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FREE

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Robert M. Restaino
Attorney at Law

285-8185

Restaino Is Mayoral Bid Growing Closer?

By: **Tony Farina**

The mayoral election for Niagara Falls is more than a year away but while incumbent Paul Dyster has not committed to seeking a fourth term, one of his lieutenants, Seth Piccirillo, has already announced although perhaps the most interesting potential candidate, Robert Restaino, is focusing his attention these days on city schools in his role as president of the Board of Education.

"We're going to give our city schools a much-needed facelift beginning in the



spring," says Restaino, "and in the process we'll create in the neighborhood of 250 jobs and work with labor and business leaders to pump money into our local economy."

The \$55-million capital project to upgrade city schools was approved by voters last December and by the Board of Edu-

(Cont. on pg. 2)

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By: **Arthur Pappas**
Mayor of North Tonawanda

A project that began three years ago is finally coming to fruition and it exceeds all expectations; prov-

ing the above quote. When I became Mayor of North Tonawanda, my wife Linda and I immediately thought

(Cont. on pg. 8)

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NIAGARA FALLS

(Contd from cover)

ation, under Restaino's leadership, earlier this year.

"We're going to improve our schools, things like heating and cooling and roofing, nuts and bolts stuff," says Restaino, "and it won't cost our struggling taxpayers because the project is 98 percent reimbursable by the state because of the area's poor financial condition."

Restaino also noted that because the school district still has \$1.4 million in EXCEL grant funds available, it can cover the remaining two percent of the cost of the project without affecting taxpayers.

Given the city's looming \$14-million budget deficit for next year, being able to realize a fully reimbursable \$55-million capital project to improve the physical and academic environment for 7,000 students in city schools is welcome news indeed.

When we interviewed Restaino back in July in his Main Street law office, the former judge, in discussing the city's financial challenges in the wake of the loss of casino cash, said "we need to offer our citizens hope for the future, a new vision," although he stopped short of saying he will make his case to the people next year as a mayoral candidate.

When we interviewed Restaino last week, he was equally noncom-

mittal but there's no doubt he seems poised to weigh in on the future of Niagara Falls in the not too distant future and talk about that "new vision" that he noted in that July interview. For now, he is totally focused on the school facelift and the boost to the local economy that goes with it.

"With this capital project we are going to improve the physical plants of all our schools," says Restaino, "making sure they are structurally sound. We are concerned and want our students to have the best possible experience we can give them in modern, up-to-date facilities."

As Restaino focuses on schools and mulls his political future, city lawmakers are focusing on how to close a nearly \$14-million gap in next year's budget and are likely to accept Gov. Andrew Cuomo's promise of a \$12.3-million advance to a "suffering Niagara Falls," a sort of check-is-in-the-mail loan to be paid back if the state and the Senecas settle their differences in December's arbitration process.

The Cuomo money comes with strings attached: it still must be approved in the state budget process under Cuomo, assuming he wins re-election as expected next month, and there's a settlement on casino revenue sharing in December's arbitration with the Senecas; far from a certainty.



Will City Hall see a member of the current administration or an outsider succeed Mayor Paul Dyster?

City lawmakers undoubtedly will bank on the Cuomo promise to close next year's budget gap, but if something goes wrong, and the loan can't be repaid, then what? Some lawmakers have raised concerns, but there are few alternatives and a wildly unpopular garbage user fee will have to be approved even with the Cuomo money although it will probably be a little less than first advanced.

The savvy Restaino, a Democrat like Dyster and Piccirillo, knows what the city is up against yet it seems, given his efforts with the

schools, that he believes there are ways to involve the community in making things better, step by step. And he doesn't have to wear the failures of the Dyster years and the city's reeling financial fortunes as he mulls a run for the city's top job.

While he won't say he's running, he's a visible advocate around town for moving the city in a different direction. Right now, it is about schools, but Restaino knows that the city must find a better way to give citizens hope for the future, and we'll see what he has in mind probably sooner rather than later.

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

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

Tonawanda: Tops on Young Street

Wilson: Lakeside Market

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

'Closed for Business' at City Hall?

Frank Parlato

Analysis

The doors to the present Niagara Falls City Hall on Main Street were first opened in 1924. Prior to that, the mayor's office was in the Gluck Building on Second and Falls Streets.

It was Mayor William Laughlin who first enjoyed welcoming residents into the building with its big, wide welcoming wooden doors and graceful staired approach.

