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285-8185

Dyster's Hand-Picked Successor

Seth Piccirillo Represents the Dyster Ideals Frivolous - Extravagant - Harebrained

By: Frank Parlato
Analysis

Seth Piccirillo is the handpicked successor of Mayor Paul Dyster. Dyster chose him as a director of community development and later as acting director of code enforcement. Dyster brought him to City Hall. Voters who think Dyster has been good for the city, will want to vote for Seth Piccirillo. There are some who think Dyster hasn't done a good job. In making this assessment, perhaps the most persuasive thing was that Dyster had more than \$200 million paid to the city by the Seneca Nation of Indians as part of their Casino Compact. He had discretion on how casino money was spent. Nearly a quarter billion dollars was put into his hands to develop and build the city, about \$20 million per year. Certainly no mayor of such a small city as Niagara Falls is ever had this kind of cash infusion



to spend at his discretion. Where did it go?
Huge Deficit
Keep in mind the city has a deficit now of \$12 million.
(Cont. on pg. 2)

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

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Senecas Arguing No Bang for the Buck on Exclusivity Guarantee

By: Tony Farina

At the crux of the matter, the Seneca Nation believes the \$1.4 billion in revenue sharing it paid to the state between 2002 and 2016 under the gaming compact did not deliver the exclusivity that was negotiated under the original agreement allowing them sole access to the casino gaming market in the region. Our sources suggest the bottom line is the Senecas would like to renegotiate the 25 percent-a-year of the slot machine rev-
(Cont. on pg. 3)

Thursday's on the Water Back Again

By: Brendan McDonough

More music will soon be coming to Gratwick Park in North Tonawanda. It's all part of the annual Thursday's on the Water concert series. At Gratwick Park on Friday, June 7th, Mayor Art Pappas, along with 7th District
(Cont. on pg. 6)

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NIAGARA FALLS

Piccirillo (Cont. from cover)

million per year. By deficit, I mean, the taxes the city takes in is \$12 million less than what it takes to run city government.

During the administration of Mayor Vince Anello there was a surplus; more money on hand than what it took to run the government. During Dyster's adminis-



Mayor Paul Dyster has hand-picked Piccirillo as his successor dating back to the time he was hired.

tration, spending went up, even adjusting for inflation. Dyster was generous with taxpayers' money – and, as he spent \$200 million in casino money on various projects and boondoggles, he was spending taxpayers money in the general budget – raising salaries, giving handouts to developers, and friends, campaign supporters and not-for-profits with board members who vote. [He was elected three times].

Maybe it was well intended – but what was the result? Niagara Falls has a \$12 million a year deficit, and \$200 million of casino cash is gone.

Dyster took spending to new levels. In one of the poorest cities in America – people who work at city hall started getting \$100,000 per year salaries. He wanted the best and brightest. Did we get the best? Not judging from the results.

Spendthrift Mayor

He is a spendthrift mayor – who spent taxpayers' money fast and loose – without regard to how hard it is to make money to pay taxes, that taxes come from the toil of people – not from thin air. The more money Dyster spent, the poorer the city became.

Faced with the day of reckoning – a budget \$12 million more in expenses than income, Dyster never made cuts in spending.

I suppose Dyster knows that if the city goes bankrupt, a control board will be imposed by the state and decisions about spending will be up to the control board. They'll force the city to do what Dyster did not, something that must be done: cut expenses.

When you think about this \$12 million deficit Dyster brought to the city, it may help you decide whether you want Piccirillo as your next mayor. You might opt for something different; his opponent, Robert Restaino. For Democrats, the choice will be made on June 25. That's the date the primary occurs. It used to be in September. Now it's June. If you want to choose Piccirillo or Restaino, you need to go to the polls on Tuesday, June 25.

Dyster Fumbles on Seneca Renewal

One of the remarkable things Dyster failed to do – an extraordinary blunder – was he failed to oversee negotiations with the Senecas when it came time to renew

their compact.

