

NICHOLAS D. D'ANGELO
ATTORNEY AT LAW

Representation YOU can TRUST

PERSONAL INJURY | CRIMINAL DEFENSE
FAMILY LAW | MATRIMONIAL LAW
"A PIONEER IN THE FAMILY LAW FIELD WITH RESPECT TO NON-BIOLOGICAL PARENTAL RIGHTS."

OFFICES IN NIAGARA FALLS & LOCKPORT
717 PINE AVENUE NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301
365 MARKET STREET LOCKPORT, NY 14094

716 990-3677 **LAWNIAGARA.COM**




THE NIAGARA REPORTER

FREE

April 24th, 2019 - April 30th, 2019

NiagaraReporter.com

Vol. 19, No. 50

FREE

Robert M. Restaino
Attorney at Law



285-8185

SETH GETS CAUGHT

Council Chairman confirms Piccirillo had no authority to approve giving home to supporter



By: **Frank Parlato**
Analysis

Mayoral candidate Seth Piccirillo is heir apparent to Mayor Paul Dyster and, if you like what

(Cont. on pg. 2)

Dyster has done for the city, you'll love what Seth is going to do.

He seems ready to continue Dyster's long-standing policy of selling out the city to Albany interests while taking care locally of friends, family and supporters.

A perfect example is how Seth allowed a

TROUBLE?
Call **Michael White, Esq.**
998-7499

SUPER LAWYERS
OF NIAGARA COUNTY
RECOMMENDED BY:
NIAGARA REPORTER

Criminal Defense Attorney

FOOD AT THE FOLD



COUPONS - REVIEWS - SPECIALS
@ THE CENTER PAGE

FOOD AT THE FOLD



COUPONS - REVIEWS - SPECIALS
@ THE CENTER PAGE

HOME MAINTENANCE ENTERPRISE INC.



No Job Is Too Big or Too Small. Make The Call & Let Us Take Care Of It All!!!

Voted **Best of the Best** by North Tonawanda Extra

310-9882

Stronger Working Together

By: **Robert M. Restaino**
Candidate for Mayor of NF

In recent years we have all watched as government officials, at every level of government, fail to collaborate with one another because of political affiliations or vendettas. Niagara Falls has seen its share of City Hall officials that fail to work with governmental partners and neighboring towns to the detriment of city taxpayers. For too long we have seen city officials ignore opportunities to collaborate with other levels of government

(Cont. on pg. 2)

Rollout for 'Slow Roll' Event Idea Criticized by Common Council

By: **Brendan McDonough**

The "Slow Roll" is a bike ride set to take place this summer and Alderman-at-Large Bob Pecoraro is up in arms.

Rather than hearing about the event from his fellow alderman on the Common Council, he had to read about it in

(Cont. on pg. 6)

Advertise your business with the Niagara Reporter!!

Over 10,000 papers printed weekly throughout Niagara County

Over 3,000 online subscribers

Over 100,000 website visits per month

Over 50,000 reached on social media daily

Call: **(716) 870-1175**

Now Hiring FULL or PART Time Sales Position

(716) 870-1175

Proudly representing Wheatfield and North Tonawanda



ELECT JESSE GOOCH
NIAGARA COUNTY
*** LEGISLATOR ***
7TH DISTRICT

FATHER - LEGISLATOR - ENTREPRENEUR



NIAGARA FALLS

Corruption Cont.

supporter to wind up with a valuable house without bothering the council about it – as required by law.

Readers of the Reporter know some of the story:

Ryan Cali and Mathew Melcher purchased 424 Memorial Parkway from the City of Niagara Falls for \$1,000 in 2017. The house is assessed for \$48,000. It was a giveaway price, sure, but because the couple promised to fix the house and live in it, the council approved the sale.

Cali and Melcher got the house on one condition: That they fix it up and move into it. If not, the house had to be deeded back to the city. This is called a “reverter clause”. The house reverts back to the city if the couple didn’t fulfill the terms of their agreement.

Cali told the Reporter she and Melcher tried to fix the house, but things happened.

“We had big plans at the time for that home,” she said. She and Melcher cleaned the house and removed “pee-soaked carpets” and “got the house inspected. We hired a contractor. We designed blueprints. And then we broke up.”

Cali and Melcher – who never moved in – sold the house to neighbor Karen Mock for \$10,000.

This was in violation of the agreement with the city. But one cannot entirely blame Cali and Melcher. They knew they had a contract that required them to fix the house and live in it or deed it back to the city. But they went to Seth Piccirillo, community development director and acting head of code enforcement.

For some reason, Piccirillo told Cali and Melcher they could sell the house – he would approve it – without them giving it back to the city, provided they sold it to Karen Mock.

Mock, a realtor, is one of Seth’s supporters and a member of Mayor Dyster’s Healthy Community Committee.

