



**Grandinetti
wants her
critics to move
out of town**



**Dyster
Transparency**

NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

THE TRUTH IS ALWAYS FAIR

FREE

JUL 07 - JUL 15, 2015

VOL. 16, NO. 26

FREE

Accardo Calls for Truth-In-Budgeting From Falls Mayor

Accardo Blasts Dyster

'City on the Edge of Insolvency!'



**THE BUCK
STOPS HERE**

Deal REALTY
Lewiston
754-3301
Niagara Falls
213-6070



NEW LISTING

301 Main St. Youngstown

Remodeled waterfront property in the Village of Youngstown. Tiered backyard to a full lot at water level w/ beach, gazebo, shed. Riparian, docking and mooring rights. 4 BR, 2.5 ba w/ 10 ft ceilings & open floor plan. Could easily be converted into 3 separate units. \$475,000



NEW LISTING

745 Page Avenue Niagara Falls

Beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath Cape located in the heart of Lewiston. Walking distance to Center Street and all local amenities. Updated kitchen and bathrooms. Beautiful wood flooring. Good size backyard for entertaining. \$147,000

Grandinetti Tells Falls' Residents on Facebook,

Frank Parlato

Last week a Facebook furor erupted, fueled by Niagara Falls Council Member Kristen Grandinetti after she told local filmmaker Ken Cosentino and everyone else reading it on Facebook that if Cosentino, or you or me, don't like the way the city is run move out of town.

Cosentino's proposed banishment by Grandinetti, instead of getting her praise for her clever put down remarks had the opposite effect as people commented on the idiocy of a sitting councilwoman telling a resident that he should move out of town if in effect he doesn't like the way her and her main man, Mayor Paul Dyster, are running the city.

By that standard, by the way, about 75 percent of the city will be requested to move out of town if they don't keep quiet.

Cosentino was not pleased of course by the crude council woman's stupid comments.

"Kristen Grandinetti insult(ed) the people of Niagara Falls and told me personally that I should move," Cosentino told the Reporter. "Dozens of people, many whom I don't even know, fired back at her with their disgust in our elected officials. She was quickly turned into a meme, I saw at least 4 different versions circulating the Internet today."

But what provoked the lady loudmouth to bear down on Cosentino?

It was a Facebook post written by Cosentino. We are running it in this space in full so that people can judge for themselves the nature of Cosentino's offense and whether a sitting council woman no matter how obtuse should suggest – even sarcastically – that the man should get out of town.

Cosentino wrote, "Currently, in my city we are averaging a shooting every week (sometimes multiple shootings in one day). It's sometimes difficult to determine who is worse: The underground heroin ring, criminals who think they own the city.... ORcrooked politicians who have only themselves in mind, who think they own the city. It's no big secret that NYS reaps funds from the city of Niagara Falls while the citizens struggle to find gainful employment, of which there is hardly any. This will not change; the city of Niagara Falls, NY was built on graft. It is designed this way.

"Many people ask me, daily, why do I



We asked Ken Cosentino is he cared that Kristen Grandinetti wants him to leave town and this was his reaction.

choose to stay here? I'll tell you why: This is my home. My great grandparents came here and my family has been here since. People are ruining the city. The city itself can be torn down, rebuilt, destroyed, neglected, resuscitated... what matters are the people. They are my reason for staying here. We have good people here. We also have a whole ton of criminals here, who use the impoverished economy to their advantage. Now is the time to fight. If we don't do it now, then eventually the city of Niagara Falls will be lost to these fiends, sucked of it's life force by dishonest politicians and gangbangers, and revitalization will be difficult tenfold.

"So yes, I choose to live here. I choose to work here. I choose to one day have a house and raise a family here. I grew up here. My memories are here. I see beauty here. We each have to do our best to make Niagara Falls a better place, whether it be through community service or adding our own beauty to the city. If you have a talent and you live here, hone your talent. Sharpen it and put it to use. Find others who are talented and join forces. There is strength in numbers.

"We cannot let our city fall into darkness. This is a special place; a sacred place. The land that the city is built on has soaked up so much blood, this cannot continue. We have to make peaceful efforts. We have to support independent, local artists and business owners.

"If you are someone who is constantly complaining about the state of the city, do something about it. Find a solution. I challenge you to shop at a locally owned business or eat at a locally owned restaurant at least once a week. Keep money circulating locally.



Council member Kristen Grandinetti wants Ken Cosentino to leave town since he doesn't like the job she and Mayor Paul Dyster are doing.

"The state is not going to fix the city. They care about the park, the casino, the power plant, and the profits.

"City hall is not going to fix the city. They care about leaving their mark and immortalizing their own names, building statues to themselves, congratulating their own efforts.

"We have to fix the city. I'm staying. And eventually, I'm buying a gun, because it's becoming like the wild west in Niagara Falls, NY."

So what was Grandinetti reaction to this eloquent piece of very fine and sensitive writing?

NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

"The Truth is Always Fair"

**CHAIRMAN & EDITOR IN CHIEF
Frank Parlato**

**Managing Editor
Dr. Chitra Selvaraj**

**Senior Editor
Tony Farina**

PHONE: (716) 284-5595

P.O. Box 3083, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

E-mail: news1926@gmail.com

Website: www.niagarafallsreporter.com

All contents copyright © 2015 Niagara Falls Reporter Inc.

\$1000 REWARD!



Reward upto \$1000 for information that leads to the identity and prosecution of the person who stole Brutus, male Beagle from 95th St. and Read Ave., July 25th, 2014 or return of Brutus.

**716-236-0145
(Roland Nafus)**

716-283-3851 (Mike)

**716-236-0145 (Roland)
716-283-3851 (Mike)**

If You Don't Like it Here "Move, You Are Not a Tree"

She lashed back at him, posting on Facebook, "How about the time we tried to help you Ken and we didn't do it the way you wanted to so you turn tail and ran and then badmouthed us all over town everybody's got their own perspective myself personally I love the city the people in it and all it has to offer."

Then she posted "If you don't like where you are, MOVE, You are not a tree."

The beginning of the Grandinetti post requires some explanation.

Grandinetti was referring with her "we tried to help you" Ken Cosentino to the time when Mayor Dyster, trying to help his own re-election campaign in 2011 chased the filmmaker Cosentino and begged him to accept \$10,000 in taxpayer money to assist Cosentino and his partner complete the low budget but critically acclaimed horror comedy action film noir "Crimson."

Dyster knew that the more than 100 locals Cosentino had put to work on the film would translate into votes. And he encouraged Cosentino to talk up Dyster's big helping hand with the press.

Cosentino accepted – a mistake - he later told the Reporter – because he came to learn that the best art is made without taxpayer subsidies but through the honest exertions of the artist.

But it didn't really matter anyway since Dyster – after reaping headlines in the local media as a notable patron of the local movie industry - quickly and quietly changed the terms of the deal from a \$10,000 grant into a \$6,500 loan.

Cosentino exposed Dyster's motives and how the beggarly mayor chased him and not vice versa to hand out the money and get good press.

So Grandinetti had a reason to want Cosentino out of town anyway. His letter just made him that much more undesirable to share the city she and her mayor so lovingly and effectively rule.

But the real issue that sparked the hot debate which was you're not a tree so move comment.

As people condemned her comments, Grandinetti kept it going.

"You people break my heart you are so removed from your community and reality it's a shame."

Cosentino fired back, 'You people' are the taxpaying citizens of Niagara Falls, NY. We live here, just like you, and we have a right to voice our opinion and disdain for the condition of our city. And instead of retaliating with insults, Kristen, you as an elected city official should listen to our words."

Grandinetti wasn't about to give up: "Didn't someone get a grant from this terrible little city to pursue your dreams?"

John Walter Henry chimed in at this point: "I'm glad we have such awful inconsiderate people looking out for us. Move. What a lazy response. Do your job or gtfo."

Ken Badger wrote, "Ken Cosentino I applaud you for staying and committing to finding solutions. It's one thing to criticize, but to coming with solutions as well is what a lot of us forget to do. Your opinion of our city is not just yours, you are the one of the ones brave enough to say it out loud and take whatever response comes with that. And you're built for that and some! Appreciate you bro!"

Sam Archie wrote "The sad part of this thread is the attitude of an elected official Grandinetti. Instead of acknowledging your concern and well written post She insults you Ken Cosentino. Don't feel bad you're in good company I once stated how a certain area was in bad shape she said on Face Book I should leave town. Real class act from our council person."

Cosentino wrote, "Her comments only prove my point Sam Archie."

Tina Cosentino Flynn wrote, "Well said Sam Archie. And she just continues to keep going on about how it's our fault the city is in

the shape it is. Us taxpayers did not cause this and we should not have to move just because the elected officials in the last eight years caused the quality of life here to go down. Maybe they need to be reminded who put them in office and who can be happy to take them out when their time is up."

Joshua Allen Hibbard wrote, "Ken, this is one of the most beautifully written and point blank honest takes I've seen on the falls in a Long time."

But don't tell that to Councilwoman Grandinetti, she might ask you to leave town.



Is government supposed to entertain the governed?

Blame Game Over Moody Downgrade Rising

There seems to be a difference of opinion on the state of finances in the Town of Lewiston.

Six months ago, Town of Lewiston Supervisor Dennis Brochey stated that "Things are looking pretty bright for Lewiston."

He made that comment after the abrupt resignation of former Finance Officer Paul Kloosterman.

He credited that success to the work that he and Kloosterman had done on the Supervisor's 2015 budget.

In April when asked about the current financial position, he told this newspaper that "the finances here are in pretty good shape," referring to his work on the Lewiston budget.

He went on to say "I could leave today and be proud of the work I did to straighten out the budget."

Yet on July 2 Moody's Investors Service downgraded the Town of Lewiston's bond rating from an AA3 rating to an A1.

Moody's is the major source that banks and other investors use to determine the creditworthiness of bonds and other securities. Their ratings effect the interest rates that municipalities will have to pay on long term debt and Lewiston will be reissuing \$6.2 million of long terms bonds on July the 8th.

In their Summary Rating Rationale, Moody's wrote that the downgrade to A1 reflects the town's weakened financial position following several years of fund balance draws that are expected to continue through fiscal 2015; significant reliance on economically sensitive revenues.

Moody's warned that the rating could sink even lower if there were "continued structurally unbalanced operations and reserve declines in fiscal 2014 and/or fiscal 2015 beyond current expectations.

According to informed sources both of those things will be the case for 2015.

Last year Brochey and Kloosterman



Dennis Brochey fights back.

blamed former Supervisor Steve Reiter and his all –Republican council for most of the financial problems Lewistown was going through.

And Moodys did downgrade Lewiston in large part on several years of overspending. However they noted that the overspending continued in 2015.

It also placed part of the blame for the downgrade on the 2015 budget planning as well.

"I warned the Council last year that this would happen with the Moody Rating but they didn't believe me," Brochey said.

Yet the 2015 budget that was proposed by Brochey wasn't balanced.

The Town had to take almost \$370,000 out of their reserve fund to make the budget work.

Yet, that was a vast improvement over the 2014 budget, put together by Mike Marra, Mike Johnson and Gary Catlin for the Reiter administration in 2013, according to Brochey.

Brochey says the 2014 budget needed \$840,000 out of revenue to balance.

Yet with decreasing revenues such as

Modern Disposal tipping fees there seems to be reasonable concern that more money will have to be taken out of the Town's reserve accounts for budget 2016.

The 2015 proposed budget – which was approved by the Republican town council - allocated hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars to various events and organizations.

The chamber of commerce actually received an increase from \$50,000 to \$55,000 for 2015 and promptly gave their director a \$5,000 raise.

Brochey said the council, not he, raised the Chamber gift.

"I tried to cut the Chamber's yearly funding from \$55,000 to \$50,000. The Town Board rejected that and you can check the minutes, it was a 4 to 1 vote with me casting the lone 'nay'"

Still Brochey and Kloosterman's 2015 budget drew from the town's reserves, was reliant on economically sensitive revenues, and was structurally unbalanced.

Just like the budgets before them.

All of which were part of the recipe for the fiscal woes described by Moody's that led to Lewiston being downgraded to an A1 and perhaps in the near future even lower.

On the other hand Brochey did make cuts.

