

# 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

October 2nd, 2019 - October 8th, 2019

NiagaraReporter.com

Vol. 20, No. 21

FREE

## Super Clips



Appointments or Walk-Ins are Welcome  
716-335-1971

8353 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

(Inside Pine Plaza, behind Duff's Wings)

## "HERE'S YOUR 20" FIRE UNION PRESIDENT SOUNDS ALARM AT COUNCIL MEETING



(Cont. on pg. 2)

Open 7am-4pm  
Tuesday - Sunday  
(716) 423-6111



The Little Bakery  
Taste the memories.



842 19th Street  
Niagara Falls, NY



OFFICIAL HOME OF

THE CRIME  
PAGE 4

Niagara Falls

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

## 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

## Police Mum on Kennedy Probe; Decision Now in D.A.'s Hands

By: Tony Farina

Niagara Falls police remain tight-lipped about their probe into allegations

(Cont. on pg. 4)

## North Tonawanda IS Moving Forward & Has Become a Destination

By: Eric Zadzilka & Bob Pecoraro  
NT Common Council Members

Why have people been talking about North Tonawanda lately? The answer is reflected in independent rating sources. North Tonawanda has

(Cont. on pg. 7)

## Robert M. Restaino

Attorney at Law

(716) 285-8185



### APOLLO PLUMBING

**\$25 OFF** JOB COSTING  
**\$150 WITH THIS COUPON**

310-9882 SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNT



# NIAGARA FALLS

## Here's Your 20 Cont. from Cover

### Jason J. Cafarella

*Below is a speech given by Jason J. Cafarella at the City Council Meeting on 9/25/2019.*

I am a Captain with the Niagara Falls Fire Department and the President of Fire Officers Local 3359. I am also a life long resident of the City of Niagara Falls.

City Council Members, I do not envy you. You have a very difficult decision to make. Last week, and then again tonight, I've heard the complaints from concerned residents. Frankly, I can't disagree with their complaints. All costs continuously go up and the residents are asked to pay more for City services. I sympathize, as do my union brothers and sisters. Last year, both the firefighters and police officers made a series of concessions to the City to help reduce the City budget. With these concessions, we agreed to reduce our take home pay. We have been forced to do more for less. And yet we still, everyday, put our lives on the line to serve this City, and to serve our residents and every visitor that steps within our city.

So now the City Council has to make the decision, either find new revenue to balance the budget, or cut 20 firefighters and 25 police officers. The Council is being asked to create a garbage user fee, which

will cost the average homeowner 65 cents a day. If the user fee is not created, then the Council may have to slash public safety. But cutting public safety is not the answer. As I am sure you all know, according to the FBI statistics, Niagara Falls is the most dangerous city in New York State for two years in a row. Our fire department is equally taxed with a record number of emergency calls last year. In fact, this year, we are on pace to exceed the busiest year on record by 1,000 emergency calls. These are fires, car accidents, heart attacks, first aid calls, and every other emergency that is imaginable. Our City cannot afford further cuts to public safety.

When the Council approved our contracts, it must also, as part of its job, make sure that the City honors those contracts. That means funding them. You have to make the hard decisions to raise revenue to pay for these important and necessary services. Cutting the number of police and firefighters is not the answer.

I understand that you are under extreme pressure. I know that there are voters that are threatening to hold each of you accountable if you support this garbage user fee. But it is your job to make the hard decisions to benefit the entire City.

When each of you were sworn in as Council Members, you took an oath to: "faithfully discharge



Niagara Falls Fire Union President Jason J. Cafarella (right) speaks to the City Council during a special meeting regarding a proposed garbage 'user fee' which, if not enacted, could lead to the firing of up to sixty public safety personnel.

the duties of the office of the City Council." This is an oath to all residents of the City... whether they are taxpayers, or not... whether they are voters, or not.

And I thank those residents that came here tonight, and last week, to express their displeasure with the proposal. Their voices are important. But you have to consider the voices of the people that cannot be heard. You have to consider the children, the infirm people, and the elderly people that are unable to come here tonight to discuss their concerns with you. Their silent voices are just as important. Will you look at our children, at our older residents, at our infirm residents, and tell them that when they call 911, there may not be enough police or firefighters to answer their call? Will you tell them that 65 cents a day was too much to pay for their health and safety?