Cali said, “We went to Seth and begged Seth to consider an extenuating circumstance on our behalf. He said, ‘Yes,’ he would do that for us. So he allowed us to sell the house to Karen. Karen ... knew that she would never be able to get it”

without Seth.

Piccirillo approved the transfer and Mock got a house without competitive bidding. Some say the house is worth at least \$30,000.

Mock, who was not planning to live in the house, already owns a home across the street as well as other properties. At least one of her properties on the street she got from the city for \$500.

One neighbor said, with Seth’s help, “she’s treating the neighborhood like a Monopoly board.”

Mock said she wanted to buy the house for her son to live in. But even after getting the house, no one moved in. It remains vacant.

All of this slippery dealing would have slipped under the radar and Mock would have gotten a sweetheart price for the home but things got botched up when the Memorial Parkway Block Club found out about the hazy deal and made complaints with state and federal officials asking them to investigate “irregularities” in Seth’s handling of the property.

The Buffalo News and the Niagara Reporter found out and reported it, which left Seth – in the middle of a mayoral campaign – scrambling to explain.

Seth quickly shifted gears, saying he now wanted the city to buy back the property from Mock and to use taxpayer money to reimburse Mock for the \$10,000 purchase he approved.

In other words, the city sold the property for \$1,000 and he wants taxpayers to pay Mock \$10,000.

So whose fault is it anyway? The Reporter asked Cali if she misled Mock in any way?

She said, “No, [Seth] gave us the green light.”

Cali said she didn’t know it wasn’t up to Seth to approve the sale to Mock and that by law he was required to go to the Council for approval.

According to one neighbor, the 5-bedroom, 3,100 square foot home is worth more than the \$10,000 Mock paid for it.

The neighbor said, “Though they are boarded up, the windows are in good condition. That house is in good shape structurally. There is a half bath in the basement, a full bath on the second floor

and a full bath in the finished attic. Then there’s the garage. Servants used to live in two bays in the garage. There is a mural painted on the wall going up the stairs, and it’s got a fireplace with a mirror and copper on the sides. There are wall sconces in the basement. That’s where the doctor who used to live there had offices. The basement is completely finished. There’s a bar down there.”

Seth has declined to be interviewed by the Reporter. He did issue a lengthy written statement explaining everything about the sale of the property except why he approved the sale to a supporter.

“From day one, we have tried to give the community what they are looking for,” he said. “In fact, we have went above and beyond. It has been a complicated process, but as always, we remain committed to seeing this house renovated,” he wrote.

The Reporter agrees with Seth on one point: He did go “above and beyond” -- the law – and it became “complicated” after Seth broke the rules.

Seth goes on to admit that in four other cases, properties may have been sold illegally.

“NFC... has dealt with similar situations in the past,” he wrote in his statement and gave information about what seems to be suspicious sales on Ferry Avenue and McKoon where transfers of city property occurred – he claims – because of hardship – but does not say whether he got council approval to make the transfers.

Seth concludes by saying, “no processes were violated.”

Council Chairman Andrew Touma disagrees.

“It’s always supposed to go back to Council if there is a change in ownership,” Touma said. “If things didn’t go well with that particular bidder [Cali and Melcher], it’s supposed to revert back to the city so the council makes a decision on who the new owner should be. It’s just a matter that it should have gone back to Council and it didn’t.”

Of Seth’s violation of the law, Touma put it kindly: “He made a mistake. He didn’t go through the proper protocol and he needs to. The council is going to make sure that we make this right.”

But what is right?

On April 30th, Piccirillo wants the City Council to vote to pay Mock \$10,000 to buy back the house the city originally sold for \$1,000. Councilman Kenny Thomkins said that is not going to happen.

“There is not one councilmember willing to vote to buy the property back for \$10,000 or at any price. We are going to consult with legal counsel.”

Meantime, the Memorial Parkway Block Club sent complaints to the State Comptroller’s Office and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, demanding an investigation into Piccirillo’s “inconsistencies.”

A member of the block club said they also plan to send a letter to New York State Attorney General.

In the interest of full disclosure, this is not the first time Seth arranged to help Mock.

In 2016, he persuaded the council to approve selling her a city-owned Chilton Avenue apartment house for only \$500. The Chilton Ave. property had an assessed value of \$37,260.

Ron Anderluh, of the Niagara Street Area Business Association, characterized the price as “very, very low” at the time.

Mock sat on the subcommittee of Mayor Dyster’s Healthy Community Committee at the time and Piccirillo argued that it was natural that someone on Dyster’s committee should get the house.

“It doesn’t surprise me that someone involved in the group was interested in that vacant property,” he said. “But I don’t think there’s a headline — member gets a sweetheart deal — that’s really not the case.”

Still block club members say it’s suspicious.

“It’s like, well, you get on the committee, maybe you’ll get something. This is very suspect, you know, to compensate. Volunteers are supposed to be volunteering, without compensation,” a block club member told the reporter.

