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Who Is Best Prepared To Govern?



(Cont. on pg. 2)

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Tompkins Seeks Surcharge in State Parks to Help City

By: Tony Farina

As Niagara Falls city councilmen grapple with outgoing Mayor Paul Dys-

(Cont. on pg. 6)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

John Spanbauer is the Right Choice

By: Kevin Hearn

Who we elect says a great deal about who we are as a nation, a city, and as individuals. As we seek to be honest, fair, and compassionate citizens, we should

(Cont. on pg. 7)

OFFICIAL HOME OF THE CRIME PAGE 4
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NIAGARA FALLS

Who Is Best Prepared to Govern Cont. from Cover

Robert M. Restaino Candidate for Mayor

At this point in the campaign, I could have begun my article with any one of the tired, old statements you've heard many times in the past: "This is the most important election in the past 20 years;" "Niagara Falls is at a critical crossroad;" or "The choice you make on Election Day will be the most important decision you make that day." I could have written about any of those things, but you've read and heard them all before and you are probably numb by now.

Actually, responding to the demands of residents for a more efficient government; addressing the growing budget concerns; taking advantage of the opportunities provided by technological change; and capitalizing on all our local assets to recruit meaningful economic development to Niagara Falls will be the major pressures challenging the next mayor.

Key questions voters should be asking themselves as November 5th approaches are: What are the real strengths of each candidate? Which candidate can provide a truly professional approach to governing? Which candidate will be a true leader and not just someone "managing" the current state of affairs?

Voters must not just consider the individual they select as the next mayor when answering these

questions, but must also think about the level of talent that will accompany the mayor into City Hall. A mayor must truly understand the concept of "talent" as a competitive advantage in the development of his administrative team as well as in the formulation of potential solutions to the many problems facing our community.

Any plan to address these challenging issues is only as good as the administration's ability to execute it. And strong execution requires talented people at all levels of city government; especially as this city struggles to remain financially solvent over the course of the next couple of years. That's why during this entire campaign I've been promoting a platform of "collaborative governance." The "go-it-alone" mentality of a candidate who thinks of himself as "the new sheriff in town" will only be a continuation of past performances that have led the city into its current condition.

My professional experiences have given me the opportunity to meet and network with a varied cross section of administrative talent. The challenge for me will be to convince these individuals to join the Restaino administration and to stay with me for the long haul. Nevertheless, this talent pool is not going to be confined to City Hall. As mayor, my strategy of "collaborative governance" will cause me to partner with the most progressive and innovative governmental

leaders in Western New York and throughout New York State. This partnership will be the foundation of the policies and programs that guide the Restaino administration.

The various problems challenging our city government are extremely complex. Offering oversimplified solutions will not be the hallmark of my administration. A mayor's reputation for integrity, transparency, and professionalism will be the critical factor in determining his success or failure when dealing with other government professionals and private developers.

All of these considerations bring the focus of the voters on Election Day back to the concern for candidate qualifications. I believe there are three criteria that voters must assess—competencies, commitment, and character.

As an attorney in private practice for over 30 years, I know I possess the organizational, business, and strategic competencies essential for effective leadership. I am convinced that my legal training will be a significant advantage in the negotiation of future contractual commitments.

As someone who has served this community in a variety of elected and appointed public offices, I have demonstrated my level of engagement in working for the betterment of Niagara Falls. I understand and have made the personal sacrifices that a commitment to public service requires.

However, the most difficult of candidate criteria to assess is leadership character. A Restaino administration will be staffed by talented individuals who will be encouraged to engage in open, honest, and critical discussions with the mayor about the level of basic services that can be effectively and efficiently provided to the people of this city. Collaboration within the administrative team and the courage to dissent when the facts underscore the need to move in a different direction will be characteristics of the people I appoint as department heads, and what I will expect from them within their departments.