Since then Frank A. Jenss,, Dr. W. Levell Draper, Ernest W. Mirrington, Jr., Eugene C. Butler, Stephen A. Lamb, William R. Lupton, Calvin L. Keller, E. Dent Lackey, Michael C. O'Laughlin, Jacob A. Palillo, James C. Galie, Vincenzo V. Anello and - since Jan. 1 2008, Paul Dyster - have occupied the mayor's office at city hall.

Fourteen mayors. They have been good and bad and indifferent. But they all sat and governed at what is for a rather small city - a gracious and architecturally

elegant building that bespeaks of solid governance.

And up until now, none of them thought it was a good idea to close the front door of the building - until Paul Dyster came up with the idea.

We endorse his decision. If a City Hall is emblematic of the kind of governance the people are getting, nothing could better express the administration of this mayor than to close the front doors and herd people through the back.

Of course it is being done, Dyster says, for his personal safety and protection - since a policeman [also new to the Dyster administration] stands guard there to ensure people sign in [also new to the administration]. It is no longer the people's house. It is Dyster's place - Dyster and his cronies - like his hand picked successor Seth Piccirillo.

We commend Paul Dyster for his rare transparency in closing off the front doors to the people's house.



Lewiston Supervisor Steve Broderick with Niagara DA Caroline Wojtaszek at Monday fundraiser.



Lewiston Highway Supt. Dave Trane and newly installed Niagara County Democratic Chairman Jason Zona

Large Turnout for District Attorney Caroline Wojtaszek

Niagara County DA Caroline Wojtaszek held a fundraiser Monday night at the Wurlitzer Building in North Tonawanda. Wojtaszek, a Democrat, was gracious in welcoming a large crowd of guests including many elected officials from both major parties. Niagara County Democratic Chairman Jason Zona and Republican County Chairman Nick Langworthy were also on hand as well as former Erie County DA Michael Flaherty. It was a packed house for the Niagara County district attorney and a sign of the broad political support.

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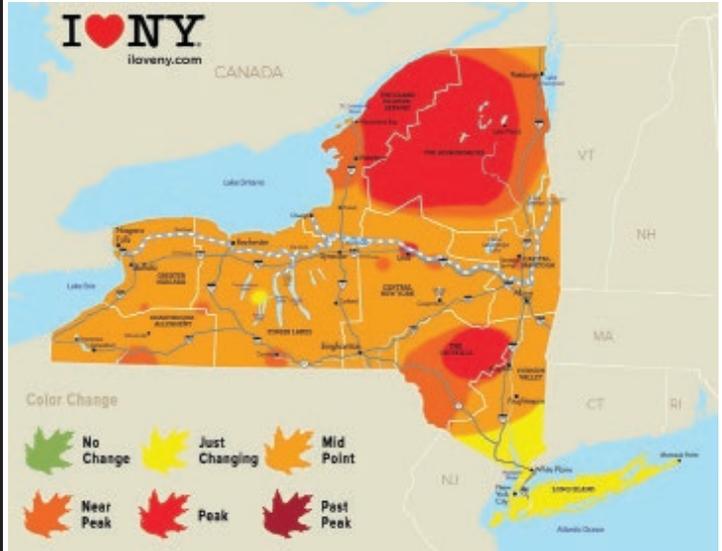
THE ACTION