And now, it seems, the Block Club has had enough of Seth’s “irregular” dealings.

“We would appreciate your investigation into this matter,” the Block Club wrote to authorities at HUD and the State Comptroller’s Office.

Stronger Together Cont.

because of petty political differences involving elected officials and/or department heads or because of City Hall’s desire to maintain control over a project from start to finish. For too long now Niagara Falls has cut itself off from the rest of the county and City Hall has placed the burden on all of us to support its antiquated view of how local government should function. For decades Niagara Falls has separated itself from its neighbors either unable or unwilling to cooperate in projects because of political bickering and now pushing the city to the brink of fiscal disaster. As your mayor I can assure you that this petty political nonsense will not interfere with decisions our city will need to bring back fiscal stability.

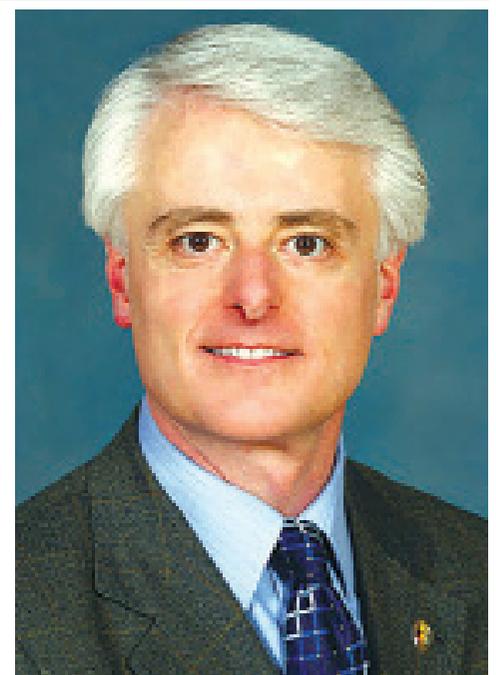
We live in an extremely competitive economic environment and it is terribly short sighted to neglect opportunities to maximize our resources through collaborative engagement with Niagara County, the Niagara Falls School District, the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, the Niagara Falls Water Board and the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission. Earlier in 2018, a fellow member of the Niagara Falls School Board asked that we convene a

joint session of the School Board and the City Council to discuss the issues of mutual importance to both. At that meeting I requested our administrative staff, under the direction of our School Superintendent, to work with their respective counterparts in City Hall to find areas where we could work together in service delivery to city taxpayers and I requested monthly updates on our progress. Unfortunately, to date no progress has been made, despite the fact that school district personnel have presented possible alternatives. Also while the school district has provided funding for additional safety officers to be stationed in our schools, adding to the level of city law enforcement, that isn’t a cost saving cooperative government project but rather a purchase of services by one city government entity from another. With a bit of ingenuity and trust we can make changes to the way we deliver services in our city while helping to avoid duplication of effort and expense.

Regions that are expanding and developing have learned the lesson that working together we can achieve more than simply “going it alone”. By advancing opportunities to work collaboratively with these governmental agencies, we can provide cost effective government. Working with our neigh-

boring communities we can establish meaningful opportunities for development and job creation for the greater Niagara Falls region. By cooperating with our neighboring localities and governmental partners Niagara Falls can lead the growth of Western Niagara County. To achieve this goal we will need to commit ourselves to rejecting the old days of political division and recognize that there isn’t a Republican answer or a Democrat answer, there is only the right answer for Niagara Falls.

This will require a mayor who can put the partisanship “on the shelf” for the benefit of the residents of Niagara Falls, a mayor that has proven a willingness to work with and for all individuals regardless of political party. In my private practice and public service I have measured my commitment not by political affiliation of the person or group but rather by what is right or by the good that it will bring to the community. I can assure you as the mayor of Niagara Falls I will continue to assess efforts to improve our community on those same terms and work toward bringing growth and prosperity to our City. So many of the challenges the city faces today, are a product of government that elevates politics over progress. In order to bring the change we need it’s important to focus on a



Robert M. Restaino, Candidate for Mayor of Niagara Falls.

better way to govern. Working together with our neighboring communities and government partners we can set a new course for Niagara Falls, I know that I am committed to that task and ready to bring a brighter future to our city.

NIAGARA MAYORAL RACE

And Then Jeffrey Elders Makes Four?



Ken Hamilton

When Fran Met Tim

The then-incumbent Democrat Francine Delmonte had run against and defeated Republican Town of Wheatfield Supervisor Timothy Demler in the 138th Assembly Race of 2002. But when the votes were officially counted, both were upset with me, each having thought that I had voted for the other, and for the next few months I no longer counted to either. Seventeen years later, with the mayoral race of 2019, I think that I might find myself in a similar predicament.

