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HE'S OUT

Mayoral Race Now Begins in Earnest Minus Piccirillo



Former Mayoral Candidate, and current Dyster Administration Official, Seth Piccirillo.

(Cont. on pg. 3)

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THE CRIME PAGE 4
 Niagara Falls

Ortt Makes It Official; Throws Hat Into 27th District Race

By: Tony Farina

As we reported in the July 30 editions of the Niagara Reporter, State Sen. Robert Ortt was close to making a decision about running for Congress in the 27th District for the seat currently occupied by indicted Rep. Chris Collins who is facing a federal trial in February on insider trading charges. Last Saturday, in Lockport

(Cont. on pg. 10)

Restoring TRUST in Government

By: Robert M. Restaino
 Candidate for Mayor of NF

As I continue to present my platform of collaborative government, I will focus on the necessary elements of this concept that are critical for its success. In my last article, I explained why a genuine sense of "community" was the first element necessary to be developed in a collaborative approach to government. As mayor, I pledge to end the "go-it-alone" and "us-

(Cont. on pg. 2)

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Restoring Trust Cont from Cover

against-them" style of governing that has traditionally characterized past administrations.

The next critical element necessary for the success of a process of collaborative governing is "trust." When trust in city government breaks down, the administration's supporters run for cover; employee morale disintegrates; investors look elsewhere for their projects; but, most importantly, residents lose their civic resolve. I think it's fair to say that the lack of trust in City Hall has resulted in a level of citizen resentment and cynicism that discourages civic involvement.

Trust must be earned, but it can be lost very easily. When trust is lost it takes a very long time to earn it back. Reckless use of both capital and human resources is one way local government destroys trust among the various constituencies essential for its support and success. Trust in City Hall will be regained when residents, employees, the business community, and other public officials are convinced the mayor is really listening to their concerns and is making a sincere effort to effectively address those issues most important to them.

Building trust requires two-way communication with all stakeholders who expect leadership from the mayor's office. Two-way communication requires the mayor to honestly listen to recommenda-

tions for modifications in policies and programs, and for the mayor to disclose all of the factors that will impact his decisions. Anything less reinforces distrust.

To facilitate two-way communication, it is essential for the mayor to have a wide range of personal and professional experiences. As a life-long resident of Niagara Falls I have had those critical experiences that have well prepared me for a leadership role in government. As a member of the Board of Education I have been focused on developing policies and programs that are intended to provide educational advancement for our children and, hopefully, result in their becoming productive citizens. As an attorney in private practice for over 30 years I know how to listen to a person's concerns for justice and help fashion a resolution to conflict.

Building trust in city government is a straightforward process. Simply stated a mayor must be perceived as someone who is trustworthy. The mayor must demonstrate by his actions that he will do exactly what he promised to do. The mayor must be viewed as someone who shares the traditional values of his "community" and who will protect them regardless of the personal consequences for him. Basically, the mayor must demonstrate that he knows what is right and that he will act accordingly.

Assuming risk is the nature

of true leadership. A mayor will never be able to convince a private developer to risk investing in this city if that mayor hasn't demonstrated himself to be a person who does things for the right reasons. A public official who makes promises and then constantly insists that those promises were fulfilled, but has a documented voting record that proves otherwise will not earn anyone's trust.

The residents of Niagara Falls deserve a mayor who has demonstrated the political will to address problems head on and with the conviction to do what is necessary to resolve the issue.

A Restaino administration will build trust in local government through transparency and responsiveness. Constructive criticism will be addressed rationally and with civility. When challenges arise, my administration will respond quickly and directly providing a factual basis for the particular response. It's not enough for city government to be transparent in how it spends taxpayer dollars. To establish trust, my administration will disclose the financial impact of its spending of public funds.

To establish trust in my proposal for collaborative government it will be necessary for me to provide evidence of the real cost-effectiveness of shared services to town public officials and the leaders of county government. Instead of



Niagara Falls Mayoral Candidate Robert M. Restaino.

always turning inward to address the challenges of governing I will ask town and county decision makers to join with me in constructing a regional approach to the delivery of basic services.

