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OTB Complies With FOIL; Maziarz Planning a Comeback?



BATAVIA DOWNS GAMING

(Cont. on pg. 7)

Undersheriff Ready to Hit the Ground Running Come January

By: Tony Farina
There's going to be a new sheriff in town in Niagara County, and he is ready

(Cont. on pg. 6)

Are Niagara Falls Republicans now the "Get Out Party?"

By: Ken Hamilton
Perennial candidate Candace Corsaro, whom after what she calls being cheated out of a spot by her party's chairman in the Republican primary for the 2019 city council race, has decided to take upon a write-in run for a seat. It

(Cont. on pg. 2)

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NIAGARA FALLS

Niagara Falls Republicans Cont. from Cover



Ken Hamilton

seems that the old Chinese curse of living in interesting times has certainly manifested itself in Niagara Falls.

Corsaro's efforts compounds the efforts of film director and community activist Ken Cosentino, also lodging a write-in campaign for mayor, and those of independent mayoral candidate Jeffrey Elder solidly on the ballot in what Cosentino, given city residents a broader range of options in the voting booth.

In the case of the mayoral race, it has made it into a 4-way tug of war that includes the Democratically-endorse school board member and former judge Robert Restaino, along with the ersatz un-Republican-endorsed Glenn Choolokian, to see which of opposing candidates can successfully pull the winner into the sink-hole mud pit of the mayoralship without a clear mandate from the voters, and certainly not from the political bosses.

It all reminds me of the dilemma of

It is similar to what many years ago, and with sad eyes, when former school teacher and former Erie County Legislator Betty Jean Grant told me about how on a rainy day that the Grassroots branch of her Democratic Party once deliber-

ately set her nominating petitions on a table aside from the others, but under the spot where there was a leak in the roof. It yielded her petitions largely unusable. But she didn't give up and eventually the store-owner went on to spend 10-years in the Erie County Legislature, a part of it as chairman, before giving it up in an unsuccessful run against the incumbent Grassroots' Mayor Byron Brown. Now she works for the Erie County Board of Elections. Corsaro says that her Republican Party Chairman Bill Carroll has treated her in much the same way.

In a telephone interview on the subject of her write-in campaign, Corsaro said that prior to the party's foregone conclusive endorsement of her for the 2019 city council race in tandem with incumbent Councilman Ken Tompkins she received a telephone call from Chairman Carroll. She said that he said that he didn't want to surprise her and asked her to drop out of the race and that he would reimburse her for all of the money that she had already spent in her campaign. She said that she asked him what the surprise might be, and later found that it was that Carroll had "... brought in and endorsed city council Republican candidate John Spanbauer of Niagara University instead.

Like the old southern saying goes, and it is about both Buffalo's Grant and Niagara's Corsaro, Corsaro was "... as mad as a wet hen!"

In a follow-up email on the subject, Corsaro, who said that the basis of her campaign was for good budgeting and public safety, ensuring that the 13-laid-off police patrolmen's jobs could be restored, she said, "Let the truth be told:"

Cleaning up the grammar and structure a bit, Corsaro said that in the Niagara Gazette article on the Republican committee's endorsements that, "Our Niagara

Falls Republican Chairman Bill Carroll stated that the party was NOT sure if they were going to endorse a Republican candidate Glenn Choolokian." But she went on to say that, "That is a right out lie, Mr. Carroll. You stood up in front of the GOP of Niagara County meeting in Wheatfield and said that NF will be endorsing Robert Restaino, a Democrat."

Corsaro further went on to write, "Lets lay it all out: You [Carroll] also called me and tried to get me to drop out of the race and asked how much I had spent so far so you could reimburse me. WHY? Because people don't know me or are you afraid [that] I would win with Kenny? You also did the same with another female Candidate in the past. But gee, everyone is too afraid to speak up and tell the truth. Well, I AM NOT."