In the Delmonte-Demler race, I

complained to then-Senator George Maziarz that I generally am not particularly a fan of the Democrat's politics, but Delmonte always returns my calls; and while I like Demler's politics, he never returns any. Maziarz responded, "Don't worry, he never returns mine either!" Because I personally liked each a lot, when I went into the polls I couldn't choose between them and skipped voting for either. Now I fear that 2002 will replay itself in terms of the mayoral race where the four potential candidates, all of which are desirable, and of all I believe I could easily work to get good things done.

They are, in alphabetical order, former City Councilman Glenn Choolokian, Community Development Director Seth Piccirillo, and Board of Education member attorney Robert Restaino. And there is also what is politically considered to be a dark horse in the race: independently-running candidate and African-American, USAF veteran Jeffrey Elders.

A Band of Associates

After a meeting with then-Councilman Choolokian, he was quickly able to get north Main Street designated as an Entertainment Zone with enhanced inspection powers to clean the area in preparation of developers exploring the

placement of a National Comedy Hall of Fame.

Likewise, years after the success with the Legends Park project, I met with Piccirillo to discuss taking the planned inline hockey rink from Legends and making a full-scale skate board park in the Hyde Park-area. I was amazed at how quickly he got the job done.

And when I introduced the concept of an "International" theme for the Kalfas Magnet School, board member Restaino asked the only affirming question about it. The program is effectively moving forward.

Elders' Method to "Make it Happen"

Elders, whom like myself, is a veteran, which I like. His campaign indicates that he is a nuance-thinker. But his independent campaign and the likelihood of establishing his own party are usually considered a fool's errand and is almost impossible to make happen.

Elders' text message response to my request for a statement simply said that, "I have told your representatives that I have no comments at this time. When the time comes I will let you know." I thanked him for it, and then did some additional research.

There is a provision in NYS Election Law found at: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/RunningOffice.html>

for running independent petitions after the deadline for established party petitions. In brief, the site says, "To run for office on a line other than an official party line, one must file an independent nominating petition. (...) Any registered voter who has not already signed a designating petition, and who is qualified to vote for an office, may sign an independent nominating petition for that office."

I am not sure whose political race Elders' run will hurt or help the most; or if by some fluke of nature he can actually win. Both Presidents Carter and Trump proves that miracles happen. Nonetheless, he adds even more interest to an already series of interesting races; and if successful in getting the prerequisite number of signatures, Elders at least assures himself of being somewhere on the ballot. His race is likely a future template of more to come.

And Then There Were Four?

Seemingly, at the very least, the race to captain the Titanic is now full speed ahead. Now I wonder how Fran and Tim are getting along 17-years later. I still like both of them. What a predicament!

Niagara Falls GOP Chairman Says City Needs New Leadership

Tony Farina

Buoyed by a strong turnout of over 200 people at a recent fundraiser for council, candidate John Spanbauer, Niagara Falls Republican City Chairman Bill Carroll says the GOP appears poised to answer the call for new leadership when voters go to the polls in November with two seats on the ballot.

"I'm very optimistic," says Carroll, obviously energized by the big showing of support for Spanbauer at last Thursday's event at the American Legion Hall on Buffalo Ave. "People are looking for conservative financial leadership as the city faces numerous challenges, and our candidates will carry that message."

Carroll says the current administration has ignored calls to stop using casino money to balance the city's books and now that the casino cash has dried up, "we've reached the breaking point and our credit-worthiness is in the toilet."

The city's bond rating has continued to drop due to the loss of the casino revenue sharing payments to the state, which ended in 2017. Despite a recent arbitration panel's order to the Seneca Nation to pay

the state more \$255 million to catch up, as we reported last week, it appears the Senecas may continue to challenge the ruling, saying it violates federal law.

Carroll warns as the gaming fight continues, the city's fiscal crisis is growing and says the possible continuation of the gaming standoff coupled with the \$12.2 million loan from the state the city used to balance this year's budget means "we could be \$22 million upside down next year," adding it is time for new leadership at the local level.

Spanbauer, a former administrator at Niagara University and a college professor, is making his first run for public office and said in his announcement last month that his goal as a city lawmaker would be to focus on fiscal responsibility both in expenditures and revenues.

Spanbauer is one of three Republicans seeking to represent the party in the race for the two open council seats. He will compete against incumbent Kenneth Tompkins and Candace Corsaro in the June 25 GOP primary for the right to face Democrats Alicia Kenyon and Donta Myles in November.

Republican Chairman Carroll



says he is confident the GOP will raise the money to carry the fight to the Democrats in November and possibly take control of the council which currently is held by Democrats by a 3 - 2 margin.

"The two Democrats are closely tied with the existing leadership," says Carroll, "and we need new leadership to help Niagara Falls move forward. Our candidates will bring new ideas to city government, and I'm confident voters are ready for a change."