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WEEKLY HEADLINES

- Overnight, Niagara Falls Police responded to a report of indecent exposure in the area of 36th and Packard Road where a couple was allegedly naked and rolling around on the grass.
- Niagara Falls Police responded to a home invasion and report of a stolen vehicle on McKoon Avenue Tuesday night after a caller said three male suspects with a shotgun broke into their home. The vehicle was shortly recovered and one suspect was taken into custody.
- Niagara Falls Police responded to a 7-Eleven on the 1500 block of Pine Avenue for what workers described as a "Redbull Heist." Police eventually engaged in a foot chase with the suspect.
- Niagara Falls Police responded to the Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center overnight for an individual who arrived at the hospital with a serious stab wound.
- More information has been reported of an armed burglary on McKoon Avenue that occurred Monday evening. The three suspects entered the home - one with a shotgun and another a machete-like knife - while occupants in the home were playing "Dungeons and Dragons."
- Niagara Falls Police are currently responding to Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center's Emergency Room for a stabbing victim.
- Niagara Falls Police responded overnight to a 7-Eleven on 26th and Niagara Street for an attempted robbery. The suspect was wearing a red bandana around his face, requested money, and then threatened physical violence before running out of the store.
- Niagara Falls Police were called to the Seneca Niagara Casino in the early morning hours of Sunday, October 14th, to assist in locating a black Lincoln, stretch 10-seater, limo that was stolen.
- A Falls woman was drinking with friends at her Calumet Ave. apartment early Saturday morning when she was stabbed. According to reports, while drinking around 5:30am a woman entered the apartment "acting crazy" & "got in her face." The wound required stitches.
- Niagara Falls Police responded to a report of an "angry ex-girlfriend" Friday morning. The victim, who was driving his brother's car near 22nd Street, told police his brother's ex approached the car asking for money & when he said no began beating the car with a hammer.
- Tourists from NYC & Hong Kong staying at a Downtown Niagara Falls hotel were the victims of theft over the weekend. According to reports, \$400 in cash was taken from a suitcase in their hotel room at the Double-Tree Hotel.
- Niagara Falls Police responded over the weekend to the 6100 block of Niagara Falls Boulevard where a suspect - a white, bald male wearing a green hoodie - punched a taxi cab driver in the face and took \$20 in cash.
- Niagara Falls Police and Medical responded to the 600 block of 16th Street for a stabbing victim in the early morning hours of Monday, October 15th. This is at least the third stabbing in Niagara Falls in as many days.
- Niagara Falls Police responded over the weekend to the scene of a stabbing on 12th and Niagara Street.

Fall is Here!!



This week's fall foliage report confirms that peak conditions are spreading across New York State.

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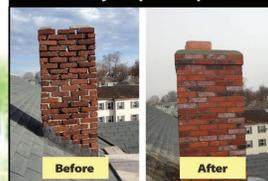
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Ken Tompkins
NF City Councilman

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 a judgment are two different things. As a result, not one cent has been collected.

In a true showing of community, numerous businesses have donated their time, supplies and money to make this project a reality.

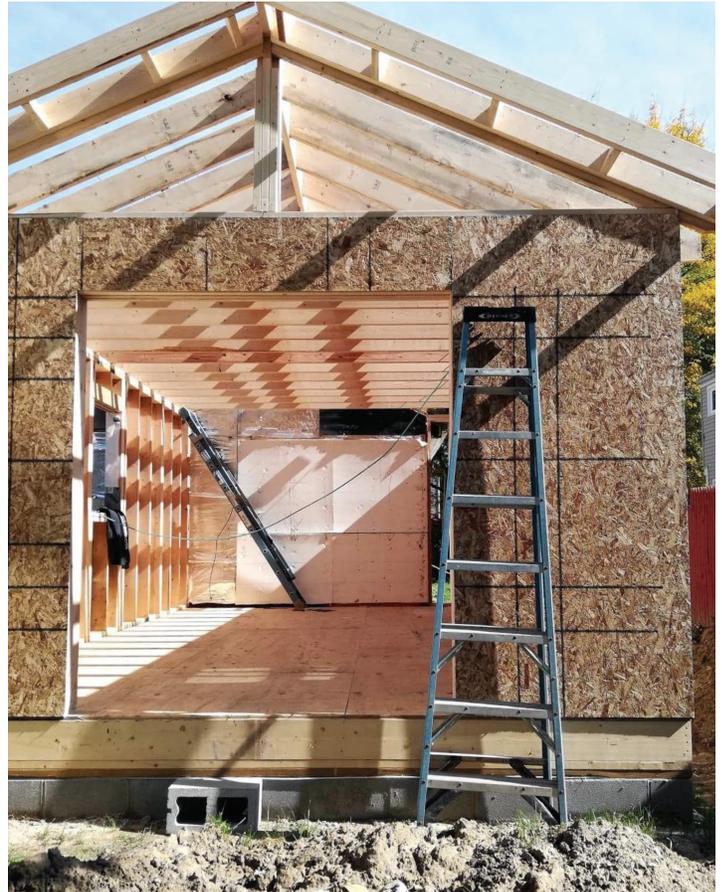
This week is just amazing with the changes it has brought. Cortese Building Solutions was on site and we now have a closed in structure. 84 Lumber graciously provided all the lumber to build and cover the walls. Greater Niagara Building Supply hooked us up with a great skylight to keep it naturally bright. BIG L Distributors donated a fantastic 6' sliding patio door for the back of the house where it will open out to the deck. Michael Tompkins from Tomson Window on 56th Street provided 2 very nice windows for the room.