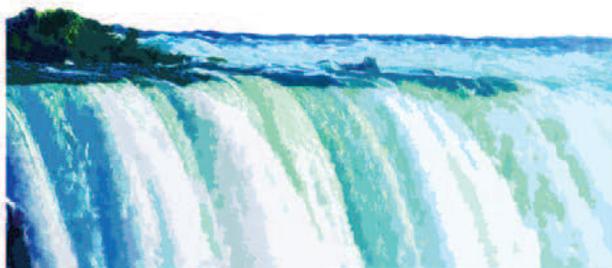
Do you know what happens when you lay off 20 firefighters and

25 police officers? You not only hurt valued and loyal city employees, but you hurt their families as well.

Twenty firefighters. Twenty Five police officers. Forty-five employees that put their lives on the line for you and everyone in our great city every single day that they come to work. Will you reward the twenty firefighters for their selfless dedication by laying them off because 65 cents a day is too much? If so, then you should thank them for their loyalty and selfless service to you and our City: Jason O'Toole. Michael Daniels, Gifford Harris, Peter DiFrancesco, Joshua Magnuson, Joseph Dobmeier, August Nienburg, Luke Marin, Jonathan Scott, Joshua Carey, Gary Smith, Joseph Tardib- uono, Lee Canning, James Majka, Christopher Wolf, Brandon Dixon, Andrew Atkinson, Jesse Clyde, John Sisler, Aaron Malstrom.

These are your twenty.

# NIAGARA

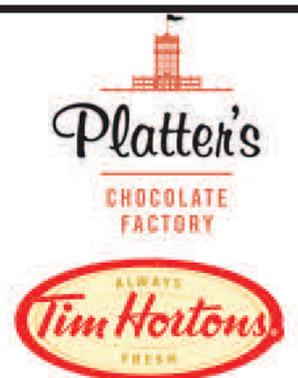


# REPORTER

**Frank Parlato, Jr.**  
Publisher & Editor in Chief

**Nicholas D. D'Angelo**  
Managing Editor

P.O. Box 3083, Niagara Falls NY 14304  
(716) 870-1175 niagarareporter@gmail.com



## Official Sponsors

### Delivery Locations

\*\*\*All businesses that advertise with the Niagara Reporter will also have the paper delivered there\*\*\*

**Amherst:** Tops

**Grand Island:** Tops

**Lewiston:** Deal Realty, DiCamillo Bakery, Public Library, Tim Hortons, Tops, Rite Aid, Syros Restaurant, & the Village Bakery

**Lockport:** Lockport City Court, County Courthouse, Save-A-Lot & Tops

**Niagara Falls:** BankOnBuffalo, City Hall (basement), The Como (restaurant, deli, & airport locations), DiCamillo Bakery (all locations), Frankie's Donuts, John Duke Center, Key Bank (800 Main St.), Memorial Medical Center (entrance to lobby), Michael's Restaurant, Marketside Restaurant, Mom's Restaurant, Niagara Towers, Niagara Falls Family Court, Niagara Falls Police Station, Niagara Falls Public Library (both locations), Rite Aid (7804 Buffalo Ave. & 4407 Military Rd.), Save-A-Lot, Spallino Towers, Supermarket Liquor, Tops (all locations), Tim Hortons (all locations), Wedge Liquors, & Wrobel Towers.

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

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

**Wilson:** Lakeside Market

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

# HAMILTON: BOHICA, Does Niagara Falls Now Need A Control Board?



**Ken Hamilton**

Long before “LOL” and LWTF” were in the American lexicon, there was a saying in the Navy that went, “BOHICA!” The meaning was simple; it meant, “Bend Over, Here It Comes Again!” That thing that is coming again is talk about a garbage tax and there’s little stopping it now; the 3rd time will likely be the charm.

Does anyone remember this time last year when then-Spectrum News ran their Nov. 9th, 2018 story that said “Garbage user fee out of Niagara Falls 2019 Budget”? Well, we can hardly wait until Spectrum does a story on Nov. 8th 2019 that is likely to be similar – but the opposite.

Spectrum reported in that story that, “By a 4-to-1 margin, the Niagara Falls City Council voted to throw out a proposed garbage user fee increase. [Because Buffalo already had a garbage fee “it’s a tax”], the reporter likely mistakenly inserted the word “increase.” But it does go on to say that Mayor Dyster will add a 13% increase in property taxes to his budget.