Carroll praised his candidates, adding that Tompkins will receive the DeWitt Clinton award on May 1

from the Grand Lodge of New York, Order of Masons, "for demonstrating exceptional voluntary service to the community." The award is given annually to a non-Mason who is worthy of the honor.

The race for mayor could likely be decided in the June Democratic primary as former City Judge Robert Restaino goes head-to-head against Seth Piccirillo, the city's community development director under outgoing Mayor Paul Dyster. Former councilmember Glenn Choolokian will carry the GOP flag in November, although most experts regard him as a longshot at best.



FOOD AT THE FOLD

Como Offering Up More Than Just Great Italian Food

Tony Farina

The iconic Como Restaurant on Pine Ave. in Niagara Falls, founded in 1927 by Frank Antonacci, is still serving up the outstanding old-world Italian cuisine that has made it famous, and guests from near and far stop by to enjoy a meal and the warm and friendly service that goes with it, courtesy of the Antonacci and Colucci families who still treat guests like visiting royalty.

The Como, at 2220 Pine Ave., recently expanded its brand with a new deli on Center Street in Lew-

iston which opened last month and is packing them in, according to Dominic Colucci, Jr., who along with his son Dominic III and Louis Antonacci have helped the little gem get off to a terrific start.

But while the new deli and its adjacent patio are drawing rave reviews, the original Como is still a favorite for many locals and out-of-town guests as the tourist season begins to unwind. We want to just mention a few of the special events that are coming up at the "old" Como on Pine Ave.

Let's start with the man known for singing Sinatra throughout the area, the well-known and popular Jack Civiletto who will be performing at the Como on Friday, May 3, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For fans of old Blue Eyes, and there are many of us still around, it will be a terrific way to remember our youth as only a Sinatra song can do. Just ask Mario and Frank Antonacci! Stop in the bar and enjoy the stories these two could tell you about Sinatra,

Niagara Falls, or just about anything else you want to talk about at the Como bar.

Next, of course, is Mother's Day on May 12 when you can take mom to brunch at the Como and follow that up later with dinner with family and friends, a Mother's Day to remember. All of this, of course, comes with great appetizers, soups, sauce, and whatever else you might fancy in the food department.

And of course, for the wine lovers, there's the Wine & Soppresata night on May 15 beginning at 6 p.m., where the winning homemade wine makers will be honored with trophies after the contest is judged.

All this and spaghetti and meatballs, too. How can a hungry soul, Italian or not, pass up these special events as part of the Como experience in the coming season? A world where elegance and fine dining is still number one on the menu!

I'll probably see you there as this reporter has a fondness for fine Italian food from eating my moth-



er's cooking for so long. She was the best, of course, but the Como serves up a tasty dish that warms the heart and satisfies the palate. Lest I forget, there's also a Como at the Airport if you're looking for the traditional charm of the Como in LaSalle!

Good dining to all!



NiagaraRadio.net

Now Exclusive LOCAL News, Monday - Friday, from 4 - 6 pm.

Listen to the biggest Hits from the 60's, 70's and 80's,....24/7....on your PC...Laptop...iPad... BLUE TOOTH, or in your car Stereo!

STUDIO SHOW. THE PHONE CALLS ARE BACK.. MON WED & FRI AT 6:30 PM

(716) 333-3020

Got something on your mind? Then call in and be a part of the show! NiagaraRadio.Net

People's Casino

Gold Mine
Canadian money at par

FLEA MARKET 7 DAYS A WEEK!

HUGE SALE

JEWELRY Gold with diamonds and precious stones
50% OFF!

Open Daily: 10am - 8pm

COLLECTIBLE COINS

CANADIAN \$ AT PAR WE BUY GOLD & BROKEN GOLD

2577 Military Rd. 804-3934

Highlighting Small Businesses Throughout Niagara County



COUPON
50% OFF
ANY ORDER
MAX VALUE \$5 Exp. 4/30/19
Not valid with any other offers

8442 Niagara Falls Blvd.
NF, NY | (716) 283-3322



COUPON
10% OFF
LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER
7101 Packard Rd.
NF, NY | 371-0297

HOURS
MON - THURS: 11AM - 11PM
FRI & SAT 11AM - 1AM
SUN: 3PM - 11PM
CITY-WIDE DELIVERY TILL 11PM

Advertise your business in our "Food at the Fold" section!!