He led the town to cut Art Park's \$100,000 plus concert party-hardy subsidy paid by Lewiston.

He had a meeting with Mark Thomas from the N.Y.S. Parks about getting out of Joe Davis State Park.

"He understood our finances and all he asked for was a 30 day notice," Brochey said. "Board members said 'No' and that they had too much invested to get out. I tried three times to remove the position of Internal Claims Auditor. (I had no work for him to do). I tried to get \$13,500 from George Osborne for our Police budget. Winkley, Bax

and Conrad shrugged it all off.

"Back in 2014, if they had listened to me that \$840,000 would have been \$440,000 instead. Funny that it took them all one full year to realize that I was correct as shown this year where we stopped giving Artpark money, we are getting out of Joe Davis and removed the Claims Auditor position. The fruits of my labor and ideas will be found next year at this time and the following year after that," Brochey said.

Brochey also cited other savings.

"Tim Master, Linda Johnson and I met with the Bridge Commission; we got an extra \$50,000 coming in this year. Donna Garfinkle and Darlene Norwich came to my office with an idea to consolidate the Clerk Dept. with the Tax Receiver. We talked great lengths on this and ironed out how to get this accomplished. Lisa Rizzo retired from the Police Dept. I came up with the idea of moving our Junior Accountant over there. Three positions were not filled saving us close to \$160,000 with benefits."

Finally Brochey says that any capital projects that he has talked about were not with the use of taxpayer money but with either Greenway funds or NYPA Hydropower allotment funds.

"If you add up what Kloosterman and now our new Finance Director Martha Blazek have been working on, it adds up to almost \$600,000 better than the 2014 budget. No, by no means are we out of the woods yet but Marti and I and the people I work with directly at Town Hall are not finished yet and we are working for a stable budget by the end of 2016."

Walker Forgot a Few Details in Recent Interview About His Unpaid Property Taxes

Frank Parlato

You gotta love Charley Walker.

He doesn't file his campaign disclosure forms for more than a dozen years.

He doesn't pay his property taxes in the city where he sits as council member for five years.

He doesn't pay back his loan he borrowed from his union brothers.

And nobody calls him to account.

After the Niagara Falls Reporter broke the story that Walker was years behind on his city, school and county property taxes on his home on 16th St, a figure that amounted to about \$12,000 he told the Niagara Gazette that he made arrangements to pay it off and that he only "owes about \$4,000 on the property tax bill."

Frankly this is not likely to be true.

It might be true that he only owes \$4,000 on the city portion of his property taxes. But he perhaps forgot to mention that he owes about \$4,000 on school taxes and another \$2000 in county taxes.

But Charley says it is only \$4,000.

Ok.

Charley also does not bother to file the legally required campaign disclosure reports with the New York State Board of Elections.

He is the only elected official in Niagara Falls who has failed to do this and he is the longest serving councilmember in Niagara Falls.

It's not like he is a rookie,

Walker is now in his six term.

Yet he has not filed for decades.

By failing to file disclosure forms, Walker is in violation of New York State election law 14-126 (1): "Any candidate who willfully and knowingly fails to file required forms can be fined \$1000 per failure." In addition (EL 14-126(4) provides that a candidate can be charged with a misdemeanor."

But when the Buffalo News asked Walker - on Oct 30, 2013 - - just before Walker's last election - why he was the only council candidate not to file disclosure reports during the 2013 campaign season, Walker said he would "check with the two people helping to manage his campaign about the unfilled paperwork."

On July 29, 2014, the Gazette wrote, "Walker acknowledged that his filings were not up to date when reached by phone and said he is working on getting the matter resolved. 'I have to sit down this week or next week to get that figured out!'"

Walker then blamed the non-filing on his "campaign treasurer", who he named as Isaac Williams, saying in effect that Williams



Charles Walker a lovable dead-beat?

didn't know how to use the computer to file.

The Reporter, in an Aug. 3 2014 article, revealed that Walker's alleged campaign treasurer, Williams, denied any connection to the councilman's filing difficulties or to Walker's campaign account.

What's more Williams said he had never been asked to file Walker's disclosures and that he not only knows how to use a computer, but he is an IT specialist for Unifrax and teaches computer courses.

With constant prodding by the media Walker finally got around to filing a single year of campaign disclosures with the state.

He has 18 more years to go.

In addition to Walker not paying property taxes, a lien was taken on Walker's home because the law firm of Bulan, Chiari, Horwitz and Ilecki had to sue him after he failed to pay a loan he had gotten from his dues-paying union brothers at UAW Local 55 Federal Credit Union in the amount of \$5,805.11.

Meantime Walker has voted for five tax increases during the time he has not paid city, school and county taxes on his home on 16th Street.

In the final analysis, you gotta wonder about Charley Walker.

There is not another elected official - no one - who could get away with this.

Suppose it was Glenn Choolokian, or Mayor Dyster or Andy Touma.

Wouldn't there be a howl, a hue and cry?

Why is Walker entitled to a double standard?

Lovability I guess.

Looking for a Family Doctor?



Sathia Nathan,
M.D.

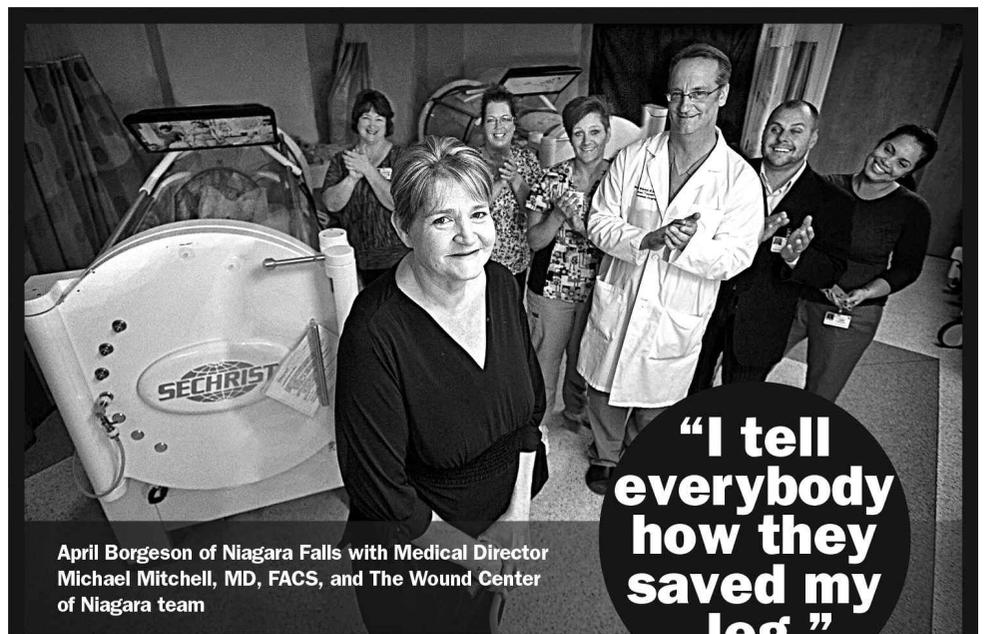
Michele N. Sneed,
RN, MS-ANP

*We're accepting new patients
Most insurances accepted*



NIAGARA FALLS
Memorial Medical Center
Summit Healthplex

Summit Healthplex, Suite 500
6934 Williams Road
Niagara Falls/Wheatfield, NY
Phone: (716) 278-4499



April Borgeson of Niagara Falls with Medical Director Michael Mitchell, MD, FACS, and The Wound Center of Niagara team

"I tell everybody how they saved my leg."

Comprehensive care for chronic, non-healing wounds.

Nationally recognized for quality care, safety and patient satisfaction.

- 98% heal rate
- 31 days to heal on average
- 98% patient satisfaction

Call (716) 278-4424 today to find out how our team can help you.

The Wound Center
of
Niagara

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center

(716) 278-4424 www.nfmmc.org
620 10th St, Suite 700, Niagara Falls



Moody's Downgrades Lewiston, NY's GOLT to A1; Outlook Negative

Moody's Investors Service has downgraded to A1 from Aa3 on the town of Lewiston's, (NY) outstanding general obligation limited tax bonds, affecting approximately \$14.8 million of outstanding debt.

"The outlook is negative," Moody wrote in a recent report.

Concurrently, Moody's has assigned an A1 rating to the town's \$6.195 million Public Improvement Refunding (Serial) Bonds, 2015.

"The downgrade to A1 reflects the town's weakened financial position following several years of fund balance draws that are expected to continue through fiscal 2015;

significant reliance on economically sensitive revenues; moderately-sized tax base; manageable debt and moderate pension burden."

Town formerly had an AA3 which is a single notch above A1.

A1 is highest level within its grouping and the next level up is the AA3.

The town of Lewiston has a population of 16,262. The Town provides police protection, street maintenance, parks and recreation, water, sewer and general government support.

For the 2014 fiscal year, budgeted appropriations totaled approximately \$17.4

million. Expenditures are funded primarily by property taxes, sales tax, State aid and user fees.

The bonds are secured by the town's general obligation pledge as limited by the Property Tax Cap-Legislation of the Laws of the State of New York, 2011.

The purpose of the Moody rating is to help investors decide if they want to lend the improvident people of Lewiston who continue to elect politicians who spend more money than they take in on a raft of things and hence must borrow and be in debt.

The town is in debt.

And the whole purpose of the Moody

rating is that the town wants to borrow and offer new bonds to pay off old bonds going back to 2006 and 2008 at hopefully a lower interest rate.

The town officials think the anticipated savings will be approximately \$316,000 or 5.6% over the life of the bonds.

Many investors rely on Moody credit ratings to decide whether to lend and at what rate of interest they will lend at; the higher the credit rating the lower the interest rates is a general rule of thumb.

Sweet of Brooke to be Dyster's Campaign Photographer

Last Friday (July 3) afternoon, Mayor Paul Dyster briefly attended an anti-bullying fund raiser at the Wal-Mart store on Military Road held by the Niagara Christian Basketball Program.

From the photographs, it appeared that only a handful of people attended, most of them running for election.

As worthy as the aspirations of the Basketball Program is, Dyster's aspirations were every bit as worthy.

He utilized it as a photo-op, and, remarkably, with him was Brooke D'Angelo, one of Dyster's recent city hires, who has had considerable experience as a photographer, and radio voice talent for political campaigns.

She was there to take pictures of Dyster and is now presumably his campaign photographer.

Her pictures soon appeared on Facebook supporting the mayor.

Dyster, of course, got what he came for – mention in the Niagara Gazette – and a photograph in the newspaper – with him



Dyster appears with two other candidates running for office, County Legislator Owen Steed and County Clerk Candidate Jamie Moxham.



Brooke D'Angelo hired to enforce the mayor's nasty trash collection program, is doubling as the mayor's photographer. Here she is photographing the mayor at the anti-bullying rally.

Have You or a Loved One Been Diagnosed with MESOTHELIOMA....



because you were exposed to asbestos-containing materials while working at one of Western New York's industrial plants?

WE REPRESENT WORKERS FROM:

- Ashland Oil • Bethlehem Steel • Carborundum
- Carbide Graphite • Durez Plastics
- Donner Hanna Coke • Dunlop-Goodyear • Dupont
- GM Central Foundry • Hanna Furnace
- Hooker Chemical • Kimberly Clark
- Niagara Mohawk • Olin Mathieson
- Semet-Solvay (Tonawanda Coke) • Simonds Saw & Steel
- Spaulding Fibre • Union Carbide



LIPSITZ & PONTERIO, LLC
Buffalo's Mesothelioma Attorneys Since 1995

Call Us Today: 716-849-0701

www.lipsitzponterio.com

135 Delaware Avenue • 5th Floor • Buffalo, New York 14202 • Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

wearing an anti-bullying tee shirt - as an attendee for the event, and a great supporter of the cause.

He left shortly after the media left.

While D'Angelo was exempted from taking a civil service test for her position as head of the enforcement team for Dyster's new and disastrous trash plan, a job that consists of her collecting complaints from day till night from the people of Niagara Falls, she is now showing Niagara Falls voters why she was hired.

While the city of Niagara Falls has not had an engineer in more than two years, and City Planner Tom DeSantis is currently acting economic development director, Dyster hired D'Angelo and a raft of other new employees just before he imposed a spending and hiring freeze.