When the compact expired on their tax-free 50 acres in downtown Niagara Falls – where they can operate based on the notion that one race should have preference over others – and they were given the right to operate a tax free casino where they pay no state, county or city taxes on any businesses they chose to operate – restaurants, gas stations, stores – in direct competition with US owned taxpaying businesses in Niagara Falls – Dyster failed to make sure the Senecas paid something for this advantage.

He blew his own \$20 million per year casino money by failing to pay attention.

The Senecas had been paying a percentage of slot machine revenue to the state and out of what they paid the state, Niagara Falls got about \$20 million a year.

whether it was corruption or stupidity – when the governor renewed the Seneca compact – he forgot to put in any payments from the Senecas to the state or Niagara Falls.

The governor made the blunder. Dyster, who is in charge of the city, did not bother to ensure that his city got their share of casino money. The Senecas got their 50 acres rent and tax free.

In any other world – where people are held accountable – Cuomo and Dyster would have been fired. But nobody here cares or understood the incompetence – which is why a world-famous city with a world-famous waterfalls and the greatest natural hydropower in the world is broke.

Dyster let \$20 million a year go out the window. We have a \$12 million a year deficit and no one has answers.

Piccirillo Has a Notion

Our erstwhile mayor, Seth Piccirillo says he has answers. He wants to reassess every property in Niagara Falls. He says it will reduce taxes for people paying too much and raise taxes on those paying too little.

His reassessment plan is hazy. Nobody knows, including him, how his tax reassessment is going to work. In general terms, he says he is going to tax land at a higher rate and structures on the land [houses, buildings, etc.] at a lower rate. This will create disparities; some of the most expensive properties are on comparatively smaller lots and therefore will pay lower taxes – for land will be taxed more than buildings.

If you vote for Seth, and he is elected, you won't know what your taxes are going to be in the future. It's going to be reassessed but not based on market value. He is not proposing lowering taxes, just changing the amount everyone is assessed at. Some will pay more, some will pay less. A vote for Seth means you won't know what your taxes are going to be in the future.

I doubt Piccirillo's reassessment plan will work. It's frivolous, and, if you will pardon the expression, rather Dysteresque.



The first house Seth Piccirillo renovated fell down. Fortunately no one was in the home at the time.

More Hare Brained Notions

As Seth talks about changing the way property taxes are assessed, but can't give exact figures, one might care to consider he's the same guy who painted fire hydrants



into leprechauns and dalmatians and never realized the fire department paint hydrants yellow or red for a reason.

He painted broken down, vacant, windowless houses with rainbow colors. He thought it would make a dilapidated city look cheerful instead of drawing attention to the blight.

He had a notion he would pay people to live in the city. In most cities people pay to get there. But Seth came up with a taxpayer-funded scheme – to be the only city in America to pay people to live here. He wanted to give them \$350 a month if they came and lived in certain neighborhoods and were college grads. It got media attention all over the world. It sounded great. What a novel idea. One side effect was that in every media report they added that Niagara Falls was such a broken down, rundown city that nobody wanted to live here – unless they were paid.

The media showed more pictures of rundown properties than they showed of Seth himself. He got Niagara Falls a million dollars worth of bad publicity.

And after the great press Seth got, there was no follow up [except in the Reporter] to report that the plan never worked. Nobody – even for \$350 a month – wanted to come live here.

But hundreds of people moved out of Niagara Falls. When Dyster got here, it was estimated there was about 51,000 people. Now it is about 47,000 people or less.

Fire Station Should Have Been Torn Down

Seth wanted to fix an old fire station on College Street, an old brick building not worth fixing. Everyone knew it; building inspectors told Seth it will cost more to fix than it would take to tear it down and build a brand new building three times the size.

Seth wanted to do it. It's not clear why. He got \$500,000 and tried to fix the roof, only to find the walls were collapsing. The building is still vacant after years, and far more than \$500,000 was spent.

It's not the end of the world for a city to waste money on a roof of a building that should have been demolished. It just shows the way they do things, Dyster and Piccirillo.

Dyster spent \$200 million of casino money on all kinds of notions from Hard Rock concerts [that he exceeded] to a Holiday Market no one attended. It isn't the \$500,000 for the Holiday Market or \$700,000 for Hard Rock concerts or \$500,000 for a roof on a building that was falling down. It's the way they do things.