As much as we want to blame things on the Mayor – and he does have a great deal of “culpability” – largely based upon the “gullibility” of the voters who put both he and his councils into office – the budget is

the mayor’s “proposed” budget; the actually budget belongs to the council, and they have to take full responsibility for every nickel spent and every debt incurred.

Remember, the 3rd time will likely be the charm. As far back as Aug. 9th, 2004, the headline in the Niagara Gazette by reporter Rick Pfeiffer was that ‘Falls may face higher taxes, fees.’ That fee was a garbage user fee.

In the 2004 case, according to Pfeiffer’s article, it was Wayne Drescher of the Drescher & Maleki accounting firm, the firm that audited the city’s 2003 financial operations that recommended the tax, er, fee – and this is even when casino money was coming in.

The biggest problem was that the amount of money that the city was collecting in property taxes didn’t then-cover the cost of even the public safety sector. The Gazette wrote that then-Mayor Vince Anello admitted that it was not a healthy situation. It was one-time revenues, like the sale of properties, that had floated the city. Drescher is quoted as saying that, “Certain city support services may no longer require as many employees.”

But last week, having been a tad bit detached from the events at city hall due to my recent move out of Niagara Falls, I was surprised when I got to last week’s special public hearing meeting and found so many firemen and police officers there. In Niagara Falls, that group -- along with teachers and school administrators – constitutes the wealthiest and most influential lobbying and voting bloc. It was Pfeiffer that explained to me that the garbage tax would keep the public safety workers at current staffing levels; failure to pass would mean layoffs.

WKBW CH7 recorded Jason Cafarella, President of Niagara Falls Fire



The Niagara Falls City Council.

Officers Local 3359, as saying, “The creation of a garbage user fee will cost residents \$0.65 a day, in our opinion, is a small price to pay to make sure that the city is safe and we go home to our families at night.”

The amount of money a person makes can distort reality. The problem is that compared to the salaries of the professional staff of the city there are no other average citizens – everyone else’s ability to pay anymore is far below that average. And while an attorney and fireman like Cafarella and his colleagues can go to actually safe homes to their families at night, that 65-cents might be the breakpoint for others who may have to pray for their families’ safety at night as they are on their way to their 3rd jobs.

In a speech written to be read at the council meeting on the garbage tax, senior citizen Joanne Gialloredo wrote, “If you pass this tax it will be forever memorialized as the Dyster Dump Touma Trash Tax,” warning that such won’t look good on their reelection campaign material.

But Councilman Ezra Scott, as are the others, is right when he said that it’s the garbage fee, tax increases or layoffs; none of which the city can easily tolerate.

If the citizens can tolerate it at all. It ain’t easy being a mayor nor a councilman in these times; and honestly, I can’t see why any of them wants to ruin for election at all.

Therefore, we have to harken back to 2004 and the Anello garbage fee scare. Again, the Gazette quotes the stalwart former mayor as saying, “A number of items that aren’t very palatable are going to have to be on the radar screen, because we don’t have many choices. Decisions have to be made and there will be a certain amount of pain. But the alternative is for someone else to make those decisions, and if you want to see how that feels call [then-Buffalo] Mayor Masiello.”

Looking at Buffalo these 15-years later, instead, maybe it’s time for the next mayor to call the people that Masiello called? BOHICA!

## User Fee, Small Tax Increase Likely Needed to Close Gap

### Tony Farina

As you read this story, the Niagara Falls City Council will have already received outgoing Mayor Paul Dyster’s 2020 proposed budget which will likely include a \$250 annual garbage user fee that Council Chairman Andrew Touma has said will help cover the \$4-million-to-\$5-million deficit without major layoffs or a significant tax increase, although a small tax increase is likely after years of holding the line on taxes.

Mayor Dyster will submit his spending plan to lawmakers on Tuesday at 5 p.m. and hearings will follow next week with department heads to go over the fine print in each department.

The council tabled action on

enacting a garbage user fee after last week’s public hearing, essentially leaving it to the mayor to include it in his spending plan, and that’s what he’s expected to do.

The mayor indicated in a brief telephone conversation on Monday he is hoping to help point the city in the right direction in his final budget, noting that with the help of casino revenue, the city has been holding the line on taxes for several years. But with no casino revenue on tap, the city must take a different course and like other cities, raise new revenue through a garbage user fee, something the city has passed on when the casino money was still coming in.