Ironically, all of the new hires had previous experience working on campaigns.

But then again this is what Dyster needed going into the 2015 election, a salaried staff of campaign veterans.

The only problem is that city taxpayers

will be bearing the expense.

In addition to the multi-talented D'Angelo, Dyster hired political strategist Nick Melson for his new secretary after moving his old one, Bridgette Myles over to the council as their new secretary.

Then he moved Ryan Undercoffer, the old council secretary over to Community Development.

Undercoffer was vice chair of the city's Democratic Committee and vice chair for county Democrats.

He also hired seasoned campaigner and political strategist Johnny Destino, for a purchasing agent job that had been vacant for years.

And then there is D'Angelo taking pictures and more.

As we have said in the past few weeks, the mayor has spared the taxpayer no expense in assembling a first rate political team.

Poor Planning or Vandalism at Root of Destruction of Wallenda Monument at State Park?

James Hufnagel and Frank Parlato

On Tuesday, July 30 at 10:09 pm we received the following disturbing text message (edited for clarity):

"Within the past 15 minutes of 9:30 pm, the Nick Wallenda monument was destroyed on Goat Island. Plaque gone and boulder shattered in pieces... Too dark for picture... Parks Police on scene. No clue what happened. My anonymous tip for you."

A few minutes later, the same individual sent a second text:

"I walked by to go to Three Sisters and then about 15-20 (minutes later) on my return walk to the Horseshoe Falls, it was a disaster. There were Parks Police and several Parks workers. I have no clue what happened."

"When I walked by, the workers had the expression on their faces of something that went terribly wrong..."

"One cop said 'oh, shit!'"

The Wallenda had consisted of a boulder from the Niagara River Gorge, which was affixed to a commemorative plaque, as well as a section of the actual wire Wallenda traversed during his historic walk across the Niagara Falls gorge.

The Reporter visited the scene the next morning and found the monument in ruins and the plaque missing.

We questioned two State Parks workers who were trimming the grass in the immediate vicinity, one of whom nervously responded, "Oh, they're moving it to a new location (in the park)."

Which made the Reporter curious.

Why would State Parks workers demolish a memorial to the world-famous Wallenda walk under cover of darkness, and apparently the night before, with State Parks police officers supervising?

State Parks Spokeswoman Angela P. Berti told the Niagara Gazette that the monument "was not vandalized but rather is situated in the construction area so it was advised that it be moved in order to protect it from damage during construction,"

Terrapin point, where the monument was located, is about to undergo a construction job which includes landscaping, rails, pavers and lighting for \$3.83 million.

This, too, made us curious.

If the job is like others done recently in the park, the bulk of the money will be going into purchasing pavers that the Albany based parks have directed to be purchased at a particular quarry at a price far more expensive than what similar or better stone could be bought for elsewhere.

This newspaper had previously reported that contractors were, by the nature of the RFP, essentially directed to buy granite from Champlain Stone, an Albany area company with quarries in the Adirondacks.



July, 2014: Nik Wallenda admires lasting tribute to his amazing Niagara Falls high-wire feat, which, as it turned out, didn't last very long at all.

Grandinetti is a Barrel of Conflicts

Of course this is not the first time Kristen Grandinetti created a controversy over her Facebook postings.

Several months ago she posted a video of six year old girls repeatedly saying the word "F*#k" purportedly to make some kind of feminist statement but in actuality to sell tee shirts.

The bizarre video of little girls saying that harshly vulgar word a dozen times or more amounted to a sickening spectacle for adults who watched it. And for the little girls who were coached to say the word by adults it was a form of child abuse.

Grandinetti and the school district where she teaches – the Niagara Falls School District got ample complaints from parents over that since Grandinetti is a teacher of children just that age at the Henry Abate Elementary School.

Recently Grandinetti posted on Facebook that, because the Niagara Falls School District, her employer, won't teach the sex education program that Planned Parenthood is paid to teach in some schools – with its heavy emphasis on condoms, birth control and abortion instead of abstinence – Grandinetti declared the school district was "borderline criminal."

This too got a host of complaints and the rebuttal that the School District teaches New York State approved sex ed classes with certified instructors.

Grandinetti failed to mention in her post that she is a member of Planned Parenthood's local chapter and has served on its

board.

But conflicts are not alien to her.

While she recused herself from voting last month on a controversial City funding of a School District Summer Camp by virtue of her working for the school district, in the past she has voted for School District initiatives that might have impacted her job like when she voted against the city supporting any charter schools in the city.

She claimed she did not have to recuse herself since even though admittedly she might lose her job if the Charter School was opened in the city, she said she had another career she could get into if she lost her job.

So she voted on a measure for the city that protected her job at the school district.

But last month, Grandinetti recused herself from voting for the summer camp mainly because, as she said, she was angry that the School District, facing dwindling enrollment from a shrinking city, let a number of jobs go unfilled when teachers retired.

She supported the union position of keeping teaching positions at the same levels they were during larger school populations.

In short her recusal was not a principled stand to abstain from voting because of a conflict of interest but an attempt to get even with the same administrators who chastised her for her Facebook posts and wouldn't hire her friends at Planned Parenthood to teach their version of sex ed to children.

In fact, you could argue that her abstaining was a conflict of interest since she wanted to get in good with the union and

stick it to the school administration.

And speaking of recusals, Grandinetti actually voted for herself being named as a Wedding Officiant for the city of Niagara Falls, a text book case of where someone should recuse herself but doesn't.

The extra money she gets runs in the thousands for her voting to name herself as legally able to marry people, just like the mayor, on behalf of the City of Niagara Falls.

And then there was her classic accepting of the family plan health insurance opt out from the city – some \$9700 per year – when she is single and was only entitled to \$3700.

She had to pay it back. And claimed she

did not know the difference – despite it being more than \$6000 more per year than she was entitled to.

But then again she hardly knows much about the city. She merely votes yes for every Dyster resolution.

In fact she admitted that she was confused by the Dyster parking plan but voted for it anyway prompting people to dub the dumb bunny as Kristen Pelosi in honor of Former Speaker of the House of Representative Nancy Pelosi who famously was quoted as saying to her colleagues "we have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it."

GOT CAR TROUBLE?

BOULEVARD KAR REPAIR

Wanna pay the "Bare Minimum" and not be charged for an hourly labor guide rate to have your car repaired? None of this "Well, you can pay me now & pay me later" stuff. I only fix what you tell me & want me to fix.



With over 34 years experience, I can afford to do this. Fully licensed NYS Inspection & Automotive Repair Shop.

Call 283-2651 and ask for Gary or Tom

Call for an appointment between 8am and 12 noon at 283-2651 Mon. through Fri. Saturdays by special appointment.

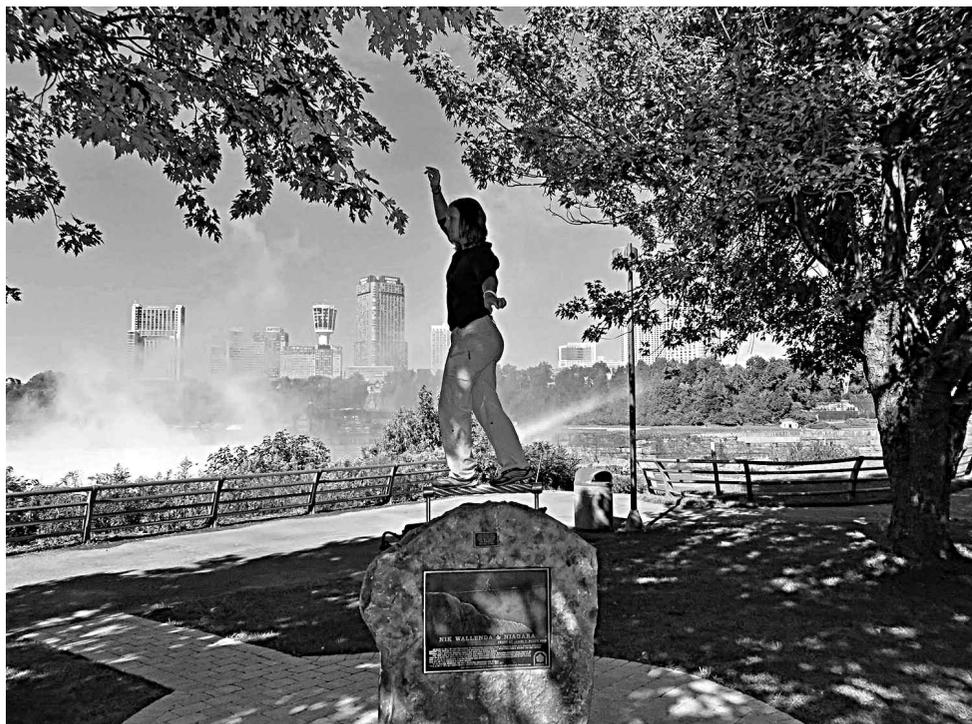
BOULEVARD KAR REPAIR

Telephone: 283-2651 • Lic. Tag # 7044186

7723 Buffalo Ave. (on right side of building) Niagara Falls, NY 14304

"YOU COME SEE ME"

Was Expensive Albany Pavers Part of the Problem?



State Parks encouraged tourists to pose on a section of steel cable mounted on top of the monument. As part of their story, State Parks now expresses a new-found concern that "harsh winters" may have "jeopardized" the integrity of the bolts anchoring the cable to the boulder.

The actual granite requirement was mandated by the LA Group of Albany, a consultant/landscape architect for State Parks.

We also reported that the team of Albany-based State park officials overseeing the work at Niagara Falls State Parks was headed by State Parks employee Stephen McCorkell and from the private sector, his wife, Lisa L. Tonneson-McCorkell, RLA, who is an executive of the LA Group, whose company designed the granite-friendly specifications.

Champlain Stone charged state parks contractors around \$60 per square foot, far above the normal market price for pavers of \$20 per square foot.

We found it strange that the Wallenda monument had to be removed/destroyed just in

time for what is likely to be another expensive pavers job.

Berti explained to the Niagara Gazette that the monument – which actually was for the most part a boulder from the river gorge - developed structural weaknesses over the harsh winter and that would have jeopardized the plaque and section of Wallenda's walking cable if it were moved intact.

"The plaque and artifact have been removed and brought to an offsite location, while the monument is cleaved by an undisclosed restorative contractor," The Gazette reported, based on Berti's comments.

Berti said the monument will be replaced in approximately the same location once construction ends after the multi-million dollars in pavers and etc. is installed at



The pulverized monument as we snapped a picture of it the morning after.

Terrapin Point.

The April, 2012 release of the Niagara Falls State Park Landscape Improvements Plan preceded the July, 2014 dedication of the memorial to Wallenda's walk by over two years.

In July, 2015, State Parks is telling us the memorial had to be destroyed to make way for construction that had been planned two years previous to the installation of the memorial.

Now an entirely new memorial is to be created.

We called the Niagara Falls State Park visitor's line requesting comment. The phone rang for 13 minutes before we were transferred to Mary Kay Dugan, who administers the Discovery Pass program which, for a flat, discounted rate, affords access to Niagara Falls State Park attractions including Cave of the Winds, Maid of the Mist, the Niagara Scenic Trolley, the Aquarium and the Niagara Adventure Center, thereby helping to ensure that the eight million tourists who visit Niagara Falls every year spend most of their money in the park instead of the City of Niagara Falls.

When asked what had happened to the Wallenda Monument, Ms. Dugan replied that it was being "fixed". However, when asked what was wrong with it in the first place such that it needed to be "fixed", she couldn't say. An offer from Ms. Dugan to call back after finding out more information didn't materialize.

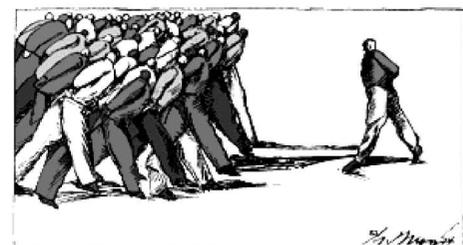
Either an act of criminal mischief, disrespecting the legacy of the Wallenda walk and costing taxpayers a small fortune, or poor planning by New York State Parks in siting the monument in an area slated for construction, also costing taxpayers a small fortune, took place in the Niagara Falls State Park last week.