As if there wasn't already enough feet-to-the-flames heat on Carroll's toes, Corsaro further went on to say, "You also told me that you were going to have Mike Gawel drop out (I'm sure because at this time you had Spanbauer in the works)."

Oh, yeah; and then she did go there by writing, "Are YOU against women in a Pollical figure?"

Corsaro continues, "So we would NOT have a Primary. Then you tell me you brought in Spanbauer (Spanbauer says differently and I believe John)".

Corsaro said that she was dismayed to discover that during the petition-passing process that some of her campaign material was missing. In the email that she sent me she asks of Carroll, "OH ... Which of the committee members also removed my palm card form our blitz? Then when I asked you about it you told me you were trying something new, and guessed it didn't work out. Gee I have a guess. What happened [was] that Lockport received an empty envelope from a primary polling place [and] had to call

Dorothy and questioned it; then it showed up?? I smell a rat and it is not her."

At this point in Corsaro's email she joins the Cosentino contention. She writes, "This is Corruption at its BEST and unfortunately the voters fall for it."

"One thing about Candidates," Corsaro writes when speaking of non-perennial candidates, "YOU DONT SEE THEM ALL YEAR LONG, they don't attend council meetings, they don't fight for us, attend functions all year long until they become a candidate." An argument that I have long made about the mostly perennially novice city council.

Finally, in echoes of the Truman 'giv'em hell, Harry chant," Corsaro seemingly writes to the voters in her closing statement, "YES I am a candidate for City Council as a write-in. No, I'm not bitter or a whistleblower, just TIRED of the Corruption. Where is the Loyalty to our party? NY may as well eliminate all parties and move on to a general election for one and all. The people complain we are the same over and over; well then, get up off your butts and run."

In all that Corsaro is saying, one could easily come to the conclusion that "GOP" has come to mean Get Out of Party" for some candidates - apparently, Corsaro is one of them. But if Corsaro takes solace in what Buffalo's Grant went through and did, then she needs to hang in there, as, if what Corsaro says is true, Democrats also do that same things to each other.

Corsaro said in a telephone call that she has filed paperwork for a formal complaint on Carroll with the New York State board of Elections.

Carroll, Spanbauer and Choolokian have all been called for their statements, but have yet to respond.

NIAGARA

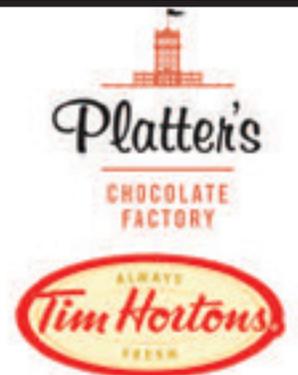


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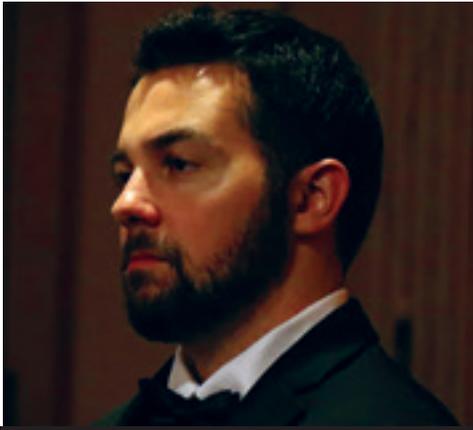
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Youngstown: Anchor Spirits & Wines, Bandanas Bar & Grill, Public Library, Rite Aid, Village Diner

Community Activist & Staunch Piccirillo Supporter Ken Cosentino Announces Write-In Bid for Mayor



Ken Cosentino

I have a riddle for you: How is it that the city of Niagara Falls is broke? Was it an accident, or was money mismanaged? Or could it be that the budget was not mismanaged, but that we live in a city of manufactured poverty? Let's break it down...

Niagara Falls is named after three water falls which contain one-third of the Earth's fresh water source. The hydroelectricity powered by these waterfalls powers half the East coast, including New York City. The historical events that have taken place played a vital role in the creation of the United States of America. The natural wonder draws millions of tourists every year. So I ask you again: How is it that the city of Niagara Falls is broke?