No matter what reforms a my administration would attempt to undertake, renewing trust in the effectiveness of city government will be impossible without demonstrating a strong sense of purpose that Niagara Falls intends to work for progress in our city, and throughout Niagara County. It will require disciplined leadership and demonstrating that collaborative government will produce tangible benefits for this city and our suburban neighbors. The Restaino administration will do a better job of showing that smart government begins in City Hall.

NIAGARA



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Wilson: Lakeside Market

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

HE'S OUT: Mayoral Race Now Begins in Earnest Minus Piccirillo Cont. from Cover

Tony Farina

As Labor Day fast approaches, the political dust is settling in Niagara Falls as outgoing Mayor Paul Dyster's chosen one has officially withdrawn from campaigning on the Working Families Party line for mayor several weeks after losing a close Democratic primary to Robert Restaino.

"Time to take a step back," said Seth Piccirillo last week in a posting on social media, a decision that would appear to give a major boost to Restaino, the former Niagara Falls City Court judge who defeated Piccirillo in the June primary.

Still in the race are Republican Glenn Choolokian, who will have the GOP line but so far not the city committee's endorsement, and independent candidate Jeff Elder, a political newcomer and longshot at best.

"Piccirillo's decision not to campaign is a step forward," said former Mayor Vince Anello who told this newspaper shortly after the primary that Democrats would be best served without Piccirillo's minor party run which would have set up a potentially dangerous four-way race that could hurt Restaino. Now, the path has been cleared and Restaino looms the overwhelming favorite in the heavily Democratic cataract city.

Still unsettled is the outcome of the dispute between New York State and the Seneca Nation over revenue sharing with the city's financial well-being at stake despite emergency dollars from the state to keep

things going while the gaming fight drags on in federal court.

As one source put it, "no matter who wins [mayor's race], the city is facing tough political decisions," and that is the case, said the source, even if the Senecas finally pay the state the \$255 million an arbitration panel says is due to make up for payments it has withheld since March of 2017 in the gaming war.

As we have previously reported, the Dyster Administration kept a lid on property taxes from 2014 through 2017 by using about \$9 million a year in casino money and about \$2.9 million in reserves, a path that avoided the city making the tough political decisions to raise new revenue and reduce costs, decisions that will now have to be made by the next mayor and council.

The city considered raising about \$3 million with a garbage user fee last year that no matter the gaming outcome will most likely come into play again next year as the city must find new revenue to deal with looming budget shortfalls.

Also on the table, most likely, will be a citywide reassessment that is long overdue and tough political talks with public safety unions to find ways to reduce costs. Political observers say that will most likely come only in the form of buybacks from the unions, in other words giving up something to get something. The unions are currently being courted by all the mayoral candidates and any meaningful discussions would only occur after a new administration takes over in city hall. Right now the candidates



Three-term Mayor Paul Dyster's legacy will not be carried out under hand-selected successor Seth Piccirillo who lost to Robert M. Restaino in the democratic primary election in June.

are not likely to engage the unions in a serious way with so many things still up in the air, including the election.

So no matter who wins in November, the road ahead for the new mayor and city lawmakers will be a difficult one, and could be made even more difficult if there's no

satisfactory resolution to the gaming stalemate. As of this writing, there is no sign of the Senecas pulling out their checkbook and settling up with the state because they don't believe they received a fair shake from the arbitration panel and have taken their case to federal court.



Former candidate Seth Piccirillo along with Mayor Paul Dyster during his most recent re-election campaign in 2015.

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THE CRIME

WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 2200 block of Grand Avenue in the late afternoon hours of Tuesday, August 13th, 2019, after reports that an 8-year-old was pushed off of his bike and then had it stolen by 4 juveniles ages 12 to about 16. Police have not yet recovered the bike.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1900 block of Niagara Street in the morning hours of Monday, August 13th, 2019, after receiving a call of criminal mischief. Upon arriving at the scene, the homeowner stated that a prior tenant had illegally entered her backyard and tore it apart. Upon investigating, police discovered the backyard to be torn apart. The suspect was apprehended and charged with numerous crimes. In total, the damage was estimated to be between \$150 and \$200.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1000 block of Cleveland Avenue on Monday, August 13th, 2019, after a caller stated that her home had been vandalized. Upon arriving at the scene, the victim stated that at some time in the last 24 hours someone had entered her property and spray painted two Swastika's with the letters "RIP" on the side of her house. Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police, along with New York State Police, responded to the Niagara Power Authority water intakes in the morning hours of August 14, 2019, after discovering a body had washed up along the rocks. According to reports, a male body, between the ages of 30 and 40, was recovered. Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the Mobile Home Park on Cayuga Drive in the late hours of Wednesday, August 14th,



