in the vehicle took off running after the crash leaving behind a variety of drugs inside the vehicle. Police believe the car was stolen, but are continuing to investigate the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the area of 9th and Pine in the evening hours of Saturday, November 2nd, 2019, after reports of a man walking down the street with a sword threatening to kill people.

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# HAMILTON: We Ought to Act Like Women are Veterans, Too!



**Ken Hamilton**

Dateline: Late August, 1973.

"I'm not saluting her," I said to my male classmate, as we were walking to the base meal hall for lunch after just leaving our officer training preparatory classes. We had looked up the sidewalk and saw a full-bird Navy captain walking towards us. She was then about 70-feet away. "Me, neither," he said.

From that point on it was a silent, daring game of chicken. As she and we rapidly got closer, my classmate and I exchanged with each other the steely, determined and stern glances of mutual confirmation. San Diego's sunshine poured down like honey from our forwardly-tipped white hats, and golden thoughts of how sweet it would be in not saluting a woman whose rank was far superior to our own dripped into our minds.

Crunch time came, and she was a mere 10-feet in front of us as we looked right through her as if she wasn't there. And then, as if by the magic of a mousetrap, her eyes fell upon us, and without thought, our right shoulders and elbows sprung into a sharp salute and in the harmonious words,

"By your leave ma'am," loudly poured from our lips just before our passing. She returned the salute and passed us by. We both then looked over our shoulders, and it was as if she had heard us conspiring from those first 70-feet away, and just now 10-feet past each other, we could almost see, even from the back of her head, the smirk on her face. At that point my classmate and I called each other the often-used derogatory word for women and continued sillily on our way.

Dateline: Early November, 46-years later.

As it was and is in the military, we all have to be taught respect; and we don't give women veterans the respect that they deserve. I don't blame any woman for being upset about it, either. We must change that – NOW!

My awareness on the topic of the under-respect for female veterans surfaced when I posted a post on a veterans' Facebook page that asked, "What Is A Veteran?"

The text of the post said, "A 'Veteran' – whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve – is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'United States of America,' for an amount of 'up to, and including his 'life.'"

"That is an honor," it goes on to say, "And there are way too many people in this country today, who no longer understand that fact."

I was a tad-bit upset with Facebooker and US Air Force veteran Barbara Jane Rodgers comment about a correction that she would have liked to have been included in that post. Her comment was, "At one point in his or HER life," instead of just his.

I immediately set upon research to show her that the number of women in the military is comparatively minuscule, and she needed to call retreat her sensitivities

on the subject. My research surprised me and proved Barbara's point.

An article by George M. Reynolds and Amanda Shendruk was printed April 24, 2018 in the Council on Foreign Affairs website on titled Demographics of the U.S. Military. It points out that less than 0.5% of America's population are now in all of the services. Their numbers, however, do not include the US Coast Guard. But of the 1.29-million members cited, the ratio of enlisted women now stands at 16% while the officer corps is 18%.

Those numbers are significant – far exceeding the 2% of 1973 women when the draft officially ended. Our recognition of them should likewise reflect their current growing numbers and more.

As a male American war-veteran, I'd say that we have some catching up to do, as it appears that at the end of the American War in Vietnam when we stopped forcing men into the military, the women began to volunteer in masses.

I've spoken with two such Niagara Falls-area female veterans. The other one was Joanna Romano who was a medic and served 13-years in the US Army, Air Force and National Guard.

Like most male veterans, one of the things that Romano liked most was her travels around the U.S. and overseas, and how, as she said it, "... people of different cultures came together to defend our country."

One of her experiences was with the cadets at the US Army Academy at West Point, and her greatest worry there was that one of the cadets would fall off a ridge in the dark and hurt themselves during their nighttime mock exercises.

Finishing her stint in the military as an E-6 sergeant, Romano did recognize that what her colleagues and she had learned as a result of the military training its medics

for the worst of wartime casualties had also allowed their surgeons, doctors and medics to returned to the 99.5% of regular American life with their techniques, they could add value to civilian trauma centers, thereby saving lives that may not have ordinarily been saved.