A House Collapses

Seth spent a lot of money on his Isaiah 61 project which was so dishonest that it is matter for another story. On one house he was trying to fix, he took the beams out in the attic. Thankfully when the house collapsed it did not fall on anyone inside.

Project after project have been failures. Some reek of possible integrity issues such as how 424 Memorial Parkway was supposed to go to the city but wound up in the hands of a supporter.

Maybe it was just self-serving incompetence.

Seth now wants a brand new kind of tax reassessment where nobody actually knows what's going to happen with their taxes. It's another notion.

It doesn't matter for no one will hold him accountable anyway.

For all his adult life, Seth has had no accountability. He lives off taxpayer money. He's never worked in the private sector. He worked for Assembly member Francine Delmonte and NFTA. Then he got appointed by Dyster to a \$100,000 plus job [counting benefits] in a city where the average income is about \$25,000 per year.

I doubt he could earn much in the private sector.

Dyster's Legacy

Never was there a greater disparity between the governed and government. Those who govern make more money by far than those governed. It's unique, because in most places, government workers are public servants. They're not supposed to make the highest salaries, [They often have the best pensions, and the shortest hours] but they usually do not make far more than the average worker in the private sector and they did not until Dyster raised city hall salaries.

Niagara Falls has one of the most expensive governments of any city its size in America.

It helps Seth. Everyone who votes for higher pay at City Hall – and their families – want him elected to make sure [at least until the control board comes and fires half of them] that there are no cuts in salaries, only raises. Seth can be depended on not to cut expenses, even if there is a \$12 million deficit.

People who might benefit by a change from incompetence and frivolity and special interests – to common sense and practical government [which Restaino, in my opinion, represents] may not vote on June 25.

So Piccirillo has an advantage. His voters – though in the minority – know to vote. The majority won't; only 10 percent of registered voters are expected to vote in the June 25 primary.

Moving Away from Dyster-Piccirillo

Should you want something different, something to change from where we've been to where we might be – a city that could be prosperous and ought to be prosperous, considering it has tourism and hydropower but is not prosperous – you might want to think about voting June 25.

I can assure you the Dyster people will be rushing to the polls to vote for Seth Piccirillo.



Niagara Falls Mayoral Candidate Robert M. Restaino.

Chris's Corner: Advice for Our Next Mayor

Chris Voccio is a Niagara Falls City Council member and can be reached at ChrisVoccio@gmail.com.



Chris Voccio
NF City Councilman

As you read this, we're fast approaching the June 25th primary election and from there we march towards the November general election. Because of the makeup of the Niagara Falls electorate, and if history is any guide, our next mayor will be chosen on June 25th.

He'll be walking into a fiscal mess. Even if the dispute with the Senecas has been resolved, we'll still have a gaping budget deficit. If the casino revenue issue hasn't been resolved, the current mayor and Council will have been forced to make some drastic decisions, and the next mayor will need to repair the damage and build a new, more affordable city government structure.

Either way, here are a few things I would recommend, in no particu-

lar order, the next mayor do immediately:

Don't let the budget you inherit bind your hands

The current mayor will present a proposed budget in September. The City Council will tinker with it on the margins, so you, as our new mayor when sworn in on January 1st, will inherit someone else's budget.

It will be easy to accept that fate and live by that budget until the next round of budgeting in 2020. Nonsense. Announce expense cuts on January 1st, to be made as rapidly as your team can execute them. You should begin reducing expenses immediately, building a budget surplus as we move through the year and, more importantly, sending a strong message that we are going to right-size government.

You also need to sell city employees and their unions, the City Council and the populace as a whole, on the importance of investing the casino revenues into enduring projects (infrastructure and economic development) and not pumping these monies into our budget. Let's work to get spending levels down to recurring revenue levels, using the casino revenues to rebuild the city.

But do this on Day One, not in your second year in office merely because you inherited someone else's budget.

We need a balance between management and the unions

It is imperative that you build a strong management team, and I'm sure you've already decided on at least a few of the department heads who will make up your cabinet. In addition to these people being competent, your team must declare loyalty to taxpayers first and foremost.