It is the characteristic of collaboration that will be the highly prized aspect of my tenure at City Hall. Forming effective networks with governmental leaders on the local, state, and federal levels will need to be done immediately. Being open-minded, flexible, and cooperative in developing regional solutions to those problems commonly faced by local governments will be my approach to serving as mayor. As mayor, I will make the commitment to demonstrate the courage to do what is right for our community rather than to pursue the expedient or fashionably satisfying path.

Therefore, I choose to conclude my campaign with the same question with which I opened it some ten months ago: Who is best prepared to govern?

NIAGARA



REPORTER

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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.

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Wilson: Lakeside Market

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

HAMILTON: Kicking Kids Out of Parks Will Likely Cause Greater Problems



Ken Hamilton

The story started with shots being fired at a youth league football game. It was only after a fight had broken; however, they weren't fired until after the police arrived.

"It was one of the opposing team's parents who had discharged the weapon," reported the local television's new station, who also reported that the man was arrested and charged with mishandling a firearm. "The man ... his son and the family are banned indefinitely from the league."

No one was hurt, but something similar did happen here in Niagara Falls. However, the ending was unlike the above story that was reported by television station WBNS-10 in Columbus OH, only two years ago.

And at this very time of the year. And it could not have happened at a worse time for Niagara Falls.

Apparently, with the 2020 Niagara Falls budget looking to cut the number of police officers available on the streets, now is not the time to scale back on youth activities. That really suggests that city officials aren't necessarily seeing 20-20 in this

case.

Here, it took place behind Hyde Park's Sal Maglie baseball stadium. Critics close to youth services said that have had their concerns with the challenges that the Cataract City Hurricane Youth Football League. Those challenges may not only have led up to what was apparently an adult from Buffalo firing off five rounds from a pistol in his not-well-thought-out but effective attempt to break up a mass after-game melee between other adults. It happened before the police arrived.

City officials pulled the Hurricanes' permit in what is thought to be the second largest city park in the state. Officials said that the pulling of the permit was done for the safety of the young padded and helmeted boys who were playing the game and their young cheerleaders.

While no one wants a kid or anyone else to take a stray bullet, the purpose of youth league activities is to give those self-same kids an opportunity to burn off energy in the safety of- and under the tutelage of- organized adult supervision in a place of safety.

While no place in the city should be more secure than a city park, in an unsolved case of a few years ago, body parts were indeed found just a stone's throw away in a black garbage bag off Duck Island. As long as there are people, tuff happens – and youth league sports are a big part of reducing the chances of most of those kids doing the shooting.

City officials reportedly said that they would help the league find someplace else to play their remaining games outside of the park but that



Legends Basketball Park.

would likely lessen the security that the officials said that they wanted the kids to have; maybe even eliminate it.

As the city looks at cutting police officers, it must also realize that youth services, such as leagues like the Hurricanes, are a part of the public safety portfolio; if not, then a Police Athletic League would not have been formed -- a program that actually reduces the need for so costly of a police force. How would moving the event elsewhere in the city would reduce police responses and place the youth in greater safety zone, leaving us to wonder what it is that the city officials really are trying to avoid.

There's no question that Niagara Falls is a very difficult city to govern; and I believe that administrators are doing the very best that they can within the confines of budgetary

constraints. Our over-worked and under-staffed DPW do a fantastic job in maintaining the city's parks, and their stress levels just have to be extremely high; hence the rashness of the decision.

Nonetheless, one would have to ask that if someone fired five rounds up into the air after a college team baseball game inside of the stadium would city officials the offer to help find someplace else for those collegians to play?

Of course not! Our Constitution itself implies that its purpose is not to create a Heaven on Earth; instead, just simply a more perfect union. In our city's local case, our aim should be a more perfect union between the decisions of both policy-makers and their constituents – the heaven will follow in the smile of a child.

Batavia Downs Racing Having a Banner Year

Tony Farina

The 2019 season of live harness racing at Batavia Downs is one of the best ever through the half-way point and will continue on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights through Dec. 14 with one more Monday card on Columbus Day, Oct. 14, beginning at 1:15 p.m. Post times for Wednesdays is 5 p.m. and at 6 p.m. for Fridays and Saturdays.