Call
(716) 990-3677

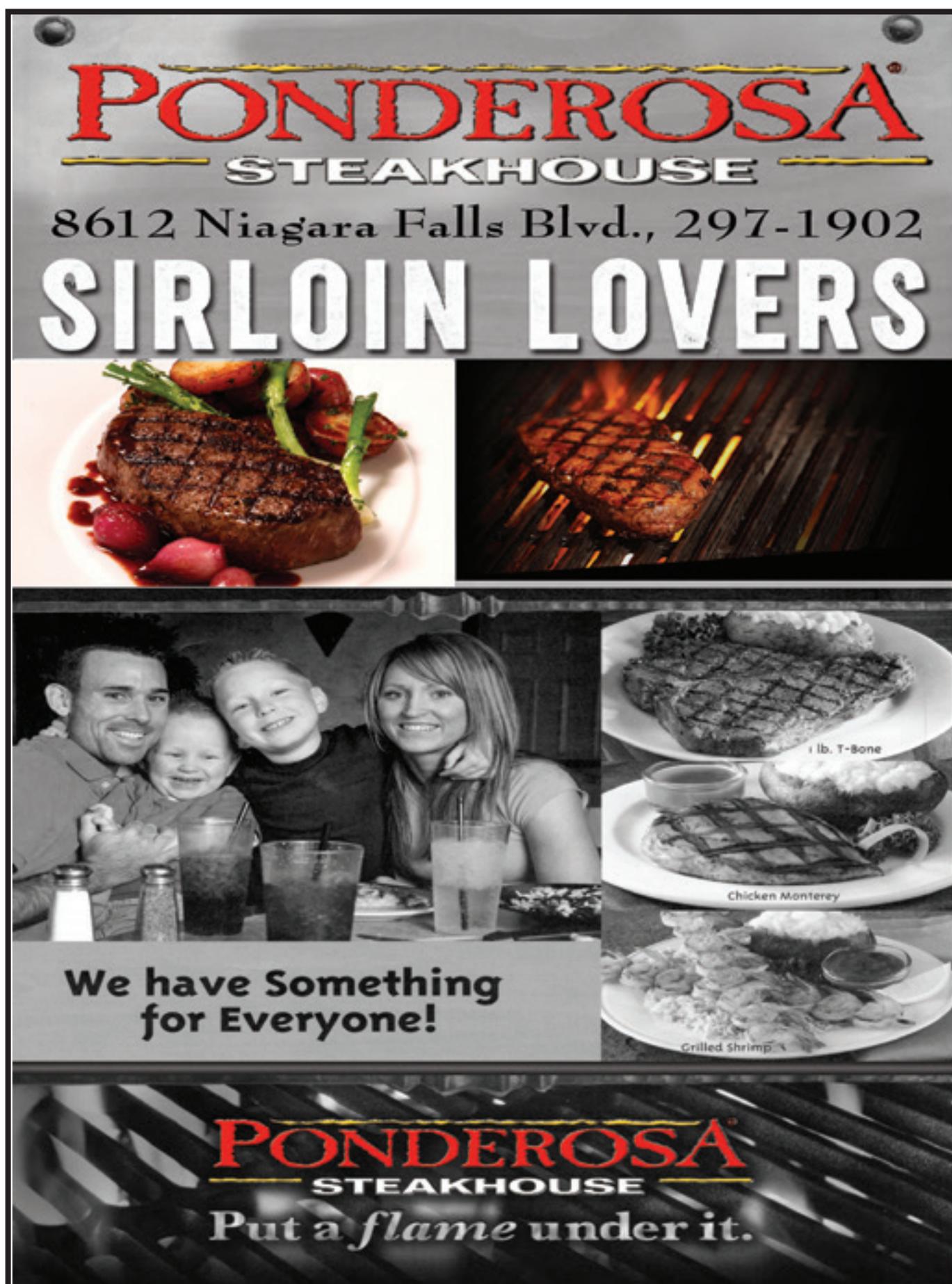
THE ORIGINAL
VENTRY'S
PIZZA SHOP
6926 Buffalo Ave.
NF, NY | 283-1555
OUR ONLY LOCATION

COUPON
TUES / WED
\$10
½ TRAY CHEESE PIZZA WITH ONE ITEM
PICK-UP ONLY



COUPON
\$5 OFF Purchase of \$45 before tax
\$10 OFF Purchase of \$65 before tax
Exp. 4/30/19
not valid w/ other offers & can only be used on hibachi grill

283-6888
283-3888
7310 Niagara Falls Blvd.



PONDEROSA
STEAKHOUSE
8612 Niagara Falls Blvd., 297-1902
SIRLOIN LOVERS

We have Something for Everyone!

PONDEROSA
STEAKHOUSE
Put a flame under it.

Buy One Breakfast Buffet, Get One
50% OFF
Saturdays and Sundays: 8 - 11 am
With Beverage Purchase

PONDEROSA
Expires: 06/30/19
Cannot be used in combination with any other coupon, discount or promotional offer. Tax not included. Dine-in only. Valid upto party of 6 at participating Steakhouses.

Wings... Get 'em To Go!
\$3 OFF 50 Wings
\$2 OFF 25 Wings
Call ahead for Fast Pick-up.
Valid on 1st bag only. Not valid w/ Monday Wings Promotion
With Beverage Purchase

PONDEROSA
Expires: 06/30/19
Cannot be used in combination with any other coupon, discount or promotional offer. Tax not included. Valid upto party of 6 at participating Steakhouses.