With the framing complete, the next phase will be completion of the roof by Dan Thompson Roofing. Miris Building Supply is providing us with the same shingle as the one that's on the existing house.

Dom Morganti and crew from Morganti Construction will be back on site soon to do the siding with materials donated by Weatherpanel out of Buffalo.

The addition will be totally closed in by the end of the week and completely weather tight barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Monday night a crew of electrician apprentices, lead by Mike Seick and Mark Grozio from IBEW 237,



will be doing the rough electrical with all the materials donated by Graybar Electrical Supply. We send a huge thank you out to Graybar and Russ Quarantello for helping make this happen.

The city inspections department has been great with answering any questions and moving this project

along smoothly, in a timely manner and to code.

I'm very proud to part of this amazing project and to see the many businesses and unions step forward to help this great cause. Please keep all these folks in mind when you're hiring a contractor or purchasing materials for your next job. They have my business!





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Jamie DePetris
Food Expert/Critic

Food Review: Best Hidden BBQ in NF

So this weeks review is a bit different. I didn't choose a restaurant this week, but rather an awesome meal I want to share.

A very funny comedian friend I met about a year ago - Ernie Bivins - always posts these delicious food pictures on Facebook that his wife Angela makes and sells out of their home. . . so of course I had to try it!

To be honest, I sort of forgot all about it! Which is crazy because once the food entered my car I couldn't stop picking at it on my way home.

So anyway, my bestie Jenelle - some of you may know her as "Faso's sister" - and I went and were greeted first by the smoky bbq grilling smell that you just cant resist. The smell literally

wrapped around the block.

As if on script, we were greeted super excitedly by Ernie. Jenelle and I walked right into the kitchen and saw their immaculate restaurant-style set up. In the kitchen busting her butt was Angela prepping her delicious homemade food.

So here it is, just on Saturdays Angela makes bbq ribs and bbq chicken. Either comes with macaroni salad and the best bbq baked beans I have ever ever had!

It's \$10 a meal and you can place your order on either Facebook or call Angela and they will have it packaged and ready to go and enjoy.

You guys have to trust me!! I mean, have I ever steered you wrong? This may be off the beaten path but it is oooooo so worth it, I promise you.

I haven't tried the chicken but the ribs were smothered in bbq sauce and they are huge and fall off the bone lip smacking delicious.

This is down home cooking that you may have only heard about or experienced once or twice in your life that you continue to just dream about.



Not just the food is great but when Jenelle and I walked in its like your own free comedy show. Of course Ernie is taking all the credit, but here Angela is the star of this show.

Keep this Saturday open, Angela is doing her very famous "fried ribs" which I have never had but will be for sure be trying.

You can call or text Angela (716) 579-5983 or Facebook: Angela Bivins or Facebook: Ernie Bivins for your orders!!!

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ANALYSIS

You Want Us to be Like Buffalo? Then Let's Punt to the Control Board!



Ken Hamilton

Someone not long ago asked me, "Why can't we look like Buffalo?"

Of course, they were talking about Buffalo's improved waterfront. But their question piqued an idea in me of how through this budget crisis we can end up looking like Buffalo. The answer was easy – to look like something then you have to do what that something did to look like it does.

Folks, quite simply, it's time to punt – Buffalo and Erie County both had control boards, despite the political and economic talents that they had living and investing there. And it is seriously time for us to reset our financial position and start where it makes sense.

Can we really work our way through this mess, as Einstein would say, "... using the same mindset that we had when we first created it?"

No. But with a \$13-million hole in this city's budget, quite frankly, I don't see a way out of it.

We can blame Mayor Paul Dyster as much as we want, but most of the residents voted for him – not

once, not twice, but 3-times!

We can blame the city council, but we voted for them – not once, not twice, and in the case of Councilman Charles Walker and a few others in the past, a whopping 5-times. And no one can tell me why.

Listen, once that we get this mess of a budget straightened out – and that would be after a control board -- there's some changes that we must make; and it is mostly in the counterproductive way in which we think. As much as we are in love with ourselves, we have to accept the fact that we quite simply are not bright enough to "dig our way out of this hole" as it seems that we are trying to do.

We have proven that residency just doesn't work. Do you really believe that the best minds haven't already moved out of here? Let's open our doors for help.

We need to change our charter and put our mayor back on the city council, returning to a weak mayor, and a strong city manager form of government.