The numbers tell the story of the sensational racing season with the on-track handle up 15.1%, the export handle up 26.1%, and the OTB handle up 8.7% with total betting from all Western Regional OTB sources up 20.5% or \$820,609.

"The numbers are very impressive, but the product has been as

well," said Todd Haight, director/general manager of Live Racing at Batavia Downs. "Our overnight racing has been very competitive, and we've had many guaranteed pools in conjunction with the United States Trotting Association's Strategic Wagering Program which draws bettors from all over to follow our track. And our New York Sire Stakes Night of Champions was the jewel of the season and it has exposed many new local people to our sport as a result."

Seven new track records have been set at the Batavia Downs oval since July by trotters Hypnotic Am, Quincy Blue Chip, Third Swift and CR Blazin Beauty. Also among the record-breakers are pacers Hick-fromfrenchlick, American Mercury and Cigars and Port.

Billy Davis leads the driver standings with 63 wins following by Jim Morrill, Jr. with 58 and Dave McNeight III with 46.

The top trainers to date are James Clouser, Jr. with 37 wins followed by Marie Rice (20) and David Russo (17).

As of Sept. 28, there was a tie for the winningest horse between Blue Bell Bonny and Tullow N with five trips to the winner's circle.

The high-flying racing meet helped contribute to the generous community development contribution in August to Niagara County of \$178,818 from Batavia Downs Gaming/WROTB's year-to-date earnings which were the highest given to the county in 20 years from quarterly earnings of \$1.7 million.

Batavia Downs is the only



municipally owned and operated gaming facility in the state and provides critical funding for community development which helps create jobs, said Henry Wojtaszek, president/CEO of Batavia Downs Gaming WROTB.

Batavia Downs/WROTB is owned and operated by 15 Western New York counties and the cities of Buffalo and Rochester.



THE CRIME

WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Niagara Falls Police were responded to the 2100 block of Main Street in the early morning hours of Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019, by the Niagara Falls Fire Department after a person jumped out of a third story window attempting to escape police. According to reports, the individual sustaine serious injuries.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the area of 19th and Ashland Avenue in the late evening hours of Monday, October 1st, 2019, and early mornig hours of Tuesday, October 2nd, 2019, to investigate a shooting. According to reports, police were initially called to Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital for reports that a male had walked into the emergency room with a gunshot wound to the leg. Reports also indicate thhat police received multiple calls regarding shots fired in the area of 19th and Ashland Avenue. Upon arrival, officers discovered two bullet casings in the street on the 1700 block of Ashland Avenue. Based upon this information, police determined that this is where the shooting took place.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 400 block of 23rd Street in the evening hours of Friday, October 4th, 2019, after reports that three vehicles were damaged in a hit-and-run crash. Accord-



ing to reports, two people, a male driver and female passenger, were seen fleeing the scene on foot.

Reports also indicate that police recovered about \$300 worth of stolen meat and other items from Tops. Witnesses stated that the female appeared to be under the influence of something, but also that she went head-first into the windshield prior to exited the vehicle.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 700 block of 19th Street in the evening hours of Friday, October 4th, 2019, after reports of a subject holding a gun to another person's head. According to reports, the "victim" stated that they did not want to press charges.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the immediate vicinity of 98th Street after calls of a stolen vehicle. According to reports, the caller stated that a female wearing a purple jumpsuit, whom he had just met, hopped in his vehicle and "made moves" prior to taking off in the car.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 2200 block of Hyde Park Boulevard in the early morning hours of Sunday, October 6th, 2019, after reports of a robbery. According to reports, police arrested a man shortly after responding to a robbery call the gas station. The suspect is said to have grabbed a \$100 bill out of an elderly mans hand and running away from the scene.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to a parking ramp in Downtown Niagara Falls in the afternoon hours of Sunday, October 6th, 2019, after reports that a woman, who had been confused by ramp signage, made a turn to soon and became stuck.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 500 block of 18th Street in the late evening hours of Sunday, October 6th, 2019, investigating an assault and stabbing. According to reports, one person was transported to a hospital.