It sounds like the mayor thinks it would be unfair to levy a major tax increase since the city has had no



Niagara Falls City Hall.

property reassessment in more than a dozen years, something that neigh-

(Cont. on Page 6)



# THE CRIME

## WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 300 block of 24th Street in the evening hours of Tuesday, September 24th, 2019, after reports of a noise complaint. According to reports, multiple police personnel were dispatched for what was described as a large crowd outside of a funeral home.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to Niagara Street adjacent to Gill Creek Park in the evening hours of Tuesday, September 24th, 2019, after reports that a child was struck by a vehicle while crossing the street. According to reports, the child was transported to the hospital.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1900 block of Ashland Avenue in the evening hours of Tuesday, September 24th, 2019, after reports of shots fired. According to reports, no injuries or property damage was reported.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 2400 block of Independence Avenue in the evening hours of Wednesday, September 25th, 2019, after reports that a suspect in a fatal stabbing in Erie County was taking refuge inside of the home. According to reports, Keith Sparks surrendered himself after a four-hour standoff with police. Sparks is accused of fatally stabbing a woman at McKinley Mall in Hamburg.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the heritage mural along Main Street and Depot Street in the afternoon hours of Thursday, September 26th, 2019, after reports of vandalism. According to reports, an individual vandalized the mural by spray painting racial slurs on it at some point over the last week. The racial slurs have since been painted over.

-Niagara Falls Police and Fire responded to the 2300 block of Pine Avenue in the evening hours of Saturday, September 28th, 2019, after callers expressed concern of an overdose. According to reports, upon arriving at the scene police discovered two unresponsive males who overdosed in a vehicle. Both were transported to the hospital.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the area behind Sal Maglie Stadium inside Hyde Park in the afternoon hours of Sunday, September 29th, 2019, after reports of shots fired. According to reports, police believe the shooting was the result of a fight that broke out between adults at a youth football game. Reports further state that a Hispanic male then pulled out a gun from a fanny pack and fired five rounds into the air in an attempted to stop the fighting. No one was hit by gunfire. Cell phone video from the altercation is in the possession of police as well as five shell casings.



## Kennedy Probe Cont. from Cover

*Motorist Says Kennedy Claimed He Was Police Officer; Lawmaker Denies Any Wrongdoing in Facebook Post*



Picture of Councilman Kennedy's vehicle after accident, sent to Niagara Reporter by motorist who struck vehicle. She claims he said he was a police officer and don't bother reporting it to police.

made by a motorist that Councilman William Kennedy claimed he was a police officer following an early-morning fender bender in the McDonald's lane on Pine Ave. last month.

Supt. Thomas Licata could not be reached for comment on Monday on the status of the probe into Kennedy's alleged crime, even though the accident occurred on the morning of Sept. 15, more than two weeks ago.

Kennedy is a key player as the City Council considers action to close a projected budget gap of more than \$5 million that could in-

clude possible public safety (police, fire) layoffs to reduce costs.

Kennedy, who has denied the allegation by the other motorist that he claimed he was a police officer at the accident scene, moved to table council action on a proposed garbage user fee at last Wednesday's public hearing attended by dozens of police and fire personnel opposed to layoffs. Some layoffs could still be part of any gap-closing action by the council but a vote on enacting a garbage user fee was tabled on a motion by Kennedy after Wednesday's hearing.

As we reported last week, the motorist who backed into Kennedy's vehicle in the McDonald's line said he identified himself as a police officer and brandished a badge after the accident, but she still called police to the scene and reported his actions.

While police sources have confirmed an investigation was made into the motorist's claims, there has been no public comment on the status of that investigation and insiders suspect the police may hand the hot-potato over to the district attorney for a final decision.



## PERSONAL INJURY

Viola,  
Cummings  
& Lindsay<sup>LLP</sup>

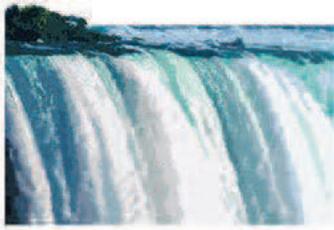
**WORKERS' COMPENSATION**  
770 Main Street • Niagara Falls, New York

**285-9555**

[violacummingslindsay.com](http://violacummingslindsay.com)



Niagara Falls City Councilman  
William Kennedy.