We need the people who report directly to you to understand they are management, which means they represent the interests of the city (the taxpayers) and not the municipal unions. There cannot be dual-loyalties here.

Sure, your inner-circle needs to care for and support their employees (whether they be police, fire, DPW or any other city personnel), but these employees belong to unions that have union officials representing them. Your department heads should not, under any circumstances, belong to any of the unions. Period.

They must understand that in the balance between management and unions, they are management.

Ditch the reserved parking signs at City Hall

A small but meaningful symbolic gesture would be to immediately remove all City Hall parking lot signage that reserves parking spots closest to City Hall for various city officials, including the five City Council members, the Mayor and

various other government employees.

If we're going to have any reserved spots (other than handicap parking spots), those signs should read, "Reserved for Taxpayers."

Build relationships with the Senecas and our other neighbors

Another must is to forge a strong relationship with our Seneca friends. Their casino is within our city limits, and we both have an interest in a more prosperous Niagara Falls. The millions of dollars they've invested into improving their facility, especially the outside improvements, benefit Niagara Falls.

Build a strong relationship with Seneca leadership and let's explore ways we can work together for our mutual benefit, regardless of the casino revenue resolution.

While we're on the subject of forging relationships, there are a multitude of synergies that can be had from working with nearby towns, Niagara County, the school district, NU and more. We need strong alliances that are mutually beneficial.

You'll have at least one new Council member, and I'm predicting you'll have a Republican majority Council, the first in decades. If you're committed to a more sensible fiscal policy, you'll have a Council eager to work alongside you for a better, stronger Niagara Falls.

Seneca Cont.

enue it was required to pay the state under the initial compact given the violations in the exclusivity guarantees it believes have taken place in violation of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. In short, they argue they paid for exclusivity and didn't get it, and therefore all bets should be off.

To that end, the Senecas are now challenging the arbitration panel ruling last January that says the tribe owes the state \$256 billion dating from 2017 when the Senecas stopped making payments. The Senecas sought a review of the panel's award by the Dept. of the Interior, but that went nowhere without the state joining the request. So now, the Senecas have taken their case to federal court in Buffalo.

We can report that the federal lawsuit filed in Buffalo has been assigned to Judge William Skretny but as of press time, nothing has been scheduled.

While the battle between the state and the Senecas continues, the three host casino cities are left to wonder when, or even if, they will receive the gaming money they have put in their budgets. The numbers are big: \$30 million for Niagara Falls, \$17 million for Buffalo, and \$12 million for Salamanca.

"We've been told that the city will start to feel the cash flow problem in July," says Niagara Falls Councilman Chris Voccio. "We've also been told by the mayor [Paul Dyster] that Gov. Cuomo will deliver on the \$12 million he guaranteed we would receive from the state if the casino money doesn't come."

It is virtually impossible at this point to venture a guess as to when there will be a final decision in this second gaming war between the state and the Senecas and whether if there is an agreement it will be the same as before.

The Senecas claim the arbitration award functions as an amendment to the compact because it requires payments to continue beyond what's required in the language of the compact.

Seneca Nation President Rickey Armstrong said in a statement the arbitration panel's decision and amendment must concur with federal law "and right now, the amendment and the law conflict with one another. The only other alternative to resolve the matter would be for the Nation and the state to come to some agreement and jointly submit it to the Department of the Interior for review. The Nation is open to those discussions."

The state insists the Senecas must stop fighting the arbitration



panel ruling and continue with the payments provided in the original compact even though the payment language ends in 2016 and the state never questioned it at the time.

Now the matter is totally up in the air. The three host cities, especially Niagara Falls, are desperate for the money. With or without it, Councilman Voccio is firm in his belief that the city must cut expenses and begin that process immediately even though it is a political minefield when it comes to dealing with city bargaining units.

The two Democratic candidates facing off June 25 in the primary have both said the city must get involved in negotiations with the Senecas and especially going

forward in a new compact after the expiration of the current agreement in 2023. But if the slot payments don't start soon and continue, Niagara Falls lawmakers will be up the river without a paddle.