But the woman who's responsible for raising my level of awareness is a retired Niagara Falls schools' librarian and has long been an advocate of a greater profile for female vets; she, in fading echoes, had often asked me to get her a long-overdue seat on the Niagara Falls Veterans Memorial Commission. I think that it's a good idea.

Currently the commission comfortably consists of mostly elderly white male veterans, and its years of existence I remember only one female event keynote speaker, and that woman was a University of Buffalo student that headed up the Korean Student Association there. She was chosen for the Korean War veterans' ceremony on Memorial Day this year as a way of the Korean people thanking those American veterans for the contribution that they made in securing her part of the peninsula – and she did a great job so doing.

Ms. Rodgers was not available for additional comments prior to the deadline of this report, but her comments will be presented at a later day.

Our armed forces represent the diversity of this nation, and our sincere recognition of all of our veterans should be commiserate with their service.

For Barbara: "A veteran IS someone who, one point in his or HER life writes a blank check that is made payable to the United States of America." This article is your interest payment.

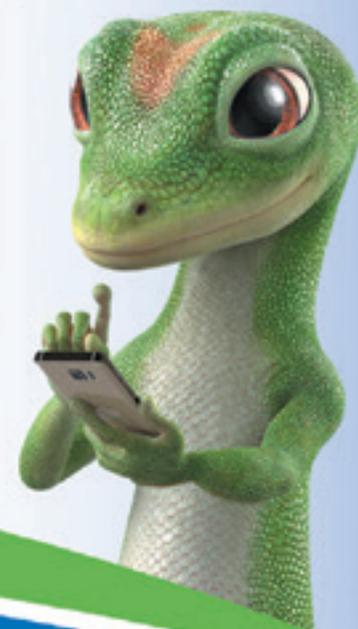
Thank you, Joanna, Barbara, and all WOMEN and men who have endorsed such a check for our America the Beautiful.

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# Niagara SPCA to Waive Adoption Fee for Veterans



## Staff Reports

Niagara SPCA is proud to announce Pets & Patriots, a program in honor of Veterans Day where adoption fees will be waived for individuals on active duty, honorable discharge, service-disabled veterans or those retired from military service. Military ID or DD214 will need to be presented to receive the adoption fee waiver. The program will begin on Veterans Day, November 11, 2019 and run through Saturday, November 16, 2019.

Pets & Patriots is made possible through the generosity of two local

veterans who wanted to give a gift of companionship to their comrades.

"We are so excited to be able to waive the adoption fee for our local vets who have sacrificed so much for us. Animals have the ability to offer emotional support to our heroes and knowing they will be going to a good home is a win-win for everyone and a great way for us to thank our veterans for their service," said Tim Brennan, Executive Director at Niagara SPCA.

Niagara SPCA is located at 2100 Lockport Road in Niagara Falls. Call 716-731-4368 or visit NiagaraSPCA.org for more information.



HONOR ★ COURAGE ★ LOYALTY



## 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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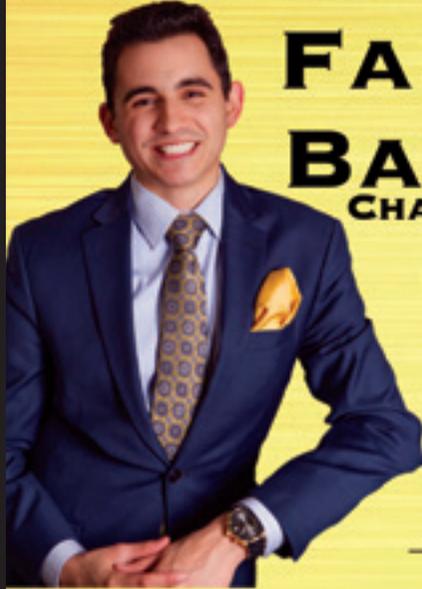
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