SOMEONE is making money from the hydroelectricity. SOMEONE is profiting off of the natural wonder. SOMEONE is making millions upon millions of dollars, while our city suffers and the people face higher taxes and increased crime and poverty. That SOMEONE is New York State, and more specifically, an elite group of millionaires and billionaires who call themselves 43×79 (named after the longitude and latitude of Buffalo). This group includes Jeremy Jacobs, Mark Hamister, Jordan Levy, Louis Ciminelli, and James Glynn as an affiliate. These men are profiting from our legacy, and 43×79 financially support the governor.

Simply put: There's a hole in the bucket. The city of Niagara Falls was built on graft. All of the crime, all of the poverty, all of the despair... the root of the problem is greed. The corruption is only three or four generations old and if you know your history, you know that the city was originally founded in 1892. This was only seven years after the opening of the Niagara Reservation. The city was created as a front for a state owned monopoly of hydropower. NYS Assemblyman Thomas V. Welch and his co-conspirators in Free Niagara secured the land next to the waterfall in order to secure the water rights for hydropower. They then dumped money into massive stock for the First Niagara Power Company and Welch then penned the first city charter. So, how do we fix it?

Write me in for mayor: S.E. KENNETH COSENTINO. Here's what I'll do:

I will begin negotiating directly with the Seneca Nation of Indians. There is no real law that prevents us from working directly with SNI. They want to work

with us. We have not done so because our mayor has not wanted to offend Albany. I don't care about offending Albany, as the state has had a parasitic relationship with Niagara Falls since the beginning. We may not be able to have casino money directly exchange hands between the city and SNI, but we can set up a profit sharing plan whereby SNI invests in our infrastructure and local businesses.

In order to appease the Seneca Nation of Indians and show that we are serious about a professional relationship, we will transfer unwanted and unused parcels of land to their ownership. This will come with stipulations in which we will share in the profits and SNI must guarantee that they will build attractions on these parcels. We will hold the land in a joint account for five years while attractions are being built and if SNI does not meet our deadline, the land will revert back to ownership of the city and SNI will absorb costs.

We will speak out publicly with the right leadership on the parasitic relationship we've had with the state. Our goal will be to receive a fair amount of funding for our annual budget, in perpetuity, from the New York Power Authority. The relicensing cut us out completely and without proper leadership there was no push back. NYPA should pay 60% of our city's budget for as long as the water flows. They are in the midst of a \$1.1 billion upgrade. We will hold their feet to the fire in all major and regional media outlets until we see this plan come to fruition. They will not want the negative publicity coming from the mayor of a famous tourist city. We will not be silenced as we wage a full scale campaign to right what is wrong.

One agreement we will push for is free electricity from NYPA to offset costs. Niagara Falls pays some of the highest electric bills in the state and we cannot continue this practice.

The city has a horrible PR problem. We will rebrand the city, reclaim the title of Seventh Wonder of the World, and make Niagara Falls into the Power City. We will do this by focusing on the fact that the hydroelectricity is one of the largest sources of green energy in the world. We will become a model city, utilizing our famous name, for renewable energy and smart technologies. We will be open for business.

I will use my industry connections to bring Hollywood productions to the city of Niagara Falls. Buffalo sees millions of dollars annually from the film industry. We should be seeing profits too. I have been working on this for years and it would be as easy as flipping a switch. Productions bring people, and people need food, lodging, transportation, entertainment, etc. We will focus on rebranding into a little Hollywood where there is always something positive happening. I will make sure that local unions, carpenters, electricians, IATSE, etc. are all hired on these productions as a stipulation for housing productions. A long running television series could pretty much cover most of our woes. Productions attract more productions. Last year I assisted the Travel Channel and Discovery Channel

in filming in our area. If we build it, they will come. As CEO of White Lion Studios, LLC, I negotiate contracts, work on budgets and I have been a hired gun in the film industry for over seven years.