Who's to blame? Well, there's enough blame to go around, but certainly the state is the biggest culprit here by not reading the fine print in the compact when it was extended back in 2016 when there was no language for the slot payments to continue. The Senecas read the compact and stopped paying. The state missed the boat and is now hoping they will live to collect another day unless the Senecas prevail in their challenge.

Stay tuned!



THE CRIME

WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 500 block of 77th Street in the early morning hours of Tuesday, June 4th, 2019, after reports of shots fired. According to police, two shotgun casings were found in the street. No injuries were reported, but one property did sustain damage in the form of a broken window which had been shot by suspects.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1800 block of Willow Avenue and the 1500 block of 22nd Street in the late hours of Thursday, June 6th, after reports of shots fired. According to reports, two juveniles were shot after they allegedly tried to rob an individual.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 5900 block of Buffalo Avenue in the early morning hours of Friday, June 7th, after reports that a customer allegedly took a TV off of the wall and left some cocaine behind in the room. It is unclear whether he left the cocaine as payment for the TV or whether the suspect was in such a hurry he forgot it.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to Players Bar on Niagara Street in the early morning hours of Saturday, June 8, 2019, after reports of a triple shooting. According to reports, two males and one female were shot outside of the bar. The two male was transported to a hospital by private vehicle and the female was transported by AMR. The three victims were outside of the bar in the patio area when gunfire erupted. The women who suffered the most serious injury was shot in the stomach. One of the men was shot in the foot and the other was shot in the leg. Any witnesses with information that may be helpful and are encouraging people to call the Niagara Falls Police Department at 286-4711.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1900 block of Ferry Avenue in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 9th, 2019, after reports of shots fired.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 500 block of 5th Street in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 9th, 2019, after a vehicle pulled up alongside another and started to unload gunfire. Police say the victim is lucky to be alive.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to reports of a hostage situation after locating a missing woman that had been beaten, bloodied, and abducted from her home Saturday night. The woman was located by police with the use of a bloodhound. She was found chained, gagged, bloodied, and in need of emergency medical assistance after sustaining injuries while being raped by the aggressor. Police have yet to find the suspect, Michael Ciskiewicz, after engaging in an hours-long standoff before discovering he was not in the home.

What New Marijuana are NYS Lawmakers Smoking Increasing Age of Delinquency?



Ken Hamilton

Last week, in a meeting dedicated to finding solutions of how to reduce the crime in the city of Niagara Falls, community activist Gloria Dolson rose above the shoulders of Norma Higgs, community activist and the former assistant to NYS Supreme Court Justice Jacquelyn Koshian to take the microphone at the former Sacred Heart RC Church/now-True Bethel Niagara Church. Speaking specifically to Niagara Falls Police Superintendent Thomas Licata and Niagara County District Attorney Caroline Wojtaszek, Dolson gave her ideas about where to place patrols around the city that she thought would do the most good. Licata explained that the placement of patrols at the various times of day is premised upon what statistical data says, and based upon past histories. Not fully satisfied with the answer, Dolson sat down.

Though not present at the church, hostelier Jeffery Flach was less concerned as to 'where' the cops loitered on patrol, he said, "I want more effective policing. I want [criminals] found, arrested, prosecuted, and off the streets. I don't want excuses and I definitely don't want police acting like they can't be bothered or can't do anything because they don't have cars, or the law protects the criminals."

Dolson, the leader of the LaSalle Education Club, a group that raises money and sponsors scholarships to high school students, has a much softer view of what some may identify as the criminal element in Niagara Falls and how they should be treated by the criminal justice system than does former US Army officer Flach. He was speaking in terms of the state legislature passing a law that raises the age of juvenile delinquency from 16 to 17, compelling the officer to process the suspect much the same as a professional fisherman would do when he catches fish in a contest, measure his age (somehow), and then release him or her back onto the

streets because of their age. As Seneca Niagara Resort and Casino employee Scott Marsh put it, "The problem is that they are arrested and released the same day and arrested again."

Little wonder that the cops are spent and not as anxious to aggressively make futile arrests.