We may never know which is the case, at least until the valuable and historic plaque resurfaces, either in the park or on Ebay.

And, when the monument returns, we imagine, it may either be with the original boulder or, perhaps better still, on Champlain Stone granite, costing for a solid piece large enough for such a monument, a handsome

state parks style price of perhaps \$100,000.

Lastly, we will admit to being mildly puzzled by the concept that a river gorge boulder that most likely survived the Wisconsin glacial retreat some 20,000 years ago would have had trouble staying intact because of a harsh winter.



If the whole world stands against you sword in hand, would you still dare to do what you think is right?

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The name of the limited liability company is 777 Holdings LLC with an office to be located in Niagara County. The Secretary of State is designated as agent for the LLC upon whom process against it maybe served. The address within or without this state to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her is: David G Boniello, 1406 Hyde Park Blvd., Niagara Falls, NY 14305. The purpose is to engage in any lawful business practice. The LLC is to be managed by one or more members.

6/30/15, 7/7/15, 7/14/15, 7/21/15, 7/28/15, 8/4/15

Concerts

COME AND ENJOY THE MUSIC OF LOCAL MUSICIANS FOR FREE! EVERY WEDNESDAY STARTING JUN 10 - SEP 09

<p>June 10: 7-9pm USA BAND Sponsored by Tim Hortons</p> <p>June 17: 7-9pm 'BOUT TIME Sponsored by Johnnie Ryan/ Niagara Hub</p> <p>June 24: 7-9pm 2ND TIME AROUND Sponsored by Andy's Quickstep / Mj Colucci & Son Funeral Chapel</p> <p>July 01: 7-9pm GENERATION GAP Sponsored by Koban's / Mike's DQ</p> <p>July 08: 7-9pm A-LIST Sponsored by Piccirillo Florist/ Judge Mark Violante</p> <p>July 15: 7-9pm JUNK YARD DOGS Sponsored by Tom Jacobs Towing / DJR Contracting</p> <p>July 22: 7-9pm THE ROCKERS Sponsored by Jim Sawedo, Candidate for NF Mayor / Buffalo Falls Antiques</p> <p>July 29: 7-9pm INSTIGATORS Sponsored by Assemblyman John Cretto / Zajac's Funeral Chapel</p>	<p>Aug 05: 6-8pm JAMIE HOLKA/BRUCE WOJICK Sponsored by Tom Jacobs Towing/ DJR Contracting</p> <p>Aug 12: 6-8pm SOUL COMMITTEE Sponsored by Frenchy's Pizza/ David Boniello, Candidate for City Court Judge</p> <p>Aug 19: 6-8pm RANDLE & THE LATE NIGHT SCANDALS Sponsored by Zajac's Funeral Chapel</p> <p>Aug 26: 6-8pm WHITE CHOCOLATE Sponsored by Councilman Bob Anderson/ Glenn Choolokian, Candidate for Mayor</p> <p>Sep 02: 6-8pm FORMULA BAND Sponsored by Christoforo Colombo Society</p> <p>Sep 09: 6-8pm REFLECTORS Sponsored by Aaron's</p> <p>Sep 16 & 23: RAIN DATE</p>
--	--

FREE TO THE PUBLIC! Bring your chairs and blankets and enjoy the music! ALSO, 50/50 Raffle

AT GILL CREEK PARK. For more info, call Ron 946-1744
(Corner of Niagara Street & Hyde Park Blvd.) All proceeds benefit the Niagara Street Business Association

Skrlin Hoists Sign Focused on "Missing Money" Mentioned in City Audit by State Comptroller

Gerald Skrlin, renowned local cartoonist and frequent contributor to the Reporter, is not backing down over a sign he recently hung on the front of his Niagara Falls home at Buffalo Avenue.

In what is more a sign of the desperate times of the Dyster administration rather than a sign that's violating any city law, the city police were sent to the cartoonist's home no less than four times last week in order to address complaints someone had filed on Skrlin and his sign.

We have no doubt that the police would rather be fighting crime on the city's rough streets instead of being used as Dyster's private police force ordered out to harass an "enemy of city hall."

The sign (actually it's more of a cartoon than a conventional sign, but whether it's sign or cartoon it's undoubtedly protected free speech) addresses the troubling issues of financial mismanagement as shockingly revealed by a squad of state auditors working out of Buffalo under the direction of the New York State Comptroller in 2012.

That state audit was conducted inside



Gerald Skrlin's home has a sign/artwork that some might object to and others might seek answers to.

city hall for most of 2012 with the audit results being announced in May 2013. While that disturbing, scathing audit of city finances sank like a stone in the local media the mismanagement catalogued in the audit remains no less disturbing to this day, and that is where Skrlin's sign enters the picture.

What the sign addresses in particular are the shocking facts found on page 12 of the state audit.

On page 12 it was revealed that the city controller, Maria Brown, had not returned unused funds from special projects to their proper budget lines upon respective individual project completion. The money instead was placed elsewhere in the budget where they remained out of reach, and unknown, for the mayor and council.

Exactly where the moneys were secreted inside the budget was never revealed by the state Comptroller and so it remains a mystery as how this could have actually occurred.

What was mentioned is that while millions of such secreted dollars were discovered inside the budget and then returned to their proper place, the state auditors, at the close of the audit, estimated that \$1 to \$1.4 million dollars - conservatively estimated as to amount - remained unaccounted for. That means that more than a half dozen state auditors working daily for several months were unable to locate those taxpayer dollars.

Skrlin's sign/banner/cartoon poses the question: Where is the unaccounted for money?

And for asking this question he is being harassed by Dyster's city hall... harassed for asking the very same question that was first raised by the Comptroller of New York State more than two years ago: Why was money misdirected within the budget and where are the unaccounted for funds?

Is Skrlin's Canvas a Sign or Master Artwork

Just as a shark must always be moving forward in order to remain alive so too must the artist forever go forward in the search of new and unexplored artistic realms in which to express their genius. And such is the case with political cartoon genius Gerald Skrlin as he stretches his proverbial wings to expand his world view from pencil on paper to paint on vinyl. His most recent endeavor literally brings his work home as he has displayed - as both public art and political commentary - a banner/cartoon above the front door of his own humble abode on Buffalo Avenue in the city. The sign essentially seeks an answer to the question raised by the New York State Comptroller's audit of

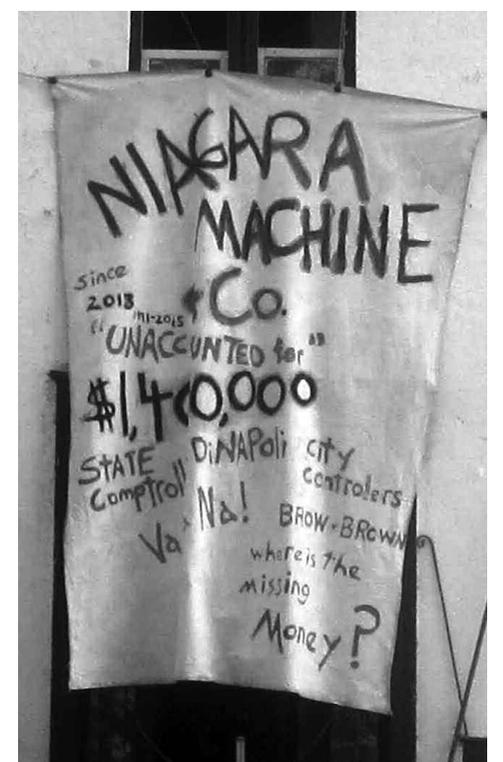
Mayor Dyster's city hall: Where is the unaccounted for taxpayer cash that was reported as lost in the May 2013 state audit? While the Reporter has raised this very same question a number of times in articles it is Skrlin who turns the question into both an artwork and political commentary that literally cries out to the heavens for an answer. Will the question be satisfied by Mayor Dyster and his controller? We doubt it. But in the world of art it's not the reception that the art receives that determines its worth, the value of the art is determined by its mere existence.

Franklin Justice Pierce, Jr.
Art Critic

State Audit Pg 12 Beggins Gigantic Questions That Should be Answered

This is the language found on page 12 of the OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER's Report of Examination for the City of Niagara Falls on Financial Management and Information Technology for the period of January 1, 2009 — January 9, 2013:

The Controller has accounted for a substantial amount of unassigned fund balance in the capital projects fund. As of December 31, 2012, the balance of these funds was \$7.1 million, of which \$2.9 million will be transferred to the general fund in 2013. The Controller indicated that this represents moneys remaining from completed capital projects where the related debt is retired. The Controller also stated that she was aware that these moneys should be returned to the general fund as unassigned, but was reluctant to do so, expecting that City officials would use these moneys in their entirety to reduce the tax levy or increase appropriations. Beyond the amount reported as unassigned fund balance in the capital projects fund, additional funds may remain in other projects which should also be returned to the general fund. As of the end of our fieldwork, City officials were unable to demonstrate, and we were unable to definitively establish, the total amount of these other moneys. However, based on our review of the records, we conservatively estimate that the amount could range from \$1 million to \$1.4 million.



Alps
CATERING

RESERVE YOUR PICNIC,
GRADUATION, OR SPECIAL PARTY

CATERING TO BENEFIT FUNDRAISERS

\$4.00 per person, includes meatballs,
pasta, garden salad, rolls, butter & staff
for 2 hours.

Minimum 100 people

DROP-OFF BUFFET
\$8.50 includes roasted chicken, Italian meat
balls, pasta, potatoes, salad, rolls and butter.
www.alpscatering.com

Call 622-0471

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

ATTIVO LLC has been formed as a limited liability company (LLC), with an office located in Wheatfield, Niagara County by filing Articles of Organization with the New York Secretary of State (NYSS) on June 16, 2015. NYSS is designated as agent for the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. NYSS will mail a copy of any process against it served upon him or her ATTIVO LLC, 3877 Loveland Road, Wheatfield, NY 14120. The purpose is to engage in any lawful business practice.

6/23/15, 6/30/15, 7/7/15, 7/14/15,
7/21/15, 7/28/15

Council Candidate Smith Will Answer Tough Questions

Frank Parlato

The Niagara Falls Reporter phoned first and then sent by email a series of questions about various topics a council member would have to be familiar with and be able to voter intelligently on and sought their views.

Scott declined to address the issues.

Smith, however, had no difficulty answering them. He wrote back to us in about an hour.

Here is what Council Candidate Rick Smith wrote in response to our questions:

Niagara Falls Reporter: Please say something about the budget.

Rick Smith: First, let me say that these are only my opinions. The budget needs to have all five council people working on it together with the mayor.

As I see it now, I can't make any good, positive statement about the current process.

NFR: The city debt?

Smith: I read the 2009-2013 audit from State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. Being \$12.5 million in debt and not fixing some, or all, of it when we got the \$89 million in casino back payments money was not right.

To use one time revenues and general fund money to close the gap didn't work. It

only made the deficit \$7.2 million. It was bad financial judgment.

NFR: How about the courthouse expenses?

Smith: The courthouse was inflated from the start. It was only supposed to be a courthouse, not the police station too. I don't know if there is a fix outside of refinancing the debt.

NFR: The train station?

Smith: My understanding with the train station was that we, the taxpayers, were only supposed to pay \$3 million. The rest was state and federal grant money. But the price went up.

There are too many change orders on all the projects.

RFP's should include everything right from the start. People doing business know they will find other problems and they should be included in the initial contract.

NFR: What will you do to address the escalating cost of public safety?

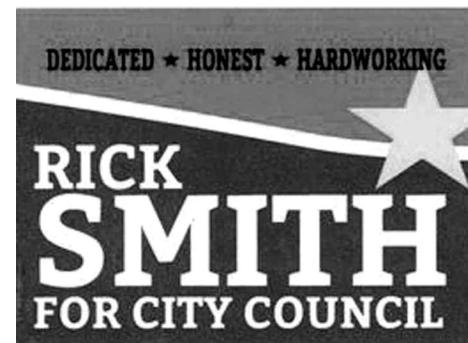
Smith: Cost of public safety is going up. A lot of it is from contracts and health insurance costs. Slow the process to get costs down.

Determining what exactly we can use casino money for would be a start.