Come tourist season, we will threaten to close down roads to Goat Island if the state does not meet our demands. As mayor, I will order the water board to shut off water to the island. No running water means no toilets flushing. The state cannot have this, they will bend to our will. Perhaps we should also put a toll booth at the entrance to the island. We should not be competing with New York State for parking and entertainment. It has destroyed us and they have benefitted from our destruction.

As mayor I will launch a full investigation into the possible wrongdoings of former administrations and their colleagues. The amount of surveys and money being passed around with nothing to show as a result is dumbfounding. We will get to the bottom of it and people will be held accountable.

The top brass union in the police department is getting too sweet of a deal. For one three minute phone call, an employee in this union can receive four hours of OT pay. There are many employees in this union making six figure salaries. Everyone will have to make sacrifices, this is non-negotiable. I am not talking about cutting positions, just re-negotiating contracts to be more realistic.

The city will highlight our history. The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy), French and Indian War, War of 1812, the Underground Railroad, and bootlegging just to name a few important historical events that occurred here; Will all be highlighted as a part of the rebranding initiative. We will model ourselves as a miniature Boston, but with an arts and entertainment district similar to Allentown. We will also have seasonal events such as a guided lantern walking ghost tour, from Devil's Hole where the massacre took place to Oakwood Cemetery where the daredevils are buried. We will have plenty of youth-centric initiatives and after school programs.

We will keep money circulating locally. Instead of outsourcing business,

we will keep funds in the community. Also, John Percy and USA Niagara (Empire State Development's tourism arm) have been given the task of promoting our city. They have done a swell job of promoting New York State attractions. We need an independent marketing firm that is not operated by the state to step in and help with the rebranding.

Any company, entity or individual who is not meeting our standards during these times will be given a deadline for change. If they do not meet the deadline then their contract will be null and void and they will be let go. We will not have someone sitting in a position for thirty years doing nothing and collecting a big fat pension.

These are just some of the things that I will do as mayor. We have to fight back. Desperate times call for desperate measures. By teaming up with the Seneca Nation of Indians, we can build attractions and make Niagara Falls a great place to live. By taking NYPA and New York State to the gallows if they do not comply, we will find that there will never again be a budget deficit. If NYPA and New York State think we are bluffing, we will look into dissolving the city charter and seceding from New York State altogether, and becoming a seventh sovereign nation dependent on our natural wonder and history. If they are not willing to give it back, we will take it back by any means necessary. We should not be raising taxes on a struggling population when there are hundreds of millions of dollars passing through our fingers like the sands of time. I will not reassess properties because there will be no need. We will take the hardest stance on New York State that anyone has ever seen from an administration. This I promise you. I graduated high school with an advanced regents degree in honors. I have a strong working relationship with several members of the Seneca Nation of Indians and I am able to negotiate respectfully and assertively. I know the politics, I will pull the parasite up by its roots.

On November 5th, go to the polls. On the ballot there is a box for write-ins. Write me in for mayor: S.E. KENNETH COSENTINO



Seth Piccirillo and campaign supporter Ken Cosentino during a live video that was produced and uploaded to Facebook on Tuesday, June 11th, 2019.



THE CRIME

WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 7-Eleven on Hyde Park Boulevard in the early morning hours of Tuesday, October 15th, 2019, after reports that a customer got into a physical altercation with an employee. According to reports, the 7-Eleven employee sustained minor injuries. Police engaged in a foot chase with the suspect and eventually took him into custody on the 2400 block of Fairfield Avenue.