Our city council must be compelled to set-up and to lead ALL of the committees and boards outlined in the city charter. Each councilor taking 2 or more areas and becoming resident experts in the varying fields of city operation,



The five member City Council is currently the residents' "safeguard" for the spending of city funds.

and then other council members seek the councilors and their committees on these specific areas.

We, the citizens, should know and understand the charter as well as the councilors are supposed to know and understand it, and we need to set up a pre-elective qualification board that determine what skill sets are needed to best have council oversight of those varied areas.

After which, a broad-based citizen candidate quality board must vet any candidate running for any representative office in the city and county to grade any candidates aptitude and ability to serve, based upon their demonstrated skill qualifications.

The committee and board system within the charter should serve as a training ground for potential council and mayoral candidates, and interested committee and board members should be moved through the system so that they can know and understand all of the aspects of city operations.

But more than anything else, we all have to understand that this is our city, and every aspect of it -- is us. It's not easy to run a good city, and we must work hard to make it into a good city. As Catherine Golanika told me a long time ago that there's more to the city than just one neighborhood, and that we have to see the city as a whole.

I say that if we don't see it as a whole, then it will soon be just a hole.

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Mayor Paul Dyster has rejected the idea that Niagara Falls needs a control board to handle day-to-day operations and all other city finance issues.

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NORTH TONAWANDA

Mayor Pappas Cont.

of a goal I wished to reach. Having been both teachers in the Starpoint School District for our entire career we both had many students who passed away, some presently in our class. To give you an example of the loss we felt, although not personally, but yet very close to our heart, I share these two stories.

It was spring vacation and I'm sitting correcting papers while on the news comes a bulletin that a boy in my class had been killed. Ironically, at that moment I was just grading his paper. My wife had a student in class and the school year had ended for summer vacation. In August just before the new school year began the news reported that her student, mother, and grandmother had been killed with only the brother surviving. That boy was placed in her new class in September after losing his sister who had been in my wife's class the year prior.

So although these children and many others we had in class were not our own, the loss was still traumatic. We, along with many people, know of a child whose life was cut too short. With this in mind we initiated the construction of a Memorial Garden, for children no matter the age. The Common Council approved the venture on November 12, 2015. A small steering committee of those affected by loss was formed and plans were underway. Over the past three years new members have reached out to join the committee and the idea took shape and blossomed.

Members with co-chairs Paula Benedyczak and Mary Beth Kupiec have been Dr. John George, Frank Brzezinski, Lynn Alexander, Chris Wackowicz, Kari Lewis, Lisa Fisher, Kori Sciandra, Pat Sullivan, Doug O'Neill, Sally Urban, Phillip Serwinouski, Dave Ziemendorf, Chelsea Spahr, and Dale Marshall.

The first topic explored was location. Sites were explored with Brauer Park becoming the unanimous location due to the proximity to the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum, nearby playground, baseball diamond and City Hall with lots of foot traffic. In addition, the park area was underutilized and being adjacent to the WWII Memorial and

911 Twin Towers Memorial it was deemed a fitting serene area for contemplation.

With a DASNY grant from Senator Ortt and a SAM grant from Assemblyman Schimminger we were off to a solid beginning. The Rotary Club of the Tonawandas which was disbanding at the time offered another contribution. Since then members of our community have come forward to offer donations of work, supplies, time, labor, trees and flowers or funds.

There are so many generous people to thank for the completion of this project. Contributing volunteer businesses are Frank Brzezinski, RLA; Mike Marino, PE and Matthew Mattison, RLA of Nussbaumer & Clark, Inc; Sam and Josh Prezioso of NFP & Sons Inc; Frank Razzani of Razzani Construction; Bob Lamb of L & S Metals; and Michael Wachowicz of Miris Cash and Carry. In addition, the following contractors provided their services: Ryan Henry of Henry Services Inc.; Fran Horvath of Carlton Equipment; and Jonathan Bradbury of JCS Construction.

In June of 2016 a groundbreaking took place next to City Hall in Brauer Park. I never wanted this to become something talked about and never accomplished. I didn't want this to totally come from me, but involve the community also. The preliminary design was completed by Frank Brzezinski, with a child in mind yet for an adult to reflect. Many plants are native to the region and were selected to be attractive to native pollinators such as birds, bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects. Unfortunately Frank passed away in the winter of 2017 but his plans were followed through by Nussbaumer & Clark Inc. and the landscape plan was implemented by Henry Services Inc. Frank would be proud to see his ideas in place at a garden he was dedicated to designing.