Niagara County got casino money and gave it to the municipalities and they can use



Rick Smith (left) at an event. Seen at right is former Village of Lewiston Mayor Richard Soluri.



- ★ Better leadership
- ★ Not afraid to speak out on issues
- ★ Will research every contract before voting on it
- ★ Casino spending plan
- ★ Work for the hard-working taxpayers of our City
- ★ 9 years on the Planning Board
 - 7 years as Chairman
 - Perfect attendance
- ★ Attended every Council meeting since 2003
- ★ US Army veteran



"Being a Councilperson/ Mayor shouldn't be a popularity contest... It should be about what's best for this City"

For a lawn sign, please contact Rick @ 716-807-6972

This is a copy of the front of Rick Smith's campaign flier.

it for everything they want. We should be able to do the same.

NFR: What you think about the \$100,000 city hall salaries? Will you vote against stipends given to city hall employees?

Smith: I feel we need full time department heads. Temporary upgrades and stipends don't help the city or the departments. Without permanent dept. heads, we spend more on outside contractors. Doesn't make sense.

NFR: How would you have handled the frozen water pipes situation?

Smith: As for the 72nd street frozen water pipes, I would have told the contractor to go ahead and do the work. Fix the problem right and worry about the cost after. The people of the city come first.

NFR: Where will the money come from to fix potholes, sidewalks and trees stumps that people complain about?

Smith: Money is budgeted for sidewalks, streets, and potholes every year. Maybe we should pave less streets and have better quality of work done when we pave streets.

NFR: Other comments

Smith: As the Chairman of the Planning Board, I oversaw a lot of plans which

brought investment to our city. However, many of these were developed with IDA loans and PILOTs which meant the city gets no tax revenue for 10 years.

Unfortunately, the Council doesn't see most of the plans that are approved.

The Hamister project and the Rainbow Center went to the IDA because of NY State involvement with grants.

Still, I have high hopes for our community. I got involved about 20 years ago because I thought I could make a difference. I'm still trying.

Working with the council and the mayor, along with department heads, I feel we can turn it around.

It took 50 years to get where we are today. Turn around won't be tomorrow.

But I will always put the people of this fine city above all else.

And I will research everything that comes before me and make the best decisions for the people of Niagara Falls.

For more info visit <http://www.rick-smith4nfcouncil.com>

Our Family Helping Yours Since 1949
Family Owned And Operated 3rd Generation

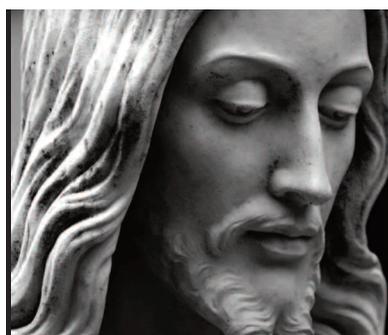
www.zajacfuneralhomeinc.com

- ◆ Pre-arrangements
- ◆ Free Consultations
- ◆ Traditional Funerals
- ◆ Cremation Services
- ◆ Shipping Services
- ◆ Handicap Accessible

Frank L. And Matthew T. Zajac

284-6478

319 24th Street (Corner of Welch Avenue)
Niagara falls, New York 14303



"Such was the will of the Father that his Son, blessed and glorious, whom he gave to us, and who was born for us, should by his own blood, sacrifice, and oblation, offer himself on the altar of the cross, not for himself, by whom "all things were made," but for our sins, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps."

St Francis of Assisi

Early Morning Fog Befuddles Dyster's Grasp of Railroad Station Time, Budget

Mike Hudson

Early Saturday morning, shortly after midnight, Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster played giddily on Facebook.

He seemingly wasn't concerned about the possibility that a serial killer may have already turned the city into a personal hunting ground, the looming financial crises he engineered that has already taken a toll of the city's bond rating or whether or not some LaSalle residents would be forced to go without running water this winter for the third year running, he had bigger fish to fry.

Sounding almost intoxicated with excitement at the prospect, Dyster reached deeply into his rhetorical vault to pen an ode to accompany a photograph of a couple of guys from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 237, who were busy at his new Whirlpool Street train station.

"IBEW 237 kickin' a** to get Niagara Falls International Railway Station & Intermodal Transportation Center done on-time and on budget," he wrote. "That's what this union thing is all about, don't ya know. Russ Q, doin' it all for you. Get well soon. Go Union!"

On time? On budget? Hardly.

Perhaps the mayor can be forgiven the post-midnight memory lapse, as the history of the train station project dates back fully five years, with numerous and ever shifting dates being thrown about. Back then, everyone was excited about President Barack Obama's commitment to have high speed rail up and running in this country by 2020.

Like many of Obama's other wishes, additional funding for high speed rail never came true and, in fact, money for existing passenger rail service here has been sharply curtailed in the five years since. In California, which went ahead with plans to initiate high speed rail service on its own seven years ago, costs are threatening to bankrupt the state and the prospect of a high speed ride from Los Angeles to San Francisco isn't envisioned until 2028 at the earliest.

"The Niagara Falls Station will immediately energize our ongoing local revitalization efforts —to create a hub for transit-orientated economic development and a centerpiece for cultural tourism development," Dyster said in January 2011.

That was back when, and the Underground Railroad museum, later downgraded into an Underground Railroad interpretive center, was going to provide a major tourist draw for the millions interested in what Dyster called "cultural heritage tourism."

To date, the commission empowered with establishing this institution has yet to uncover any significant link between the city and the Underground Railroad.

Furthermore, after accepting more than \$1.7 million (\$350,000 per year in casino cash) in public funding, not a single artifact or display has been purchased and a lack of accounting has made it virtually impossible to determine what, if anything, the commission is doing with all that cash.

Last June, at the third "groundbreaking" the project has had, Dyster misstated the distance between the new station and the city's tourist district in relation to the old station.



The 20,000 square foot plus Niagara Falls Train Station to be paid for and maintained by city taxpayers is under construction. It will accommodate the same number of passengers that the present 800 square foot train station which is paid for by Amtrak does now.



Unless you think more people will make their decision to ride trains because of the new train station, there will not likely be more train riders than those who ride today and are amply accommodated at the present station on Lockport St. New train station interior will be about 10 times the size of the old one.

"Someday soon, visitors will step off the train not in an industrial district far from the City center, but on the very lip of the great Niagara Gorge, just a short hop from the downtown center and the falls itself," he said.

Actually, the new station is closer to the falls by only a few hundred feet, and is still about two miles away from the downtown tourism corridor and the Niagara Falls State

Park.

But as much as the haze of early morning and a project that has already dragged on for five long years may excuse the mayor's "on time" comment, there's really no excuse for the "on budget" remark.

That's because, just this past Monday, Dyster presented the city Council with his latest change orders on the train station that raised the cost of the contract awarded to the

Scrufari Construction Co. by more than \$1 million, from \$22,691,000 to \$23,693,469.

City lawmakers by a vote of 4-1 approved the change orders which was the fourth change order approved so far in the \$26 million project.

The original construction contract with Scrufari Construction was \$22.7 million.

Only Councilman Glenn A. Choolokian voted against approving the change order stating he opposes the concept of building one of the largest train stations in New York State for a city with one of the lowest ridership numbers.

"At the old train station, the couple of dozen train riders arrive and depart daily at no cost to the taxpayers. Now we are building a mammoth train station with no increased demand that will cost the taxpayers millions to build and millions over time to maintain," Choolokian told the Reporter.

The latest change order includes the installation of poles, wiring and LED lighting for the parking lot and for Depot and Whirlpool streets. The original contract called for National Grid to install these items, but with the yearly fees the cost would add up to more than \$1 million over the life of the equipment.

More cash, around \$300,000, was earmarked to secure railroad protection, a sort of insurance policy, which was required by the contract for the remainder of the project.

A number of other unforeseen extras, including "fixed audience seating," additional Amtrak flagging, street lighting and addressing the non-uniform surface at the Old Customs House are additional expenditures that bump the price up more and will be taken out of a so-called "emergency contingency fund" already dedicated to the project, Dyster's resolution stated.

According to Amtrak, an average of 89 people each day arrive at or depart from Niagara Falls via train. The bulk of this traffic is commuters traveling between Niagara Falls and Buffalo.

Dyster has long maintained that, once his new station opens, that number will explode, and the \$44 million total the city is spending on the project will be justified.

To invest \$44 million into a money losing business that generates an annual revenue of just \$1,899,875 would be ridiculous even if the investor was the recipient of that revenue. No sane businessman in the private sector would ever consider squandering money in such a fashion.

But, in this case, the revenue will be

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that a license for beer, wine and liquor, license number pending, has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and liquor, at retail in a tavern, under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at Hyde Park Ice Rink, 911 Robbins Drive, Niagara falls, County of Niagara for on-premises consumption.

Niagara Sports Tournament, Inc.

6/30/15, 7/7/15

Big train station means big costs, but few riders



Union electrical workers work on the train station making Dyster - who got a campaign endorsement from the IBEW this year- proud.

going to Amtrak, while the taxpayer bears the burden of the entire cost, not to mention ongoing annual expenses for everything from security to snow plowing to janitorial services. The cost of heating and keeping the lights turned on 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the massive structure will be astronomical.

Amtrak, which has not entered into a lease agreement with the city since the council has not been asked to approve the contract as required by law, is not expected to pay much more than a small fraction of the expenses based on Amtrak's operating and leasing procedures as evidenced in every Amtrak station lease where Amtrak does not



Artist's rendering of how the passengers will line up to get on trains at the new train station.

own the station.
Amtrak pays only for the space it needs to service the amount of passengers it gets at a location, and their leases are not based on the size of the facility.

A number of high profile surprises caught city planners unawares in other cities when they built an oversized facility and found out Amtrak would only pay for a few thousand square feet.

Period.
The Niagara Falls Station is more than 20,000 square feet.

The whole train station project is not

one that is meant to be friendly to the taxpayer.

The number of tourists arriving daily via train and with their pockets stuffed with cash would have to be in the hundreds, if not thousands, to make Dyster's hare brained, \$44 million scheme viable.

In his pre-dawn reverie, however, gazing wistfully at a photo op of two workers pretending to be doing something, his fancy took flight.

"That's what this union thing is all about, don't ya know?" Dyster typed.

Sadly, the taxpayers of Niagara Falls know all too well.

WE BUY HOUSES FAST



- Pretty Houses
- Ugly Houses
- Unwanted Inheritance
- Divorce
- Needs Repairs
- Foreclosure
- Behind on Payments

**Any Price
Any Area
Any Condition**

**CALL NOW
(716) 990-5740**

Accardo to State Comptroller: City is Rapidly Approaching Insolvency, Request State Audit

NIAGARA FALLS—With the City of Niagara Falls once again facing a budget shortfall, projected to be in excess of \$7 million, Niagara Falls business leader and mayoral candidate John Accardo believes that the time has come for the office of New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli to once again scrutinize the city's finances.

Representatives from the Comptroller's office reviewed the city's finances two years ago, and found a litany of deficiencies and procedural problems related to the city's budget preparation and implementation.

"Despite the assertions to the contrary

from current Mayor Paul Dyster, the City of Niagara Falls is literally on the verge of insolvency," said Accardo. "Mr. Dyster is either unwilling or unable to implement the solutions presented by the Comptroller, and refuses to enact any accountability for himself or for members of his administration."

In addition to calling for the Comptroller to once again review the city's finances, Accardo advocates that new, bold, and fresh measures are needed to move Niagara Falls forward. "The State Comptroller warned against depleting the City's fund balance while approving budgets with a pattern of structural deficits," Accardo stated. "We need real leadership in city hall that will

provide a fresh perspective and bold ideas to challenge the status quo, such as Buffalo and Saratoga have demonstrated. This will immediately put Niagara Falls back on track."

"There are viable alternatives and options that will enable the city to achieve financial stability, but Paul Dyster has little interest in changing the way he and his administration conduct themselves," said Accardo. "As Albert Einstein said, 'Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results'. Clearly Paul Dyster is doing the same thing over and over, and the only thing that's changed is the city's financial position, which has

gotten demonstrably worse during his tenure, even with an annual payment from the Seneca Nation of \$20 million."