-31-year-old Samantha Klein of North Avenue, Niagara Falls, admitted on Tuesday, October 15th, 2019, in Niagara County



Court to causing a brain bleed, fractured skull, and spinal cord damage leading to the death of 3-month-old Alaya Foster in February, 2019. Klein is facing up to 25-years for the manslaughter charge and up to another 17.5 years in prison for a knife-point robbery on December 24th, 2018, and selling fentanyl to an undercover officer on June 14th, 2018. Niagara County Court Judge Matthew J. Murphy III has agreed that he will impose all sentences concurrently. This means that Klein will only face up to 25 years in prison.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 2600 block of Whirlpool Street in the afternoon hours of Wednesday, October 16th, 2019, after reports that a woman stabbed her boyfriend's dog out of jealousy. Police arrested the female after being told that she stabbed the dog out of jealousy because the dog was receiving more attention than her. Christina Leighton, 54, was charged with felony aggravated cruelty. The dog is in stable condition and is now home with Ms. Leighton's former boyfriend.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 600 block of 20th Street in the evening hours of Friday, October 18th, 2019, after reports of shots fired. According to reports, a male victim walked into Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center with a gunshot wound to the shoulder stating that the incident happened around 8:00pm. Police investigators discovered two shotgun shells from the crime scene and are continuing to investigate the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center in the evening hours of Saturday, October 19th, 2019, after a male walked into the ER with a gunshot wound to his chest. According to reports, police were able to locate the specific crime scene area and found shattered glass from a car window as well as shell casings and a bullet at 18th and Willow Avenue. The victim is expected to recover and police are continuing to investigate the incident. This was the second incident in a two-day stretch where an individual showed up to the hospital with a gunshot wound.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 400 block of 19th Street in the early morning hours of Sunday, October 20th, 2019, after reports of an armed robbery. According to reports around 1:30am a pizza delivery person was pistol-whipped and robbed. The victim went to Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center for treatment and police are continuing to investigate the incident.

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Undersheriff Cont from Cover.

to hit the ground running when he takes over in January for the retiring sheriff, Jim Voutour.

Much-decorated Undersheriff Michael Filicetti, who has served as second-in-command to Voutour since January of 2012, tells the Niagara Falls Reporter he won't need on-the-job training, saying "I'm ready to go, and I consider the sheriff's department like a second family."

Undersheriff Filicetti, a registered Republican, has sent formal letters to all the county's political parties, seeking their support for his run for sheriff next year.

Niagara County GOP Chairman Rich Andres has already met with Filicetti, saying "we left on good terms, but right now I'm focusing on this year's election next month." No surprise there but it certainly would be a surprise if Republicans didn't line up behind Filicetti next year as he runs for the top job.

On the other side of the political aisle, Niagara County Democratic Chairman Jason Zona, himself a former county legislator, says he will meet with Filicetti this week, adding that he has worked with Filicetti as undersheriff "and he's done a good job."

While both Zona and Andres

are understandably focused on next month's elections, both seem warm to a Filicetti candidacy and it would appear the Lewiston native with 27 years' experience as a law enforcement officer is in a strong position to win the support of both major parties although a Democratic challenger could certainly emerge next year.

Filicetti says the department faces a lot of challenges in the new age of social media, saying it creates "sort of a double edged sword," helping in some cases get the word out but also giving others an opportunity to spread false information that can complicate matters.

One area of high priority for the undersheriff is school safety, and he says he would like to continue to enhance the department's technology with schools that already helps law enforcement tap into video surveillance cameras in schools, something he calls a "huge plus."

Undersheriff Filicetti has an associate in science degree in criminal justice from Niagara County Community College and is a 1993 graduate of the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy, beginning his law enforcement career that same year with the New York State Park Police.

Following his stint with the Park Police, Undersheriff Filicetti worked as a police officer in the village and town of Lewiston police departments and joined the sheriff's department as a road patrol deputy in 1997. He was promoted to sergeant in 2007, captain in 2008, and became administrative captain in 2009.

The veteran lawman also attended the highly regarded FBI Investigation National Academy in Quantico, Va., in 2009, a rigorous 10-week program which featured specialized classroom and field interaction with command-level officers from around the world.

Among his many citations and commendations are multiple awards for a water rescue at Niagara Falls in 1995. His record also includes three sheriff's excellence awards and three departmental citations.

Filicetti, who lives with his wife and two children in his native Lewiston, is a past president of the Judges and Police Conference of Niagara County.