2019, after reports of a robbery. According to reports, the victim stated she was in bed when she was awoken by a man, age 18-22, who walked past her bedroom door carrying her laptop. She yelled at which point the suspect began running and once out of the mobile home dropped the laptop. Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to Ashland Avenue in the late afternoon hours of Thursday, August 15th, 2019, after reports that a female was assaulting a male with frozen meat. No arrests were made.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the Kalika Hotel on John B. Daly Blvd. in the early morning hours of Saturday, August 17th, 2019, after reports that multiple vehicles had their windows smashed and belongings taken. Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police and Fire responded to the 400 block of 21st Street in the early morning hours of Monday, August 19th, 2019, for a stabbing. The victim was transported to a hospital

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The Niagara Falls City School District is committed to life-long learning and through the Community Education Center offers programs for people of all ages. Our course list contains opportunities for participation in activities that promote physical fitness, the use of technology and other special interests during the Fall Term of 2019.

Please note that we are interested in expanding the number of future course offerings and invite community experts who are willing to share their expertise to contact the Community Education Center.

Registration begins on August 26, 2019. If you have any questions, or would like more information about a specific program, please call us at 716-286-0771.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DAILY PROGRAMS O/N BOCES

Adult Basic Education/ TASC™	... 6
English as a Second Language	... 6
National External Diploma Program	... 6
Home Health Aide (HHA)	... 7

FITNESS ACTIVITIES

Swimnastics	... 7
Water Walking	... 7

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Information	... 8
Registration form	... 8

NIAGARA FALLS COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER

DAILY PROGRAMS O/N BOCES

**There are no fees for these programs

**ADULT BASIC EDUCATION/HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY



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Stephanie Bevacqua

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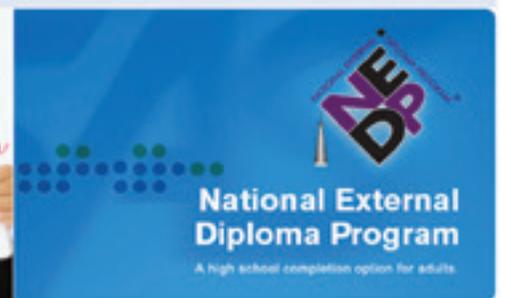


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Sarah Wright Call for information: 716-286-0772

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Erica Kopp
Stephanie Bevacqua

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Call for information: 716-286-0768

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Contact Terry Josker @ 731-4176 ext. 4445



Registration begins on August 26, 2019. If you have any questions, or would like more information about a specific program, please call us at 716-286-0771.

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Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Tues 9:00 am-10:00 am	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Tues 10:00 am-11:00 am	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Wed 10:00 am- 11:00 am	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Wed 11:00 am-12:00 pm	\$30.00
Susana Nicholas	CEC Pool	Thurs 9:00 am-10:00 am	\$30.00
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REGISTRATION

The Fall Term begins on September 9, 2019. Classes are held for 10 consecutive weeks unless otherwise noted. Classes will not be held on:

Monday, Oct 14, 2019 – Columbus Day
November 11, 2019 – Veterans' Day

Registration by mail is preferred and will only be accepted with a postmark **PRIOR** to the start of classes from September 9, 2019 – December 9, 2019. There will be no registration on the first day of class. Please make checks or money orders payable to: **Niagara Falls City School District**

NO CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED & there is a \$30.00 charge for returned checks

Please forward registration and payment to:

Niagara Falls Community Education Center
ATTN: Kelly Perri
6040 Lindbergh Avenue
Niagara Falls, New York 14304

You may register in person from August 26, 2019 through September 6, 2019 in the Community Education Center Main Office from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

FEES: As a self-sustaining division of the Niagara Falls City School District, all costs for instructors and staff are covered by course fees. Fees must be paid at time of registration. Residents of the City of Niagara Falls who are **65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER** may register in some courses for a fee of \$25.00 (exclusive of textbooks and/or supplies). Please refer to the course listing for the fees required.