Accardo stated that he will begin to roll out what is termed "The Accardo Plan" which will offer realistic solutions to rectify the city's ongoing fiscal crisis.

"I have studied every city budget from the past five years," said Accardo. "The Comptroller acknowledged the city's budgetary failures, and I clearly see a multitude of options to deliver city services in a more financially prudent manner. Unfortunately, the one person who doesn't see the need to address the city's financial crisis is Paul Dyster. It's time for that to change."

State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli
New York State Office of the State Comptroller

110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236
July 8, 2015

Dear State Comptroller DiNapoli,

Just over two years ago, your office performed a state audit of the financial situation in the city of Niagara Falls, New York. The report was very detailed and telling about the serious woes that city government was up against. In the report, a key finding was stated to be "[t]he City has had a pattern of structural budget deficits . . . City officials

balanced the budgets using fund balance and an estimate for casino revenue that averaged \$5.3 million annually." Furthermore, your office suggested as a key recommendation that going forward the City should "[d]evelop structurally sound and realistic budgets."

It is my belief that the City has exacerbated the financial crisis by not adhering to your findings and recommendations. Since this audit report, the City has continued to use significant portions of their fund balance and casino money to off-set the rising costs of government. Specifically in 2014, it was discovered that many of the revenues were

over projected while many one-time revenues were used as solutions to masquerade around the structural deficit.

An annual independent audit was performed on the 2014 City budget where it was stated that due to the City's continuing use of significant fund balance reserves and casino money, that the structural deficit has reached a stunning \$7.6 million dollars. We also learned through a presentation of City officials that casino money and sales tax are steadily declining, thus suggesting an even more serious financial tragedy. Through my own independent review of the 2012-2014 actual budgets, it appears the city is pressed

against their constitutional tax limit and has a shortage in revenues. Therefore, it would appear the City is rapidly approaching insolvency.

It is upon these beliefs that I ask your office to take immediate action and perform another audit to assess whether the stability of the city, its residents, its employees, and its future generations, are safeguarded against significant deficit spending. Your immediate attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Signed....

John Accardo
Niagara Falls

Games People Play



James "Jim" Szwedo

A person decides to run for elected office.

That person does so not for power or ego, but rather, to make a difference. He sees the citizens and businesses hurting; he sees the people continuing to move away, and those that stay fearing to walk their own streets and neighborhoods.

All of this is happening while a chosen few continue to prosper at the expense of the many good citizens and businesses that work each day just to stay afloat and survive.

That person realizes that electing or re-electing the same politicians can only produce the same results.

With that realization, he believes it's his obligation to try to make the people understand that the true power for change is within them; it has always been within them, and al-

ways will be.

Politicians survive and thrive by convincing the citizens how important they are. Their arrogance and egos are telling them this. The truth is, they only exist to serve the will of the people. Their self-importance is just a game they play, at the expense of the very people who elected them.

Time to stop their games. Time to take back control. Time to get that seat back at the table.

That person who chose to run is told that he didn't ask their permission.

Who did he think he was to think that he had the right to challenge their game? That person refuses to quit, and their political games continue.

Political operatives telling him that their money will always trump his message.

Their egos, and need to prove their power and importance, at the expense of the citizens, is how it always will be.

Only the candidates that choose to do their bidding will get their support.

The problem is, that person does not consider the lives and future of the citizens as a game to be played by political operatives and appointees.

When told that he'd better get his big-boy pants on because the fun is just beginning, he tells them he believes in the power of the people he is trying to serve, rather than in their egos.

As always, your voice, your choice, your future.

PINE AVE HARDWARE
1912-14 Pine Ave. Ph: 282-8285

Two generations serving Niagara Falls families since 1919!

<p>Cast Iron Fry Pan</p> <p>Frying Pan 8" \$12⁹⁵ Frying Pan 10" \$15⁹⁵ Frying Pan 12" \$18⁹⁵ Frying Pan 15" \$35⁹⁵</p>	<p>Night Locks</p> <p>\$10⁹⁵</p> <p>Drywall Screws Also Gold Deck Screws</p> <p>T-4 \$4⁷⁵ lb. Also T-4 & T-6 sold per lb.</p>	<p>Stainless Steel Tea Kettle</p> <p>\$10⁹⁵</p>
<p>Stove Burners Also stove range pans</p> <p>6": \$11⁹⁵ 8": \$15⁹⁵</p>	<p>Leaf Rake</p> <p>22" Plastic \$6⁹⁵ Spring Steel \$8⁹⁵</p>	<p>Shopping Cart Rubber Cushion Grip</p> <p>\$24⁹⁵</p>
<p>Oven Bake Element Starting from</p> <p>\$24⁹⁵</p>	<p>Add-A-Shower with Bathcock Faucet</p> <p>\$119⁹⁵ For Claw Tub • 42" x 24" • W/ Riser & Wall Support</p>	<p>40 Pc Socket Set SAE & Metric 3/8" & 1/4" Drivers Drop Forged Carbon Steel Sockets Convenient Carrying Case</p> <p>\$10⁹⁵</p>
<p>Contractor Garbage Bags HANDI-BAG 42 G 3mil</p> <p>\$10⁷⁵</p>	<p>Lock Sets</p> <p>Entry Lock \$8⁹⁵ Deadbolt Lock \$8⁹⁵ Duo Lock Sets \$17⁹⁵ Mortise Lock \$14⁹⁵</p>	<p>Coffee Pots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dishwasher Safe • Stainless Steel • w/Permanwood Handle <p>3 cup \$25⁹⁵ 6 cup \$28⁹⁵ 9 cup \$31⁹⁵ 12 cup \$34⁹⁵</p>
<p>Other Specials</p> <p>Beg Bug Killer 4⁹⁵ Bathroom Sink Legs..... 17⁹⁵ Keys Made..... 1⁴⁵ Garden Rake 10⁹⁵ Long Handle Shovel 8⁹⁵ Pruning Shears 4⁹⁵ S.S. Supply Lines 12" 3⁴⁵ 20" 3⁹⁵ 30" 4²⁵ 36" 4⁷⁵</p>	<p>Washboard</p> <p>\$15⁹⁵</p>	

Accardo Call for Truth-in-Budgeting From Falls Mayor Says Cataract City is on the verge of insolvency



John Accardo is walking the streets on his campaign trail.

NIAGARA FALLS—Niagara Falls business leader and mayoral candidate John Accardo will address the City of Niagara Falls' ongoing budget woes, which have plagued the city for far too long.

Accardo will present factual information which will highlight the current administration's failure to follow proper budgeting practices, as well as begin to introduce "The Accardo Plan" which is founded on other cities successes, bold ideas, and a fresh perspective that will move Niagara Falls into a period of fiscal strength and growth.

Accardo said he plans to "shine a light on the past budgetary practices that have put Niagara Falls into a sink hole larger than any you can find on 72nd or 100th street."

Accardo also sent a letter this week to the NYS State Comptroller, asking that he and his office take action to update his finan-

cial analysis that was prepared in 2013.

In that review, State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli stated that the City administration used non-recurring revenues to fix the structural imbalance that could potentially force the rating agencies to downgrade or suspend the city's credit rating.

"Two years ago, the New York State Comptroller came to Niagara Falls, evaluated the city's financial position, and concluded that the current administration's budgetary procedures were in dire need of improvement," said Accardo. "Two years later, Paul Dyster has completely ignored Comptroller DiNapoli's directives, the city's financial position is even worse, and the current mayor has no plan to rectify the city's horrendous tax burden on the hard working people of

this community."



John Accardo understands business for unlike Dyster he has a business in the city and pays taxes here.



John Accardo listens to people's concerns.

Ceretto: 2015 Legislative Session, Making State Govt Work For You Again



Assemblyman John Ceretto (R,C,I-Lewiston)

I recently wrapped up the 2015 Legislative session in Albany, which finished eight days behind schedule, saw multiple arrests, a new Assembly Speaker and a new Senate Majority Leader.

Every year my goal is to make sure the hardworking people of Western New York get

their fair share of funding, and I'm confident that we will see several positive impacts from the legislation passed in this year's session.

I helped successfully secure an increase in funding for local school districts, libraries, Brownfield clean-up sites, parks and infrastructure projects. These increases should enhance the quality of lives for families in Western New York.

Our local infrastructure took a heavy hit from the harsh and brutal winter we experienced this year, leaving several roads and bridges unsafe to travel on. I helped secure funding from an extreme winter recovery project, which will revamp our crumbling infrastructure.

Not only did we increase funding for various projects throughout the region, but also helped save homeowners money by cutting taxes. Every homeowner will be receiving hundreds of dollars in rebates, after passing \$1.3 billion in property tax cuts.

As the Ranking Minority Member on the Committee on Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development, I'm proud to mention that Niagara Falls State Park will receive \$4.3

million in increased funding this year and \$50 million by 2020 as part of the NY Works project to upgrade and repair parks in Western New York.

My district is home to some of the region's best state parks. The increase in funding over the next several years will continue to improve the Niagara Falls State Park and promote tourism, attracting more tourism dollars to our region.

My session highlights also include passing all 9 of the non-controversial women's equality legislation and stricter procedures and protocols for sexual harassment cases on college campuses. The women's equality legislation prohibits differential pay because of sex, and creates comprehensive anti-sex trafficking laws.

As a father of two daughters and a grandfather, I am proud to have helped pass these, so the women of New York State will be better protected from sex trafficking and sexual harassment on our college campuses, and also have equal opportunities in the workplace.

I was also pleased with the 7-percent increase in education aid for our local schools.

As a former high school teacher, I understand the importance and necessity for teachers to have the proper resources to effectively teach our youth. I hope to continue to bring an increase in aid for our schools in the years to come.

Although we were able to secure increased funding for various projects and programs in Western New York, this legislative session will be remembered for the arrests of legislative leaders from both houses. Lawmakers had a great opportunity to join me and take a stance against corruption by passing meaningful ethics reform laws, but unfortunately that call fell on deaf ears. I will continue to call for ethics reform that includes stripping pensions from all elected officials who are convicted of a felony.

I will be having a fundraiser this Sunday, July 12th from 12-4pm at Lewiston #2 Fire Company (1705 Saunders Settlement). Join us for food, entertainment and fun for the whole family. Only \$25 per person or \$50 for the family!

Scott Runs in Crowded Race; Could Tip the Majority on City Council to School Teachers

NIAGARA FALLS – Ezra P. Scott Jr., a substitute teacher in Niagara Falls, is running for City Council in the Democratic primary which is Sept. 10.

If elected, he will be the third council person who is a school teacher which would give Niagara Falls School District employees a majority control of the five member city council.

School teachers Andrew Touma and Kristen Grandinetti are on the council and each has two and one half years remaining on their four year terms.

Scott, 29, is one of four Democrats who will seek one of two open seats on the council this year, which means, in order to run in the general election, he has to be one of two top vote getters among the four Democratic candidates when registered Democrats come out to vote, which few of them typically do – about 25 percent in 2011 - in the primary election.

The primary will be held this year on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Scott is running against Alicia M.

Laible, the former City Democratic Committee chairwoman, who ran for council and narrowly lost in 2011 to Councilmember Glenn A. Choolokian; she enjoyed support from Mayor Paul A. Dyster, who also ran and won reelection in 2011.

This year Laible has chosen to run a campaign entirely distant from the Dyster campaign.

She has indicated that her experience in human resources and budgeting at the Elderwood Senior Care, where she is employed, would have made her qualified and capable of avoiding the \$7.6 million deficit the city, under the administration of Paul Dyster, has crafted.

His current council majority of Andrew Touma, Kristen Grandinetti and Charles Walker have consistently approved of almost all Dyster spending proposals.

Scott, who is supported by Dyster and Grandinetti, is also running against City Planning Board Chairman, and retiree, Rick D. Smith, and incumbent Robert A. Anderson, also a retiree, also Democrats – but not



If elected Ezra Scott would be the third school teacher on the five member City Council.

aligned with Dyster.

Both have said that Dyster squandered a literal casino fortune with nothing to show but a bunch of happy consultants and Buffalo developers.

Dyster says he needs four more years to complete the task he has started and wants Scott on the council so that he has a veto-proof council for spending on all matters he deems needful for the city's recovery.

According to the city charter, the council's main function is to approve or reject spending proposals and contracts proposed by the mayor.