# FOOD AT THE FOLD

## Highlighting Small Businesses Throughout Niagara County

**COLOSSO TACO & SUBS**

**COUPON 10% OFF**  
\*\*LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER\*\*

**HOURS**  
MON - THURS: 11AM - 11PM  
FRI & SAT 11AM - 1AM  
SUN: 3PM - 11PM

7101 Packard Rd.  
NF, NY | 371-0297

CITY-WIDE DELIVERY TILL 11PM

**Fuji Grill**  
Niagara Falls  
JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE

**COUPON**

**\$5 OFF** Purchase of \$45 before tax  
**\$10 OFF** Purchase of \$65 before tax

283-6888  
283-3888

7310 Niagara Falls Blvd.

\*\*not valid w/ other offers & can only be used on hibachi grill\*\* Exp. 10/31/19

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

Call (716) 990-3677

**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: 06/30/20  
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: 06/30/20  
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

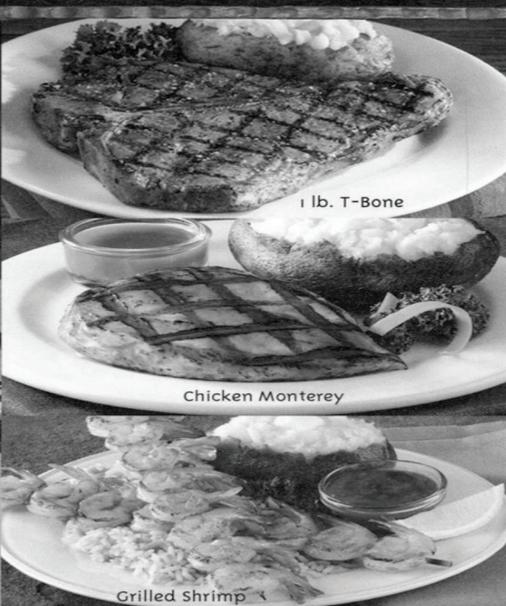
**PONDEROSA**  
Expires: 06/30/20  
Cannot be used in combination with any other coupon, discount or promotional offer. Tax not included. Dine-in only. Valid upto party of 6 at participating Steakhouses.

**\$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: 06/30/20  
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: 06/30/20  
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.



## User Fee Cont. from Page Three

boring Buffalo has just completed to help spread the tax burden in a more equitable way.

"I'm hoping at the end of the day the budget will have minimal impact on taxpayers," said GOP Councilman Chris Voccio who opposed enacting a garbage fee to cover the deficit, saying it was time for city employees to come to the table to help save the financially-strained city from further decline. But all signs are that the city must raise revenue to meet its needs and maintain public safety and city services at an acceptable level.

At last week's hearing, police, fire, and public works employees warned against any layoffs to their ranks, saying the public's safety would be compromised with fewer police and fire personnel and fewer workers to keep the roads clear. They supported the user fee to avoid those layoffs and any compromise in public safety. There is no hint that the mayor disagrees with that view, suggesting any reductions in

police and fire would compromise concessions made last year to help reduce costs.

The council is expected to begin scheduling open hearings with department heads for next week, followed by budget amendment meetings, and eventually a public hearing.

While Voccio is hopeful the final budget will have minimal taxpayer impact, the truth is whatever the final numbers turn out to be, taxpayers will be impacted, most likely with a new user fee and other actions that will likely include a tax increase. But if the city is to move forward and protect its creditworthiness and public safety, a new revenue stream is essential.

As Council Chairman Touma has stated time and again, the time has come for lawmakers to make the tough political decisions they were elected to make, and there's simply no end-run possible to avoid those tough decisions this time around.

Most residents who spoke at last week's public hearing on the garbage user fee opposed it, saying taxpayers are tired of carrying the city on their backs and urged lawmakers to reduce the cost of government, including their health insurance, to pay for the deficit.

But while resident opposition was strident, there were few concrete proposals about how to close a deficit of the size the city is facing without a user fee or other action, including layoffs and a tax increase, as the city continues to be a city in financial distress, as characterized by the state comptroller again last month. For residents who have not

had a reassessment or major tax increase in many years, the price may not be as onerous as suggested by opponents of the user fee, given what's at stake.