If ever a second-in-command was ready to step into the top job, it would appear Undersheriff Filicetti is that person. He has risen through the ranks, received numerous awards and citations, and has



Undersheriff Michael Filicetti.

the experience in the department to hit the ground running, as he says, come January.

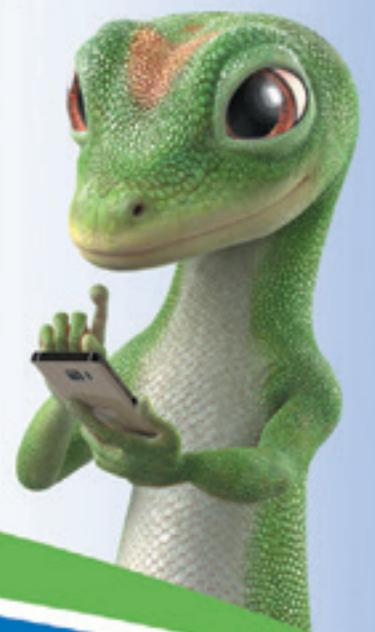
It would appear that while the three-term outgoing sheriff has performed in exemplary fashion, there is no reason to believe the new sheriff will not continue to serve at that same high level, providing Niagara County residents a top cop with the experience and law enforcement credentials that would seem to make him a perfect fit to take over.

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OTB / Maziarz Cont. from Cover

Tony Farina

Western Regional Off-Track Betting, which has been posting record numbers in recent months but has remained a target of several investigations prompted by a wide range of allegations by former State Senator George Maziarz, has released documents on recipients of promotional tickets to various events including football and hockey games.

WROTB said it agreed to provide the information sought in the FOIL request by the Buffalo News in the interest of transparency, even though it believes there are "good faith" arguments against disclosing the information.

The public benefit corporation and president and CEO Henry Wojtaszek have been under fire since a February 2019 news conference by Maziarz accusing his former assistant, Wojtaszek, and WROTB of giving ticket perks to friends and board members, not high rollers. The charges were denied by Wojtaszek and none of the other allegations leveled by Maziarz have resulted in any charges against anybody although several investigations are continuing.

Maziarz ruled Niagara County



Henry Wojtaszek, President of WROTB

politics for two decades and left office under the cloud of an investigation into his campaign spending stemming from the findings by the governor's defunct Moreland Commission on Public Corruption.

Now, making headlines by his attacks on his former political associates, there is a growing sense that Maziarz may be thinking about a run for office, probably his old Senate seat now held by Robert Ortt who is currently a candidate for Chris Collins' congressional seat that Collins vacated after his guilty plea to insider trading charges.

If Ortt stays in the congressional race, of which there is no guarantee, that would open up the seat for Maziarz.



Former New York State Senator George Maziarz.



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?

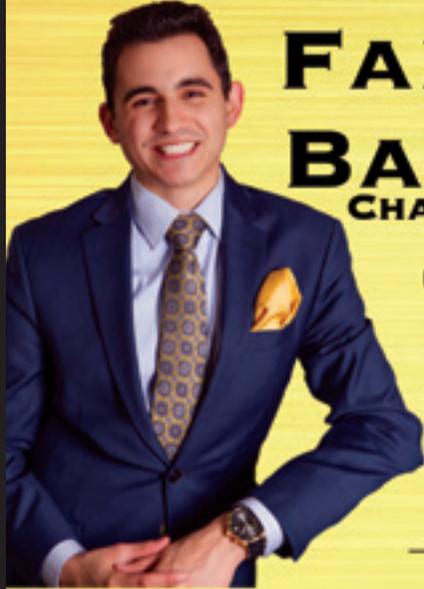
The benefits to employers are: more highly skilled employees, reduced turnover rates, higher productivity, lower investment in recruitment, a more diverse workforce, a new pool of workers and the creation of career pathways. The benefits to registered apprentices are: being nationally recognized and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