A statue designed by English artist, Ros Newman, of flying doves was requested but the artist denied permission for a replica. Approval by the English artist was granted to create a dove sculpture similar to the original but not a total replica with the artist name being recog-



Senator Ortt joined Mayor Art Pappas and residents Friday for a groundbreaking ceremony on the Children's Memorial Garden at Brauer Park in North Tonawanda.

nized.

A stainless steel dove sculpture was then created by L&S Metals sitting higher in the center of a lower flower bed with an 8 foot path around it. It is visible from all sides and lit at night. There is a drainage system in place and pathways surrounding. Four arbor white swings face north, south, east and west. A small pine tree is planted nearby to be lite at the holidays. Name plates with the names of children departed will be placed along the newly installed pergola's east wall.

Many steps have been taken to bring this project to completion. Our City Engineer, Dale Marshall, has been a driving force behind this vision. Without his expertise a project of this magnitude never would have happened. Our appreciation goes out to all the effort he put forth. In addition, the City Water Dept. ran a new waterline with a yard hydrant into the park of irrigation. The DPW installed conduit for lighting and circuits, connected the drainage to the City's storm sewer, and installed a new sidewalk. Special thanks to them and the Parks and Recreation Dept. for their assistance.

Community members who wish to donate or make a contribution may do so by calling the Mayor's office at 695 8540. A special account has been created by City Accountant, Amanda Reimer, and

checks should be made out to NT City Treasurer with Children's Memorial Walkway placed on the memo line. 4x8 name plates may be purchased for \$100.00 with three lines of engraving with a possible 18 characters per line. Information may be obtained by going on line to www.ntrtc.org or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NTRemembersthechildren/>. ntchildrensgarden@gmail.com is another form of communication.

A dedication ceremony will take place on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. Of any accomplishments as Mayor of NT, this will forever mean the most to me and my wife. Buildings, businesses, streets etc. come and go but this will be a forever tribute to all children. It is a memorial to all children who have struggled and fought to stay alive-those who have survived and those who perished.

The garden walkway is a heartfelt reflection of those young lives that have passed too soon without the opportunity to reach their unique potential. As Helen Keller so appropriately said, "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched-they must be felt with the heart." And this garden is a place where all hearts will connect with love.

'T-NT' Football Game: Lumberjacks Win

Brendan McDonough

For fans on both sides of the canal, the matchup between the Tonawanda Warrior's and North Tonawanda Lumberjacks was a game they have been waiting months to see.

The stands were packed with fans screaming for their favorite team to win. It may be just high school football game, but for these fans it's the biggest sporting event of the year.

"We have been competing against North Tonawanda for years and years," said Abigail Streeter, Tonawanda Resident. "I used to go to North Tonawanda High School and graduated in 2004. It was fun then and it is really fun to compete against each other."

It is the 109th time the two football teams have met with North Tonawanda winning the prior seventeen meetings. Tonawanda fans believed this would be the year that would change.

"I hate losing to these guys every year and hopefully this year will be different," said Brian Stich, Tonawanda Resident. "Hopefully this will be the year we can do it."

The game was scoreless after the first three quarters. Tonawanda was able to come close a couple of times - leaving fans of both teams on the edge of their seats - but could not convert.

"This is a rivalry that has existed for years," said Joe Caporicci, North Tonawanda Resident. "I am going to tell you hands down North Tonawanda is going to clean house."

But no matter what the outcome, fans say they come year after year to enjoy the excitement and celebrate team spirit regardless of who the winner is.

"The school spirit is infectious and it is great to reminisce about the friendships we all had back in high school," said Kathy McPartle, North Tonawanda Resident.

With just seconds to go, Joe Caporicci scored the winning touchdown for North Tonawa-

nda propelling the Lumberjacks to a 7-0 win over their rivals across the canal.

Head coach Eric Jantzi says the last-minute decision to go for it on 4th down was a game changer.

"I am glad we won and that the senior's won it," said Jantzi. "We ran around it on that last play. Hats off to Tonawanda they did a great job. I think both defenses were outstanding."

As result of the win, the City of Tonawanda Common Council President Jenna Koch will have to wear a North Tonawanda hat at the City's



next common council meeting after losing a bet made earlier this week to North Tonawanda

Alderman-At-Large Austin Tylec.

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\$6⁹⁹ **Breakfast Buffet**
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\$2.5 Million Grant on its Way to NT

Brendan McDonough

Thanks to a \$2.5 million “Smart Growth” grant from Albany some big changes will be coming to North Tonawanda.