This all points to the statistics about which Licata spoke to Dolson. In many cases, the youth are that small percentage of residents who are, or who are about to become, the chronic problem and is the relatively small number of repeat offenders who rack up the greatest volume of arrests. If 14 is the prime age that youngsters hit the streets to commit crimes, due to age impunity, then increasing the age of impunity creates the potential of increasing the problem by 25%.

But where Dolson and Flach might agree is in the area of the treatment of youth while in the hands of the police. Flach's opinion is that the penalties and the sentencing of young criminals should be different than those of an adult, "... not at all okay with releasing criminals that [the police] caught, I don't care what their ages [are]. We know adults prey on children for all sorts of reasons and this is a great way to have a gang leader recruit a child army because they are beyond the law."

I agree with Flach on that one. Having lost a boy to gunfire who looked much older than his 14-years, though nearly 30-years ago, the pain of that loss still resonates inside of me. But even at 14, the boy was much smarter and more informed than we were at their age.

Nonetheless, I have to set my personal pain aside and understand the needs of society. Simple math would indicate that in doing nothing more than raising the age of delinquency, one only raises the number of exempted delinquents. Subsequently, it all raises the amount of crime and increases the number of patrols in areas where Dolson and others believe that they need to be.

Worse yet, adding the legalization of marijuana to the equation of increased ages of delinquency only increases the number of juvenile delinquents. What would be the teens' incentive not to smoke dope and then dopyly be a criminal? Studies in Colorado show that marijuana impacts the brain development of youth; therefore the youth would naturally comprehend a reduction of the risk of permanent legal consequences for anything that they do. Then they will do anything!

So then, what do rational adults do to reduce the crime around them? They move elsewhere, as they are doing in droves.

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NORTH TONAWANDA

Thursday on the Water Cont.

Legislator Jesse Gooch, announced the schedule of events and say it will be music that everyone can enjoy. The 3rd year it's been held in North Tonawanda.

"We have a venue here with that water behind us which draws the people and when they hear music, along with a venue like this they are happy, and we are happy, here in our community," said Pappas.

The first concert will be held June 20th and will run every Thursday night, except for July 4th and July 18th, between 5pm and 9pm. Those in attendance will celebrate to a wide variety of music while enjoying food and festivities for children.

"On July 25th we will have Nerds Gone Wild," said Gooch, "which will be a special day for the Nerds because it the 35th anniversary of the Movie called 'Revenge of the Nerds' and we will have a costume contest for the best 80's concert."

It is designed as a family friendly event with a rock-climbing wall and other games for the kids. Jesse Gooch is not only a business owner and an elected official, but he is also the event promoter. For him it was important to make it a night that both the kids and adults can enjoy.

"I think there needs to be more family events in Western New York," said Gooch, "and I think that it is always good to be able to go someplace where you can bring your kids and your family and feel comfortable."

This year some of the money collected from the parking fees will be donated to the Veteran's One-Stop of Western NY. Another portion will be donated to a group called Bikers Against Child Abuse, which is a smaller group based in Niagara Falls who make it their mission to advocate and fight for children who need it the most.

"Everything we have goes right to the kids," said a representative



from Bikers Against Child Abuse. "It could be bringing them into our family or sending them to therapy. We will do anything and everything we can to help victims of child abuse."

Thursday's on the Water is just a weekly event but organizers are hoping it will have a big impact on

residents and families across the area who can take some time out to celebrate good music and enjoy some family fun.

For a complete schedule of events you can check out www.thursdaysonthewater.com or www.facebook.com/ThursdaysonTheWater.

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Bathrooms Coming to Gratwick Park?



Brendan McDonough

Big changes could be coming to Gratwick Park in North Tonawanda. City officials are trying to get more than \$250,000 in grant funding to make improvements which would be available for the 2020 calendar year.

The conversations took place inside City Council Chambers where Park Department Director Alex Domaradzki, along with Community Development Director Mike Zimmerman, said they are trying to get grant funding from the Niagara Greenway Commission. The money would be used to add pavilions and high-end portable trailer bathrooms to the park. Currently Gratwick Park does not have any bathrooms.

"The issue with Gratwick Park is that it is a brownfield site," said Domaradzki. "It makes plumbing difficult to do and it is very expensive."