CLASS CANCELLATIONS: Classes may be canceled or rescheduled if enrollment is low or if an instructor becomes unavailable. **If classes are canceled due to weather conditions, the community will be notified by local television and radio stations.**

REFUNDS:

Refunds will be issued only in the following circumstances:

- A. If a course is canceled – total refund.
- B. If you withdraw one week prior to the start of class – refund, less \$3.
- C. If you withdraw during the first or second week of class – refund, less \$6.
- D. No refunds will be issued after the second week of class.
- E. To receive a refund you must notify the Community Education Center Office of your intent to withdraw from the class.

Please Remember:

- Register from August 26, 2019 – September 6, 2019
- There will be no registration on first day of class

- Make checks and/or money orders payable to:
Niagara Falls City School District
- If you have questions, please call 286-0771

NIAGARA FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT – REGISTRATION FORM

Make Check Payable to: Niagara Falls City School District or N.F.C.S.D.

Send to: Niagara Falls Community Education Center, Attn: Kelly Perri, 6040 Lindbergh Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Last Name			First Name			Initial		
Mailing Address			City			Zip Code		
Home Telephone			Alternate Telephone			Senior (65 yrs) Y/N		
Course Title		Location		Day/Time		Fee & Check/ M.O. #		

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\$6⁹⁹ Breakfast Buffet
With Beverage Purchase

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Ortt Cont. from Cover



New York State Senator Robert Ortt.

and Batavia news conferences, Ortt made it official.

"Some people want to go to Washington and bring everybody to the table; I want to flip the table over," said the decorated Afghan war veteran and popular state lawmaker from Niagara County.

Ortt, a Republican and a former mayor of North Tonawanda, lost much of his political power in Albany with the takeover of the State Senate by Democrats in the last election but in his announcement for Congress he emphasized his stellar conservative voting record as a state senator and pledged his support for President Trump.

A recent poll found Collins, an early backer of the president, enjoys overwhelming support in the heavily Republican district despite his legal problems although he has not said as yet whether he will seek re-election next year. His decision will likely come after his trial now slated for February.

Ortt was first elected to the State Senate in 2014 and Erie County Conservative Chairman Ralph Lorigo said recently, "Sen. Ortt had the strongest Conservative voting record in the State Senate last year."

Ortt joins a crowded Republican field eyeing Collins' seat

including State Sen. Chris Jacobs, who like Ortt lost his Albany majority party seat; attorney Beth Parlato from Genesee County, and possibly others, including Medal of Honor recipient David Bellavia and Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw Jr. On the Democratic side, Grand Island Supervisor Nate McMurray, who ran a strong race against Collins in the last election, says he's going to run again although the landscape--and the field--is far different than when he took on the wounded Collins the last time. Collins seems to be on the rebound despite the upcoming trial.

Niagara County GOP Chairman Rich Andres praised Ortt as an exciting candidate who could be well received in the sprawling rural district which includes all of Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, and Livingston counties as well as parts of Erie, Monroe, Ontario and Niagara counties.

Political observers believe Ortt is making a smart political decision by jumping into the race and getting his name out there despite the long odds of winning the nomination against Collins, if he runs, or the very wealthy Jacobs who already boasts a war chest of more than \$740,000.



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.



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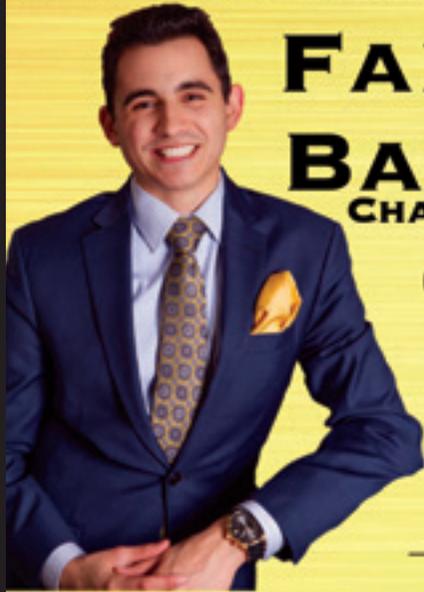


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