The two winners in the Sept. 10 Democratic primary will appear on the ballot for the party and will likely face two Republicans: business owner/home inspector/contractor, Willie A. Price, and Kenny M. Tompkins, who is operations manager for H.W. Bryk & Sons, a local plumbing and heating contractor.

Glenn Choolokian eschewed running to keep his seat on the council and chose to run instead in the Democratic primary for mayor against Dyster.

Scott is a Niagara Catholic High School graduate who received a bachelor's degree in sociology from SUNY Cortland in 2010.

DiPaolo's, Lombardo's to Mark Anniversaries at Italian Festival

Tony Farina

It is just about time for the annual Buffalo Italian Heritage Festival which will hold court on Hertel Ave. between Colvin and Delaware next week beginning Thursday (July 16) and running through Sunday (July 19), featuring all the great Italian food you can eat in addition to top local entertainment and the Miss Italian Festival.

On the last day of the festival, Sunday at 2 p.m., two of the very best Old World Italian restaurants in Western New York, Ilio DiPaolo's and Lombardo's Ristorante, will celebrate their anniversaries at the Ilio Di-

Paolo Heritage Tent in a presentation that will feature numerous wrestling, boxing, and football greats and a stage performance by dancers from the Lake Erie Italian Club at 2:30 p. m.

Dennis DiPaolo, son of the late Hall of Fame wrestling champion Ilio DiPaolo who started the Blasdell landmark in 1965, urges everyone to stop by the Heritage Tent, promising that folks who do will receive a free souvenir postcard with a coupon for the popular restaurant on South Park Ave., a fixture known far and wide for its Old World food and for the famed Ilio DiPaolo Scholarship Fund which provides support to many West-

ern New York athletes.

DiPaolo's will be marking its 50th anniversary on July 19th and Lombardo's Ristorante will be celebrating its 40th year as the two families share a long and celebrated history of serving the Western New York community with great Italian food.

On hand at the Heritage Tent to help mark the occasion will be Hall of Fame wrestlers Dominic DiNucci and Dick "The Destroyer" Beyer, former Bills' star Lou Piccone, and Hall of Fame boxing great Dick Topinko. Among others at the Heritage Tent will be still popular former sports broadcaster Rick Azar and other authors, including

Ralph Galanti, Mike Andreozzi, and Martin Ederer. They will all be signing autographs.

There will also be a cooking demonstration by Chef Marco and Chef Michael DiPaolo in addition to bocce finals and grape stomping.

Playing throughout the festival will be "La Signorinella," a movie made in 1949 by the late famed Italian producer Dino de Laurentis and featuring Ilio DiPaolo. Also playing at the festival will be many of Ilio's classic wrestling matches.

For more information, contact Dennis DiPaolo at 825-3675.

Many Await Results of State Audit of ECC

Tony Farina

The full extent of Erie Community College's failed leadership and the county's role in contributing to two straight years of \$300 tuition increases by falling short on its subsidy may have to await the first state audit of ECC in 20 years which is due to be released some time in the near future.

State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli's audit of ECC began last spring and state officials said at the time they expected it would probably be released in June. Well, June has come and gone and a spokesman for the comptroller's office said last month the final report probably won't be available until at least August.

Meanwhile, we reported two weeks ago that ECC's vice president for legal affairs, Kristin Klein Wheaton, who according to most sources is the day-to-day "boss" at ECC, was trying to maintain firm control over contact with state auditors by ECC staff, requiring that all contacts be documented and saved in a special folder.

Some are asking if Wheaton's oversight

has hampered state auditors in completing their work as the original timing of the release of the audit has now been extended for at least two months.

On paper anyway, Jack Quinn is the president of ECC at \$192,500 even though he tried very hard in 2013 to take over as president and chief executive officer of the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, a job that was becoming vacant because of the departure of Andrew Rudnick. But Quinn lost out and withdrew before his bid became public, signing a new deal to stay at ECC.

Quinn, a former congressman and Washington lobbyist, took over as ECC president in 2008 and brought in Wheaton in 2011 to handle legal affairs, but her role has expanded as she handles the day-to-day affairs of the college for Quinn who travels extensively to fulfill his outside business obligations.

In her role as Quinn's loyal aide, it is hardly surprising that she reportedly took a tough stand with state auditors, demanding to know what and who they were talking to at all times, and requiring senior ECC staff to document all contacts with state auditors for her re-

view.

Based on our extensive review of available records at the college, we suspect that state auditors are taking a close look at all of the college's expenses, including those racked up by Quinn who until this year had a ECC-paid membership to the prestigious Buffalo Club and an extensive travel account which he still maintains. Quinn also reportedly had three auto accidents during the last six years while serving as president.

Some county lawmakers signaled last week—in passing the college budget by an 8 to 3 vote-- that recurring tuition hikes is not the way to run ECC and lawmakers are expected to take a close look at County Executive Mark Poloncarz's next budget in the fall to see if he recommends a substantial increase in the college subsidy which currently is only about 15.6 percent of the college's budget when it should be closer to 30 percent under the state formula.

For his part, Poloncarz has nothing to say. County Lawmakers, led by Republican Kevin Hardwick, are pushing for a long term plan to resuscitate ECC in the face of declining enrollment and other problems that have led to se-

vere tuition increases for students to keep the school afloat. How much money could be released from the bloated ECC operating budget to help students has not been tested. That push could come sooner rather than later.

In the meantime, at least over the summer, many folks interested in the college's future will be awaiting the results of the DiNapoli audit on what's going on at ECC that could help in identifying problem areas that need to be addressed. As everyone waits, ECC will continue to try and raise the last few million dollars it needs to meet its \$7.5 million share of the cost of the new \$30 million STEM building at the north campus, a project that Poloncarz touted earlier this year in tapping a contractor for the job.

For the record, Kideney Architects, which won the Poloncarz bidding contest for the STEM building, had been rejected by Poloncarz when he was county comptroller. All you will get out of Poloncarz about his change of heart is a terse statement, his response to most issues that don't involve snowstorms.

Reporter Asks Scott for More Than Platitudes

Frank Parlato

Council Candidate Ezra Scott has peppered his campaign for City Council with a number of broad-brush statements which could be called in some campaign vernaculars as pious platitudes.

He has said:

“I want to act as the catalyst for investment.”

“I want to get more people involved.”

“I want our city to be more reflective of those who live here.”

“I have high hopes for our city’s future, but without community engagement in decisions we will not reach our greatest potential.”

“I plan to bring a fresh voice to the city and to bring government to life.”

“I will fight for the needs of the people of Niagara Falls, because seeing this city succeed is something I am very passionate about.”

“I want to bridge the gap between the city and its residents.”

“I will address all of your concerns and do my best to resolve all of them.”

He also has made numerous generic

statements about what he plans to accomplish without giving to date a clue on how he intends to do it.

Scott has said: He wants to attract developers to Niagara Falls.

He supports projects that benefit those inside the business community and out.

He will pursue increased opportunity for civic engagement with Niagara Falls city government.

As he speaks of “Strong minds and positive vibes”, his campaign slogan “A Connected City is a Protected City” also rhymes.

Of course, it might be easy to call this vapid nonsense; sanctimoniously, insipidly meaningless, peak BS.

Or, as far as giving any clue as to what he really stands for, Scott might as well say:

“A stitch in time saves nine.”

“Make Niagara Falls great again.”

“People are our most important asset.”

“Teamwork to make the Dream work”

“Let them eat when they are hungry.”

“You can’t spend too much on a city.”

“Ready for Change, Ready to Lead.”

“Change the Baby’s Diapers when he smells bad.”

“Working for Change, Working for You.”



“She plunged into a sea of platitudes, and with the powerful breast stroke of a channel swimmer, made her confident way towards the white cliffs of the obvious.”

- W. Somerset Maugham

“Real Challenges, Real Solutions: Time to Pick a Councilman.”

We asked Scott to elaborate on his previous statements and also to say something about the budget, the city debt, how much the city will spend on the courthouse and the

plat-i-tude
[plat-i-tood, -tyood] [Show IPA](#)
-noun
1. a flat, dull, or trite remark, especially one uttered as if it were fresh or profound.
2. the quality or state of being flat, dull, or trite: *the platitude of most political oratory.*

train station, what he thinks about the \$100,000 city hall salaries, what he will do to address the escalating cost of public safety, whether he will vote against stipends given to city hall employees for the normal course of work they do, how he would have handled the frozen water pipes situation, where the money will come from to fix the potholes, the sidewalks and trees stumps that people complain about and other issues that are not directly covered by any of Scott’s platitudes.

While Scott told the Reporter on the phone on Sunday that he wanted to develop an excellent relationship with the Niagara Falls Reporter, he did not respond to our subsequent email of Sunday seeking comment on the above paragraph seeking a more detailed explanation of his platitudes.

A subsequent call to Scott on Monday was not returned by press time which was seven hours later.

Scott Seeks to Connect with City Voters Through Modern Methods

Frank Parlato

In one respect, Niagara Falls Council candidate Ezra Scott offers something different.

He has listed, on his Scott for council calling card, along with his slogan, “A Connected City is a Protected City,” some seven different ways to connect with him:

1. Cell phone
2. Email
3. Facebook
4. Snap Chat (photos sent by phone which recipients can view for 1- to 10 seconds, after which they disappear.)
5. Twitter (online service that enables users to send and read short messages called “tweets”)
6. Skype (a two way video phone call where you can see who you are talking to and vice versa.)
7. Instagram (an online service that enables users to take pictures and videos, and share them on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Flickr)

These are all nice ways to communicate with potential voters, especially younger vot-



A shoe phone is a very effective and unobtrusive communications device to keep people connected.

ers who are attuned to all these things.

But, while seeming complete, some of us older voters have not yet availed ourselves of these most excellent ways of communicating

Mr. Scott would you consider:

1. Landline phone (To connect with voters 60 years old and older)

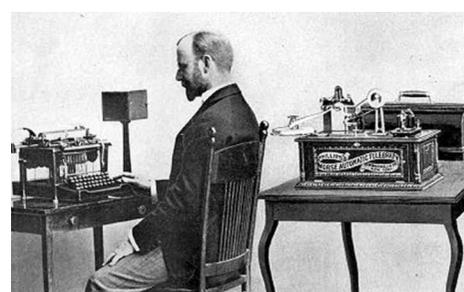


A carrier pigeon can connect with voters with inspiring messages.



Flag Semaphore perhaps on the Maid of the Mist might make an elegant 'connect' with voters.

2. Home or business address for postal communications. (60 years and older)
3. Fax (60 years and older)
4. Pager (60 years and older)
5. Walkie talkie. (70 years and older)
6. Flag semaphore (80 years and older)
7. Telegraph (90 years and older)
8. Sign language (any age)



Telegraphing voters who know the Morse Code will connect in an impressive way.



Walkie Talkies are a great way to communicate with VIPs.

9. Message in a bottle (100 years and older)
10. Carrier pigeon (110 years or older)
11. Smoke signals (125 years or older)
12. Wells Fargo or Pony Express (150 years or older)
13. Candles in the window (239 years or older).

EZRA P. SCOTT JR.
NIAGARA FALLS CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE
“A CONNECTED CITY IS A PROTECTED CITY”

PHONE: (716)579-4126
EMAIL: EZRAPSCOTTJR4NF@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK: EZRA P. SCOTT JR FOR NIAGARA FALLS CITY COUNCIL

SNAP CHAT: EZRAPSCOTTJR4NF
TWITTER: EZRAPSCOTTJR4NF
SKYPE: EZRAPSCOTTJR4NF
IG: EZRAPSCOTTJR4NF

How beggarly appear arguments before a defiant deed!
(Walt Whitman)

izquotes.com

Taxpayers Can't See Clearly Now, or Ever, As Dyster Defies Transparency

Anna Howard

The Reporter recently detailed how it had filed 29 FOILS with the Dyster administration seeking information on an array of topics that an informed public has every right to know.

This past week we received 29 letters from City Hall saying the city will need 20 days to review each FOIL request to determine if the city will honor any of them.

In other words, FOILS were essentially dumped into the morass that is the Dyster administration FOIL process.

While we'll keep our readers updated on the progress, or lack thereof, of the FOILS, we want you to know that there's all types of city financial information that not only should be easily available by FOIL, it should already be accessible on the city website, but it's not.