There is still no end in sight to the gaming stalemate with a decision expected soon from federal court where the Seneca Nation has taken its case in the wake of an adverse ruling by the state arbitration panel. The Senecas believe they are paying too much for what they are getting back from the state in terms of gaming exclusivity. We will have to wait and see what happens to know if the revenue sharing will resume any time soon.



**Mr. Jacks & Co.**  
Tues.-Sat. 9-6  
Haircuts, perms, colors, shampoo and sets  
3028 Niagara St. 282-0810  
Niagara Falls, NY



**NIAGARA GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION**  
**Annual Banquet & Fundraiser**

Thursday, October 3, 2019  
Basket Auction - 5:30 - 6:15 PM  
Dinner - 6:30 PM

Individual Tickets - \$40, Table of 10 - \$325

Antonio's Banquet & Conference Center  
7708 Niagara Falls Blvd., Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Reserve your seat by registering online with a credit card at [Niagaragospelrescuemission.com](http://Niagaragospelrescuemission.com)  
or send your check to:  
P.O. Box 2657  
Niagara Falls, NY 14302

**\*\*Please specify if you have any food allergies or need a special meal (ex. Gluten free)\*\***

**COME HEAR HOW GOD HAS BLESSED US!**

If you cannot make the banquet, we would ask that you consider still sending a gift in support of the Mission. It is only through the generosity of people like you that we can continue ministering to our community.

Questions - call Donna at 716-946-6163



**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
City of Niagara Falls- Tax Foreclosed Real Estate

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**

**Public Auction Location:**  
Banquet & Conference Center  
7708 Niagara Falls Blvd, Niagara Falls, NY

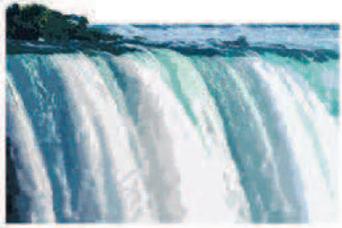
Registration: 7AM | Start: 9AM

**350+ parcels**

**Auction Conducted by:**  
**Auctions International**

**Free Auction Catalogs are available at:**  
Niagara Falls City Hall  
OR  
Visit our website for a Free catalog Download

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** (716) 656-1400 ext. 110  
[www.AuctionsInternational.com/liveauctions](http://www.AuctionsInternational.com/liveauctions)



# NORTH TONAWANDA

## North Tonawanda Cont. from Cover

been highlighted and applauded for its growth, progress, and notability as a prime destination. Numbers don't lie and responsible elected representatives do make a difference.

In August, North Tonawanda was designated as the best place in New York State to live on an annual salary of \$50,000 by GoBankingRates, a financial advisement firm that ranked US cities to see where a yearly \$50,000 salary would go the furthest. This firm highlighted our livability as a city and a crime rate 35% below the national average.

In September, the Airbnb Company rated that more travelers than ever are visiting

Airbnbs in Western New York, and the fourth sought after destination this summer was North Tonawanda. It's a caring community getting attention for all it has to offer.

Investment in North Tonawanda and its infrastructure has attracted businesses, events, travelers, diners, and home buyers who want to call our city their home.

Our final independent ranking deals with security. North Tonawanda has been rated as the 68th safest community out of 2900 New York cities with population over 10,000, according to BackgroundChecks.org, an organization using FBI crime statistics to create state rankings. Our anti-bullying law and implementation of a School Resource Officer in North Tonawanda's schools add to the safety of our youth. We also took on a security assessment of the most public building, our City Hall.

Why are the independent ratings so positive? Simply because our local government works. As the Council President and as an Alderman-at-Large and 1st Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas, we know what is needed to support our local businesses.

We improved our Webster Street business district over the

past few years in conjunction with Lumber City Development Corporation. North Tonawanda Community Development Department has attracted investment, new business, and interested patrons from other parts of New York and Canada.

Let's not forget the \$20 million investment at 600 River Road, River's Edge 88-unit townhome/apartment complex, newly added to our waterfront. Armstrong Pumps has been expanding here, amounting to an \$18 million expansion project while adding 45 new jobs.

Woodcock Brothers Brewing Company invested \$1.5 million for a new brewery location in our historic Wurlitzer building, creating 47 jobs, as it joined the new Platter's Chocolates factory and store at this site.

We have many more economic success stories but these are the latest. What is so endearing about North Tonawanda is our community, our residents, and our volunteers.