It could include bike lanes on Oliver Street and an expansion to the Charles Fleishman Park. On Saturday residents had a chance to meet with landscape architect Joy Kuebler to give their input on the project.

Kuebler, who was hired by the City, was at the farmers market over the weekend meeting with people to talk more about the project.

“So we have been looking at how do we translate designs into dollars,” said Kuebler. “We have been doing some concept designs, but what we want to know today are ideas from the community. Ultimately, residents will then pick the top priorities for the money.”

The hope is that the projects will give North Tonawanda a ‘big city’ feel while keeping a home town spirit.

“I am excited that more money is being put into the downtown area,” said Matt Bille, North Tonawanda Resident. “Hopefully we can continue to improve on the progress of Gateway, with the Webster Street projects and continue to

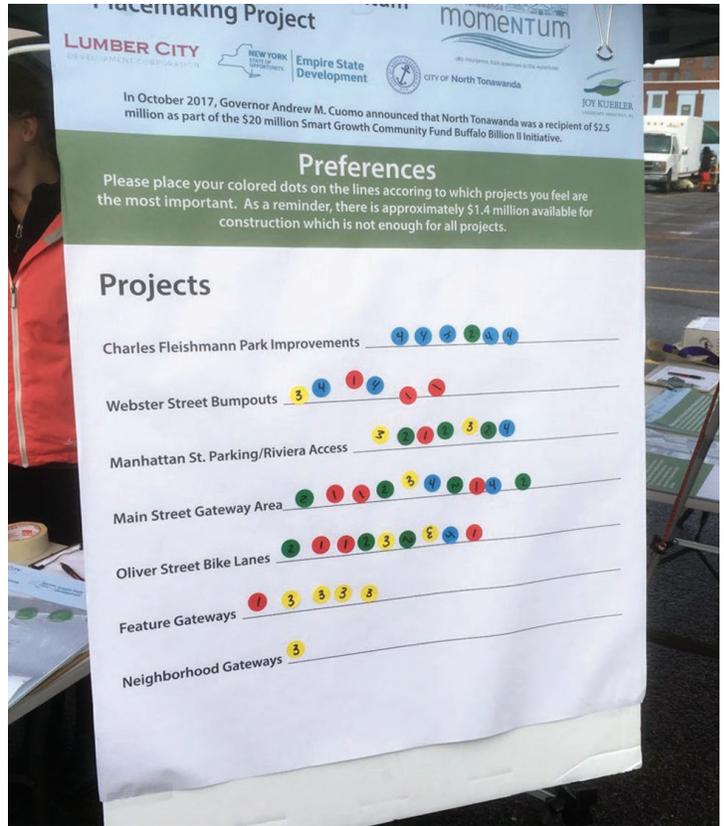
make people aware of how to get there, just capitalizing on the development so far.”

Helping to facilitate new growth in the area and breath life into the established businesses the area already is something on the minds of many.

“I think people just do not understand how much tourism is in the area and the more that we can bring to the area the better,” said Bille. “I guess my concern is that we need to do more to bring business to Oliver Street. There is a lot of empty store fronts and getting more money so that we can get grant money in for these local businesses is super important. If we take a look at what is happening on Niagara Street, I do not think it is too far-fetched that some of those changes could come here for small businesses.”

On a board there was a list of seven possible project and with stickers residents got a chance to rate which project they would like to see happen.

“The \$2.5 million is something that we are really excited about and to make our City walkable,” said Donna Braun, 2nd Ward Alderman. “That is the whole purpose of this. We need the community’s input on this and I cannot wait to see it get going.”



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Shark bite fittings: 1/2" coupling..... 4 ²⁵ 3/4" coupling..... 6 ⁸⁵ 1/2" T..... 8 ⁹⁵ 3/4" T..... 9 ⁹⁵	Diablo.....QT..... 7 ⁹⁵ Drain Cleaner 13 ⁹⁵ 4" sewer vent plunger... 5 ⁹⁸ Bed Bug Killer 17 ⁹⁵ Bathroom Sink Legs..... S.S. Supply Lines 3 ⁴⁵ 12" 3 ⁶⁵ 20" 4 ²⁵ 30" 4 ⁷⁵ 36"	12 x 16 Tarp 10 ⁹⁵ Spring Lawn Rake..... 8 ⁹⁵ L.H. Shovel..... 8 ⁹⁵ Garden Rake..... 10 ⁹⁵ Keys made..... 1 ⁴⁵ Blue paint tape..... 3 ⁵⁹ (1.5" x 60 yard)

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Real Estate Sales in North Tonawanda Soaring



By: Brendan McDonough

Experts say real estate sales across North Tonawanda are soaring. At Town Housing Real Estate Jeremy Ballsmith says after a decline in years past sales are picking up again, especially around the Oliver Street area.