Niagara Falls Fire were first dispatched to the scene for an unresponsive person who, upon arriving at the scene, was immediately given CPR. One person was arrested and taken into custody.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 2600 block of Niagara Street in the early morning hours of Monday, October 7th, 2019, after reports of shots fired. According to reports, one person was shot and transported to the hospital.

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Tompkins Seeks Surcharge Cont. from Cover



ter's last proposed spending plan, one lawmaker is thinking outside the box and wants the creation of a \$5 tourist parking surcharge in state parks to benefit the financially strapped city in years to come.

In a resolution filed with the council, Kenny Tompkins wants the city to request the state legislature to draft a bill that would help Niagara Falls collect a parking surcharge from the millions of tourists who flock to state parks every year to

help the city stay afloat.

In his resolution, Tompkins, a Republican who is seeking re-election this year, wants the state to approve a bill for the purpose of adding the tourist surcharge as follows:

- 1) Five dollars for every motor vehicle that parks on a New York State Parks Department parking lot within Niagara Falls; and
- 2) Twenty dollars for every bus that parks on a New York State

Parks Department parking lot within Niagara Falls; and

3) Two dollars for every ticket sold at an attraction within the New York State Parks Department operated within Niagara Falls.

Under his proposal, the legislature would require that the State Parks Department and their vendors "remit the tourist surcharge to the City of Niagara Falls on a quarterly basis."

Tompkins wants the council to forward his resolution to state lawmakers and the governor as the city struggles with several painful proposals in the 2020 budget proposal now before them to help close a more than \$4 million deficit, brought on in part by the stalemate between the state and the Seneca Nation over revenue sharing which stopped back in 2017 when the Senecas said they are no longer required to pay under the compact.

As things stand now, the city likely needs to enact an approximately \$218 annual garbage user fee to help close the budget gap as well as increase the tax levy and lay off several workers. The city has



Niagara Falls City Councilman Ken Tompkins.

gone without a garbage fee enacted in other communities even though the city's financial advisory board recommended the fee two years ago.

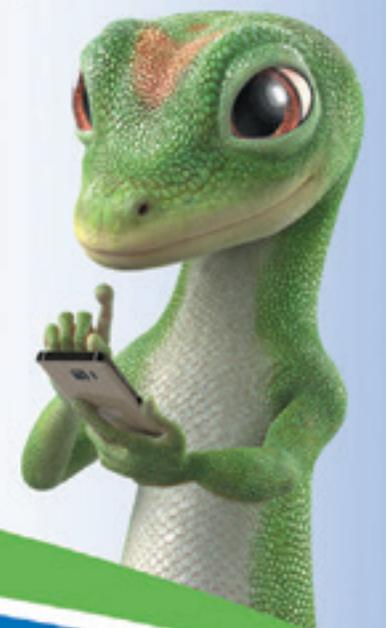
Tompkins believes the state needs to help in the current crisis by targeting the millions of tourists who come to the Cataract City every year to see the world wonder. It is a way to raise new revenue that would not take money out of the pockets of struggling residents in one of the poorest cities in the state.

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Letter to the Editor Cont. from Cover



Niagara Falls City Council Candidate John Spanbauer.

expect the same in those we entrust to make critical decisions regarding our community. In good times, we seek these qualities in our elected officials. In the times we find ourselves in now, with significant challenges and declining resources, these qualities must be fundamental requirements of our city officials. While the City's issues are many and complex, if you believe in honesty, fairness, and compassion, there is a simple choice at the polls on November 5th - elect John Spanbauer to the Niagara Falls City Council!