We see restoration at our North Tonawanda Botanical Garden by a nonprofit organization where city residents work with our city government to restore and maintain this beautiful location by the Erie Canal. Its restoration illustrates the commitment and passion of North Tonawanda's residents caring for our community. Our residents come together often to pitch in, for example, a recently built playground at Mayor's Park in the Third Ward.

Because of the diligent efforts of our City Officials, combined with the community spirit of its residents, North Tonawanda's City Council has facilitated many quality-of-life changes that impact each resident and visitor. We encourage you to enjoy what we have to offer. If you have suggestions on moving the city forward, we would love to hear from you.



## 5 Trench Safety Tips You Need to Know

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

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

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

### 2. All trenches must have cave-in protection

Whether it's sloping, shoring or shielding, all trenches that are at least five feet deep must be protected. Even a small cave-in produces thousands of pounds of force that can quickly crush, suffocate or trap a worker.

Although it's still uncommon, some courts have found employers who repeatedly ignore trench protection requirements guilty of manslaughter or negligent homicide when workers are killed in cave-ins. Contractors should never allow workers into an unprotected trench for any amount of time. It only takes seconds for a trench to collapse and take the life of a worker.

### 3. Keep materials away from the edge of the trench

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

### 4. Look for standing water and other atmospheric hazards

Water should not be allowed to accumulate in or "boil up" from below a trench. Water adds a significant amount of weight to soil, greatly increasing the chances of a cave-in. If water has accumulated from below, either from heavy rains or from another source, it should be removed and a competent person should inspect the trench before work continues.

Atmospheric hazards in trenches can include oxygen deficiency and toxic gases. Employers must test all trenches before workers enter if there's a reasonable chance of atmospheric hazards. When those hazards are detected, workers have to be protected by engineering controls such as increased ventilation or through the use of respirators.

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

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

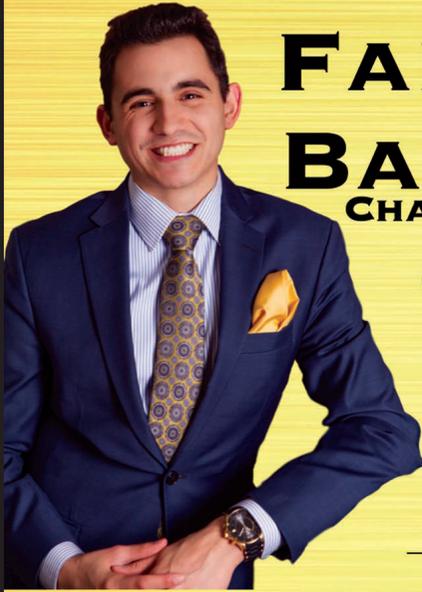
**MATRIMONIAL LAW  
PERSONAL INJURY**

**FAMILY LAW**

**BANKRUPTCY  
CHAPTER 7 & CHAPTER 13**

**CRIMINAL  
DEFENSE**

**WILLS, TRUSTS,  
& ESTATES**



**\*\*ATTORNEY ADVERTISING\*\***

**NICHOLAS D.  
D'ANGELO**

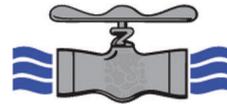
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

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.
- ⊗ **Career positions available.**



**716-297-2901** (Niagara County)

**716-689-0723** (Erie County)

BataviaDownsGaming.com

8315 Park Road, Batavia, NY



@BataviaDowns



**BATAVIA DOWNS**

**GAMING & HOTEL**

NYS Thruway Exit 48  
Open Daily 8am - 4am

Must be 18 years or older to play Video Gaming Machines or wager on horses. Please play responsibly.

**the Area's Premier  
ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION!**

Discover why Batavia Downs Gaming & Hotel is the area's premier entertainment destination! Over 850 of the hottest video gaming machines and a brand new hotel! Dine in one of our great restaurants; Thurman's 34 Rush, Fortune's, Homestretch Grill or enjoy the elegant setting of the Clubhouse; open on race nights!

Batavia Downs Gaming & Hotel is publicly owned by the 15 counties of Western New York including the cities of Buffalo and Rochester and has contributed millions back to the citizens of New York State.

**DINE • PLAY • STAY**

**BOOK NOW AT**

**TheHotelAtBataviaDowns.com**



Our Ambassador, Hall of Famer  
**Thurman Thomas**