“I think North Tonawanda is becoming more popular because of all of the development on Webster Street, you have things like Webster’s Bistro, Club 62, and that drives people in and then over on Sweeney you have the Remington Lofts, and the Remington Tavern, Dockside, so I think there is just a lot of emphasis because the area is growing and it is fairly accessible and just being close to the river that is a nice part too,” said Ballsmith.

That combined with it being a fairly safe area, he says there is an increase in both single-family homes and as well as apartment rentals. “The rental market is stronger, before where you would see a single studio apartment go for 350 or 375, we are now seeing 450, even as high as 600 with utilities included, so rental rates are going much higher,” said Ballsmith.

The City investing in development along with property owners investing in the units they own is drawing people of all ages from the City to North Tonawanda, making it an attracting area to move into.

“I think in Western New York everything is moving out from the City just because of the amount of growth, I think naturally you are going to see that push through North Tonawanda, even further into Niagara Falls. It is reasonably safe and young professionals do not want to spend 2000 dollars on an apartment in downtown. They would rather have the 20-minute commute and spend 750,” said Ballsmith.

He says the prices could continue to increase as more people discover the hidden beauty in North Tonawanda.

“The rates could continue to increase, I mean I have a 2 bedroom on Oliver Street, that I am asking 850 for, so we will see, I would not be surprised. I have been single family homes go for 1250 and certainly I could see it going higher,” said Ballsmith.



5 Trench Safety Tips You Need to Know

A new OSHA video voiced by U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta sends a clear message – OSHA takes trench safety seriously, and you should too. In the short video, Acosta quickly covers five different trench safety practices.

1. Ensure there's a safe way to enter and exit the trench

Conditions in a trench can change very quickly. That's why workers need the ability to get in and out of a trench on very short notice. In excavations four feet deep or greater, employers must provide ladders, steps, ramps or other means so workers don't have to travel more than 25 ft. laterally to exit the trench.

2. All trenches must have cave-in protection

Whether it's sloping, shoring or shielding, all trenches that are at least five feet deep must be protected. Even a small cave-in produces thousands of pounds of force that can quickly crush, suffocate or trap a worker. Although it's still uncommon, some courts have found employers who repeatedly ignore trench protection requirements guilty of manslaughter or negligent homicide when workers are killed in cave-ins. Contractors should never allow workers into an unprotected trench for any amount of time. It only takes seconds for a trench to collapse and take the life of a worker.

3. Keep materials away from the edge of the trench

Building materials and equipment should be kept at least two feet from the edge of a trench. This reduces the downward pressure exerted on the walls of the trench, lowering the risk for a cave-in. This practice also reduces the risk that workers handling those materials will fall into the trench or that materials will fall into the trench and strike workers below.

4. Look for standing water and other atmospheric hazards

Water should not be allowed to accumulate in or “boil up” from below a trench. Water adds a significant amount of weight to soil, greatly increasing the chances of a cave-in. If water has accumulated from below, either from heavy rains or from another source, it should be removed and a competent person should inspect the trench before work continues. Atmospheric hazards in trenches can include oxygen deficiency and toxic gases. Employers must test all trenches before workers enter if there's a reasonable chance of atmospheric hazards. When those hazards are detected, workers have to be protected by engineering controls such as increased ventilation or through the use of respirators.

5. Never enter a trench unless it's been properly inspected

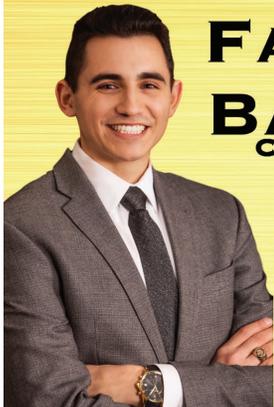
OSHA's trenching and excavation standard requires a competent person to inspect trenches and the surrounding areas before work begins and throughout the shift as conditions change. A competent person should be able to assess soil stability, different types of soil, the adequacy of trench boxes or support systems and how nearby equipment affects the safety of a trench.

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- CLEAN WINDOWS (4, DOUBLE HUNG)
- REPLACE LIGHT FIXTURE (2 PER CALL)
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