I have known John for nearly a decade while we worked together at Niagara University. During this time, John was instrumental in organizational restructuring, strategic planning, and resource management efforts. He was known by students, staff, and faculty for his fair and honest approach to identifying and solving problems. In an organization when consensus building is critically important, John remained committed to bringing people together in order to make important and necessary decisions. John worked hard, everyday, in early and staying late, to get the job done. He built relationships with board members and executives, as well as support and trades staff. He treated everyone he came in contact with respect in order to affect change and demonstrate his understanding of the various perspectives on a particular issue. John was also a responsible budget manager driven to use resources efficiently and to seek a return on any investment

we were able to make. Time and time again, John demonstrated a commitment to the people and programs that had a direct, immediate, and important impact on the campus community. Humble and kind in his approach to his work, John was never interested in the recognition that often came from his hard work. When recognized by the University for his unwavering service and commitment with the Vincentian Mission Award in 2012, John was quick to share his award and thanks with his family and his colleagues, as is his manner of a true leader. Throughout his years of service at NU, I never came into contact with anyone who thought him unkind, unfair, or unreasonable. While he managed many responsibilities, and was called upon to lead in various roles at the University, including as the interim vice president, John approached the job and the people he worked with with an unwavering work ethic and unflappable determination to address and solve problems. Isn't this how we should describe our elected officials?

Say what you will about Democrats and Republicans, the issues they claim and their agenda. This year's city elections must be about the people of Niagara Falls, Republicans and Democrats alike, and the real issues citizens face in this great city. If you care about your city, about how critical decisions will be made, and about the character of the politicians who we trust to make these decisions, the choice is simple - elect John Spanbauer!

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Recognizing and Preventing Workplace Violence in Construction

Workplace violence captures many headlines today. OSHA estimates that about two million workers are affected by workplace violence every year. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that almost nine percent of all worker deaths in the U.S. in 2017 were caused by workplace violence. In the construction industry, workplace violence accounted for 56 of the 971 worker deaths in 2017. It is estimated that up to 25 percent of workplace violence incidents never get reported. Workplace violence is more than physical violence alone. Workplace violence is any threat of physical violence, harassment, intimidation or other threatening or disruptive behavior that occurs on the job. This includes sexual harassment and bullying. Harassment is defined as any unwelcome or discriminatory verbal or physical contact, while bullying is defined as unprovoked, repeated aggressive or hurtful behavior committed by one or more people against another.

All workers, regardless of industry, have the potential to be affected by workplace violence. In addition to injuries caused by physical violence, workers may experience numerous other physical and mental health effects. These include increased stress and anxiety, depression and lower self-esteem. Employers that don't take steps to reduce and stop harassment, bullying and other types of workplace violence are likely to see increased absenteeism, reduced productivity when workers are on the job and lower morale overall on site. The pervasive threat of workplace violence alone can be a safety risk, as workers may be unable to concentrate or devote their full attention to the task at hand.

While workplace violence is a complex and multifaceted issue, as with any jobsite hazard, there are concrete steps that employers can take to reduce risk for all employees. Some of these steps include:

- Incorporating workplace violence into the company's formal safety and health program
- Encouraging workers to report incidents that occur and overcoming a reluctance to report
- Training supervisors to recognize potential warning signs and take appropriate action
- Creating a stigma-free workplace so that employees feel supported by management and their co-workers.

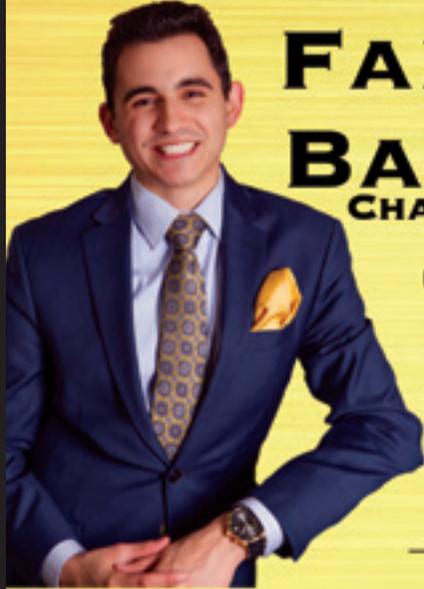
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Must be 18 years or older to play Video Gaming machines or wager on horses. Please play responsibly.

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