\$2⁹⁹ **Kid's Buffet**
Ages 4-7
Ages 8 - 12 : \$4.99
Limit 2 per Adult meal purchase at regular price.
With Beverage Purchase

PONDEROSA
Expires: 06/30/19
Cannot be used in combination with any other coupon, discount or promotional offer. Tax not included. Dine-in only. Valid upto party of 6 at participating Steakhouses.

\$7⁹⁹ **Lunch Buffet**
\$10⁹⁹ **Dinner Buffet**
With Beverage Purchase
Lunch valid Mon-Fri: 11am - 4pm,
Dinner valid Mon-Sat after 4 pm; all day Sun.

PONDEROSA
Expires: 06/30/19
Cannot be used in combination with any other coupon, discount or promotional offer. Tax not included. Valid for up to party of 6 at participating Steakhouses.

\$6⁹⁹ **Breakfast Buffet**
With Beverage Purchase

PONDEROSA
Expires: 06/30/19
Cannot be used in combination with any other coupon, discount or promotional offer. Tax not included. Valid for up to party of 6 at participating Steakhouses.



NORTH TONAWANDA

Slow Roll Cont.

the newspaper.

“We need to hear about these things before we read about them in the newspaper,” said Pecoraro.

Alderman-at-Large Austin Tylec, along with Common Council candidate Edward Smolinski, sent out a press release announcing plans to have the event on August 31st, 2019. However, neither Tylec or Smolinski had received approval from the City for the event or worked out the details of who is going to pay for police presence to help ensure biker safety.

“We want to make sure we have this event as successful as possible,” said Pecoraro. “When Tonawanda did their’s last year, they had over two thousand bike riders and we have to make sure that whatever we do in our City is not only successful, but safe.”

A group called “Go-Bike” that organizes the Slow Roll first approached members of the North Tonawanda Common Council about holding an event in the spring of 2018. At that time the Police Chief recommended lawmakers only approve the event if two things happen. First, if the route is

cleared by the Police Department. Second, that the group agrees to reimburse the Police Department for overtime expenses necessary to have officers working the route.

The event was not held last year because the group was not able to work out an agreement with the City.

Tylec says it would cost about Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$350.00) for police presence at the event. He says the “Slow Roll” sponsors are prepared to pay that amount.

Also called into question is why no vendors or food trucks are planned to be at the event.

“If we were to do this, why would we potentially not try and make some money off of it and invite vendors,” said City Clerk / Treasurer Matt Parish. “I know with two thousand people they are going to want to do other things besides just hop on a bike and ride. In fact, I was at the last one held in Tonawanda and they had all sorts of things happening.”

But Tylec says that is not the purpose of the event.

“It is just supposed to be a



pretty relaxed event and if vendors want to show up than they can,” said Tylec.

Second Ward Alderman Donna Braun agreed more respect should have been given to members of the Council about the event before they read about it in the newspaper.

“As a Council person, if I were to sponsor an event that would require police presence, out of respect to the Council, I would put

in a letter of approval just to make sure everyone was aware of what we were doing,” said Braun. “I don’t have a problem with the Bike Roll. I just think that it would be something out of respect to the rest of the Council that a letter would be put in.”

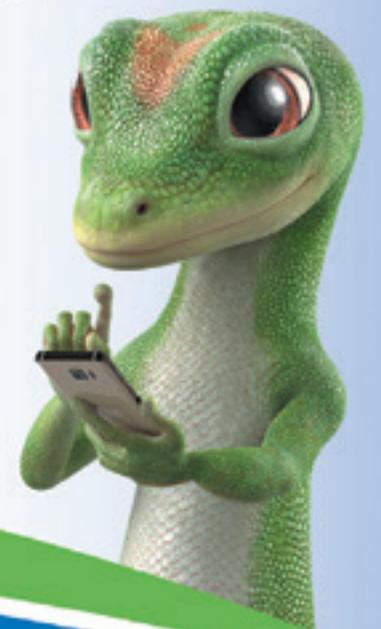
Members of the Common Council agreed to talk more about the event at the next workshop.

Personal friend of the Gecko®

Timothy C. Lynch | 716-832-3253

1330 Niagara Falls Blvd | Tonawanda, NY 14150

Across from the Boulevard Mall



GEICO
Local Office®



Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. Homeowners, renters and condo coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency, Inc. Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2018. © 2018 GEICO

Swogier Recognized by Common Council



By: Brendan McDonough

Mark Swogier is now the new goodwill ambassador for North Tonawanda. He is best known for performing his accordion at the City Market.

This week Swogier has presented a certificate from members of the Common Council. After being named the goodwill ambassador Swogier played “God Bless America” on his harmonica.

Swogier is a native of North Tonawanda and was actually one of Mayor Art Pappas’s students when he was a teacher. For City Officials there is one better than Swogier to represent the City.