Gratwick Park is a popular summer destination spot and is host to the annual Thunder on the Niagara boat races, which draws thousands of visitors, as

well as the Thursday on the Water concert series which are promoted by 7th District Legislator Jesse Gooch.

According to many at the workshop, adding bathrooms are long overdue.

"We just feel that with all the goings on, with soccer, concerts, rivers edge and to have a permanent bathroom facility, I think we should go after any grant money out there because it may not be out there again," said Eric Zadzilka, Common Council President.

However, getting that grant funding can be a lengthy process.

"It will require submission to the Niagara County legislature," said Zimmerman, "and should be before the full body sometime in June. Then submission to the Greenway Commission which will happen in September and then another presentation to the host committee which will happen in November."

More discussion about possible changes to the park will happen again at the next Common Council workshop.



The Many Factors Contributing to Occupational Heat Stress

Heat can be deadly for workers. In 2017, 32 workers died from heat exposure, with 12 of them being construction workers. Every year, even more workers suffer from heat illness. In 2017, almost 2,500 workers suffered illnesses from heat exposure and over a quarter of them (650) were construction workers. Heat illnesses can range in severity from minor heat rashes to heat cramps, heat syncope (dizziness and fainting), heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which is the most deadly. Your risk of heat illness depends on more than just the temperature. There are a number of factors that increase your risk:

- **Humidity:** As the humidity increases, it feels hotter because less sweat is evaporating from your skin, which is the body's primary way to cool itself. Humidity can be a major factor in increasing risk for heat illness.
- **Solar radiation:** Working in direct sunlight can increase your risk for heat illness by about 15 percent. Just like when you drive in a car and sunlight heats up the inside even with the air conditioning on, direct sunlight can cause your internal temperature to climb.
- **Workload:** When you work hard, your muscles generate internal heat as they burn calories to give you the energy to work. The harder you work, the more heat you generate and the greater your heat illness risk.
- **Clothing:** Some jobs require workers to wear protective clothing, such as Tyvek suits for asbestos or HazMat jobs. Clothing can interfere with the body's ability to sweat, further adding to risk for heat illness.
- **Acclimatization:** Over time, the body "acclimates" or adapts to working in hot weather. It can take from a few days to a couple of weeks to adjust to working in heat, especially after time off or at the beginning of a heat wave. Overdoing it during that period can increase your risk. Employers can gradually increase workload and provide more rest breaks to allow workers time to get used to the heat.
- **Dehydration:** The body needs a lot of water to replenish what it loses through sweating. If you don't drink enough, you can suffer from dehydration and heat illness.
- **Medical conditions:** Some medications can make workers more susceptible to heat. Alcohol and highly caffeinated beverages such as energy drinks can also make you more susceptible to heat illness.

The best way employers can protect workers from heat illness is a combination of three well-known practices: water, rest and shade. In addition to these best practices, employers should allow workers time to acclimate by easing into working in heat over several days. Check weather reports in advance and pay attention to the "feels like" temperature, not just the number of degrees. Make sure all workers are trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of heat stress in themselves and their fellow workers. Everyone on site should also be trained on what actions to take to cool a person's body until emergency help arrives in the event of heat stroke.



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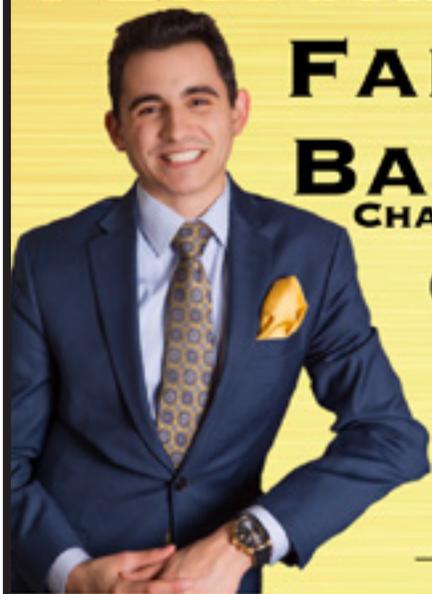
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