“I think back to when he was sitting in my 6th grade class and he had that same smile on his face and the same

goodwill attitude towards his classmates, was always very friendly. Once in a while I had to remind him to get his work in but I never remember him having a problem with classmates. He got along so well with everyone and he has not changed, I was a little surprised to learn he played the accordion,” said Pappas.

As the City Ambassador Swogier could be called upon to attend some City events and related events. For him it’s something he is proud of.

“I am very proud, I am very honored, I am very thrilled, I am very excited. I am so blessed for this great country of ours and the City of North Tonawanda,” said Swogier.

Swogier can be seen weekends at the City Market spreading his good cheer.



Registered Apprenticeship

The US and New York State Departments of Labor recognize and monitor registered skilled apprenticeship programs in NYS and throughout the United States. The Laborers’ International Union of North America publicly promotes our successful model of labor-management registered apprenticeship programs to combat the growing emphasis on employer programs supported by taxpayers.

What is Registered Apprenticeship?

It’s a job. Apprentices start working from day one with incremental wage increases as they become more proficient.

It’s on-the-job learning and education. Registered Apprenticeship includes on-the-job learning from an assigned mentor combined with technical training provided by apprenticeship training centers, technical schools, community colleges, and institutions employing distance and computer-based learning systems.

It’s a credential. At the end of the apprenticeship, all apprentices receive a nationally recognized credential. Some apprenticeship programs offer interim credentials as apprentices achieve important milestones during their apprenticeship.

What are some advantages of Registered Apprenticeship?

The benefits to employers are: more highly skilled employees, reduced turnover rates, higher productivity, lower investment in recruitment, a more diverse workforce, a new pool of workers and the creation of career pathways. The benefits to registered apprentices are: being nationally recognized and portable credentials, improved skills and competencies, higher wages as skills increase and career advancement.

Registered Apprenticeship programs are operated by partnerships of employers, labor management organizations and government. Apprenticeship sponsors – employers, employer associations and labor-management organizations – register programs with federal and state government agencies. Sponsors provide mentors, on-the-job learning opportunities and required technical instruction to apprentices. Incorporating Registered Apprenticeship directly into your workforce development system will strengthen your local and regional economy by offering highly trained and educated residents. Let Registered Apprenticeship be your competitive advantage. Laborers’ Local 91 accepts apprenticeship applications the first Tuesday of every month from 8 AM – 12 noon at our training facility located at 4500 Witmer Industrial Estates Niagara Falls, NY 14305.

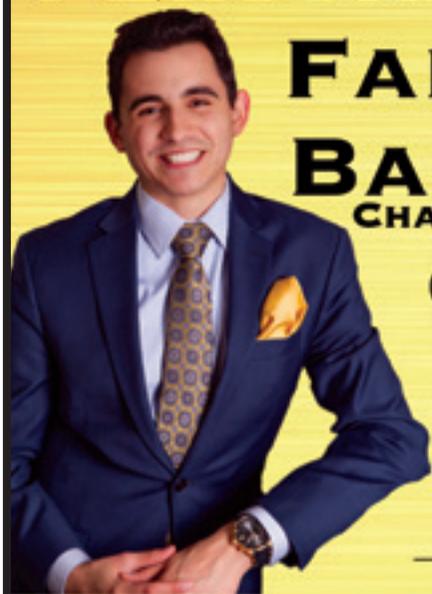
**MATRIMONIAL LAW
PERSONAL INJURY**

FAMILY LAW

BANKRUPTCY
CHAPTER 7 & CHAPTER 13

**CRIMINAL
DEFENSE**

**WILLS, TRUSTS,
& ESTATES**



**NICHOLAS D.
D'ANGELO**

ATTORNEY AT LAW

7
1
6 **990-3677**

WWW.LAWNIAGARA.COM

365 MARKET STREET, LOCKPORT NY 14094
717 PINE AVENUE, NIAGARA FALLS NY 14301

H.W. BRYK & SONS



PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING



PLUMBING HEATING COOLING BACK-UP

Why Call H.W. Bryk & Sons?



- ⊗ "Voted Niagara's Best Plumber 3 years running!"
- ⊗ Authorized factory dealer.
- ⊗ Industry leading air quality solutions & equipment.
- ⊗ Comprehensive solutions for plumbing, heating & cooling.
- ⊗ 24/7 Emergency services
- ⊗ Energy efficient equipment that exceeds federal and state standards.
- ⊗ Flexible financing.



716-297-2901 (Niagara County)

716-689-0723 (Erie County)

**APOLLO
PLUMBING**

10% OFF

Job Costing \$300 or more

LOCAL PLUMBING EXPERTS

Services we offer:

- Plumbing
- Heating
- Handyman
- Hot Water Tanks
- Roofing
- Repairs
- Home Maintenance

**SENIOR &
MILITARY
DISCOUNTS**

716-310-9882