Nowhere is the dark heart of the non-transparent Dyster administration more evident than when it comes to city finance and the use, and abuse, of taxpayer dollars.

The casino revenue interest account is unavailable on the city website. The casino account expenditures are online, thanks to former State Senator George Maziarz, but the interest accrued from the casino account remains a mystery.

Was the interest spent? If so, on what, and if not where's the money?

The audit of city finances performed by the NYS Comptroller from Jan 2009 to 9 Jan 2013 and released in May 2013 is not on the city website, but it's on the NYS Comptroller's website.

That scathing audit detailed the many ways the Dyster administration had not only mismanaged taxpayer dollars, but it reported that millions of taxpayer dollars had literally

been hidden within the budget and had to be discovered by the state auditors. Some of the hidden money remained unaccounted for, according to the NYS Comptroller, at the close of their audit.

Also missing from the city website is the Dyster administration written response to the NYS Comptroller's 2013 audit. Until that response is made available to the public we have no way of knowing if the city addressed and repaired the numerous money management problems revealed by the state.

The Dyster administration recently hired the Bonadio accounting firm to review the city's finances. The Bonadio audit reported that the city is in debt to the tune of \$7.6 million. While the audit results were announced several weeks ago at a council meeting you won't find the audit on the city website.

So, what city audit is posted on the city website?

It's the "City of Niagara Falls, New York Financial Statement as of December 31, 2010" done by Bonadio. 2010 was several "financial crises" and one scathing NYS Comptroller's audit ago. In the world of municipal finance, five years is a lifetime.

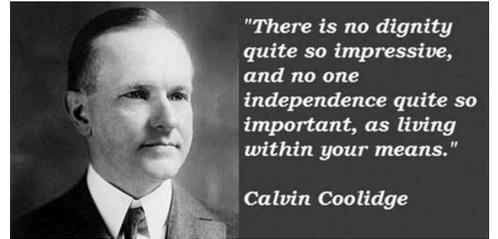
Many municipalities now routinely post all information on contracts, bids and their bid process live online. In this way a resident or businessperson readily knows what bids are on the table and what the eventual results/costs of all bids and contracts are.

You won't see this form of live, easily accessible information on the city website.

Another thing you won't see on the Dyster administration website, although we've recommended it for the past year, is a live posting of the current 2015 budget. If the 2015 budget were online in real time a resident could watch as their tax dollars flow out



Paul Dyster, shown in his office, with hands covering over paperwork, is not a big fan of government transparency.



of the budget.

With the budget posted in real time a taxpayer could be fully informed as to how the 2015 budget was curiously "reopened" in April with money shifted from here to there - from this budget line to that budget line or department - for reasons known only to those doing the shifting.

A "live budget" would remove much of the confusion from the budget process while holding all those who work with the budget - elected and appointed - to a more acceptable level of accountability and transparency. And yes, many governments now post their budgets "live online" for just that reason.

The city's "financial arm" is called the NFC and Mayor Dyster is the chairman of the NFC board. The NFC awards loans and grants to existing city businesses and startup businesses. While the NFC can be located (not easily) on the city website there's no

way of telling what businesses have been given loans or grants.

The NFC page is lacking a good deal more information in addition to that, however.

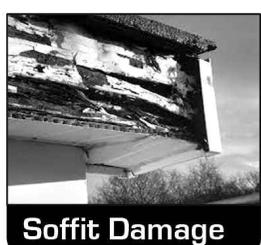
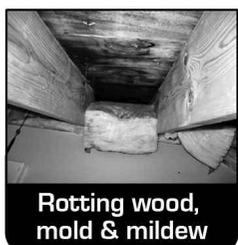
The last NFC financial statement posted is from 2013. The Board of Directors roster is from 2014. The most recent annual report is from 2012 and the meeting minutes don't go beyond 2013.

The NFC "document archive" webpage has information from 2010, 2011 and 2012 and nothing beyond those years. We understand that there are a number of NFC loans or grants that are pending at this time, but you'd never know that from the online information currently posted.

To the Reporter the question of government transparency is simple: If there's nothing to hide, then there's no reason for hiding it.

What's the Dyster administration hiding?

WINTER DAMAGE?



Why should you fix winter damages?

- Gutters can start to sag and separate
- Exposed wood begins to rot
- Downspout seepage cracks the foundation
- Roof leakage causes water damage
- Water infiltration causes mold growth

Call now and save further repairs!



Lou's Home Maintenance And Repair

GUTTER CLEANING

SPRING SPECIALS



ONLY \$39.95

2 Story Home: \$49⁹⁵ & up
Add Garage: \$10⁰⁰

Regular Gutter Cleaning Prevents:

- Wood Rot and Water Damage
- Fungus, Mold, and Bacteria
- Nesting Roaches, Spiders & Larvae
- Sagging and Detached Gutters

579-7397

Niagara Falls 5K Experience Back on Top Council Chair Lights Up Downtown Course

James Hufnagel

We're happy to report that the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club "Run in the Mist" 5K run on June 24 was a great success.

A beautiful Western New York midsummer's evening in downtown Niagara Falls saw 105 runners, an excellent turn-out for a weeknight, compete for prizes and then gather on Old Falls Street for dinner and refreshments, all to benefit the Boys and Girls Club, whose mission "is to provide appropriate and diversified programs and activities that serve to attract and hold area youth to the Clubhouse. We provide environments that teach children the skills needed to build positive lives, attitudes, and behaviors" through mentoring, drop-in, sports, tech skills and other impactful programs.

The event was a huge improvement over the May 16 Downtown Niagara Falls Business Association race that pulled a bait-and-switch at the last minute, substituting a shortened alternative route without informing runners. Subsequently, the sanctioning body USA Track and Field withdrew certification of the race, resulting in the invalidation of all runners' times.

We first became suspicious of the DNFBFA race when City Council chairman Andy "Feet don't fail me now" Touma posted a time far surpassing his personal best, as did



It's all fun and games until...

several other runners. Indeed, Chairman Touma (aka "Crazy Legs") finished the DNFBFA "Run With the Rapids" in a blistering 25:19. We spotlighted his unlikely performance in our expose', not to judge him or others, but to make our point about the race.

However, in finishing the "Mist" 5K a month later in 24:15, surpassing his previous time in the fudged "Rapids" 5K by over a minute, for some reason he took it as a kind



... a month later, when Andy "Pimp my Stride" Touma is all business, somehow trying to prove that the DNFBFA didn't screw up its 5K race.

of vindication.

"Put that in your newspaper, Hufnagel!" he remonstrated with this puffing and wheezing writer, moments after we both crossed the finish line last week.



Everything that can weaken us as a race we have had for the last thousand years. It seems as if during that period the national life had this one end in view, viz how to make us weaker and weaker, till we have become real earthworms, crawling at the feet of every one who dares to put his foot on us. Therefore my friends, as one of your blood, as one that lives and dies with you, let me tell you that we want strength, strength, and every time strength.

Swami Vivekananda

THE WOMEN'S SERVICES TEAM AT



NIAGARA FALLS
Memorial Medical Center
Niagara's Premier Health Network



Renee Baughman,
MD, FACOG



Donna Feldman,
MD, FACOG



Meaghan M. Aalto,
MD



Laura DeBacco,
RPA-C



Ryan C. Arnold,
MD



Michael Beckwith,
MD



Armen Kirakosyan
MD, FACOG



Jamie Szczepanski,
MD



Vicki Smith,
MS, RN, WHNP-BC

COMPASSIONATE CARE. CONSISTENTLY DELIVERED.

MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER'S growing team of women's healthcare specialists is dedicated to providing expert care to women at all stages of their pregnancy.

Providing pre-conception health, pre-natal care and screening, healthy pregnancy and childbirth options, expert obstetrical care, and our newly remodeled private labor and delivery suites. Our team delivers the services women need in a single, convenient location.

Memorial Medical Center's obstetricians/gynecologists and laborists work together to improve quality and to ensure better patient outcomes.

THE OB/GYN CENTER at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center

621 Tenth Street • Niagara Falls, NY • 716-278-4747

Only in NT: Oliver Street Transformation Stagnant in North Tonawanda

Sweeney Payne

Back in 2004 and 2005, Oliver Street occupants were beginning to be optimistic about rejuvenating their beloved, aging street.

An Oliver Street Community Pride organization was being developed to emulate the Project Pride organization established by David and Donna Burgio that focused on Webster Street.

Flowering baskets, wrought iron benches and fancy trash receptacles, like on Webster Street, were installed, the first of a series of 40 promised "ponies on parade" were promoted for installation along Oliver Street.

Heritage Park was created to connect the Carrousel and Railroad museums.

Some small signs, mounted too high and in lettering too small to be read easily, were installed along the street to help travelers find cultural sites along Oliver Street.

The 40 ponies turned out to be less than a dozen.

Larry Soos was an alderman then and one of the city's favorite bartenders at his Soos' Oliver Street Cafe.

He and his wife Linda took the lead on revitalization hopes for Oliver Street.

Since then, the Burgios gave up their Project Pride effort downtown.

Oliver Street Community Pride died.

The lack of follow through by certain city officials in aiding the efforts of the two worthwhile volunteer organizations was at least one of the reasons for their premature demise.

Neither organization exists today.

Burgio went on to be NT's first full-

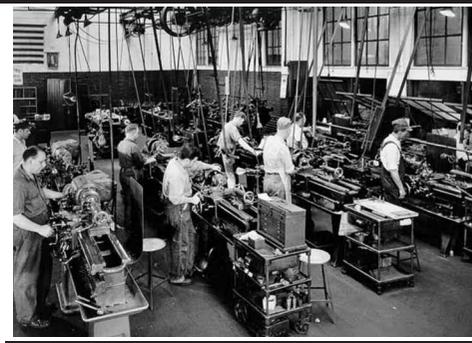
Buffalo Bolt photos when they actually made bolts



1930's



1940's



Early 20th Century

time, four-year Mayor, but failed to get a second term.

Soos became the second full-time four-year Mayor. He didn't get a second term, either.

Burgio got a bar called Crazy Jake's on Webster Street. Soos sold his Oliver Street bar.

Before Burgio took office, it seemed North Tonawanda was putting all its Oliver Street eggs in one basket, the Buffalo Bolt complex.

That however failed to "bring back" or revitalize Oliver Street because the Buffalo Bolt Business Park is not yet complete a decade later!

It isn't even identified with signs informing passersby it exists!

Somehow North Tonawanda cannot seem to find time to cut the grass, pull weeds from the fence, or remove the litter collecting along the fence and in the weed patches they don't mow.

While not a city funded organization in any way, the North Tonawanda museum,

seriously desired by residents, was originally suggested to help revitalize Webster Street.

Now in its twelfth year, the museum recognizes Soos permanently for his role in making Webster Street its permanent home in an exhibit.

When Rob Ortt became mayor, he wanted a marina.

If there were signs on River Road on the way to his still not completed marina informing passersby there is a Buffalo Bolt Business Park on the other side of the railroad tracks, perhaps the Buffalo Bolt project would be completed by now.

While we had Ortt as Mayor, we also got career military man Bob Clark, who returned home after more than four decades of reporting to those in command over him in more than one branch of military service.

He joined the GOP, became alderman-at-large and died in office.

We now have a career military man, Bob Pecoraro, who was appointed and hoping to be elected to the post of alderman-at-

large, also as part of the GOP.

His background makes him well qualified for our war with the City of Tonawanda, the Town of Wheatfield, or perhaps the Town of Grand Island.

But what is he doing about Buffalo Bolt?

Current elected and appointed officials think they are the first ones to seek to revitalize Oliver Street.

None appear to be thinking in terms of bringing it back to what it once was, instead trying to make it something else.

What that something else is, we're not sure!

What does anyone currently in office know about marketing a business park?

What do they know about Oliver Street?

Except for using them as reasons to vote for them, what are their chances of accomplishing anything any of us want and need for Oliver Street?

SKIN CARE BY HEIDI

Heidi Furey
NYS Licensed Esthetician

Personalized, professional skin care

-♥.....
Comfort Facial \$60
-♥.....
Age Defying Facial \$70
-♥.....
Chemical Peels \$80
-♥.....

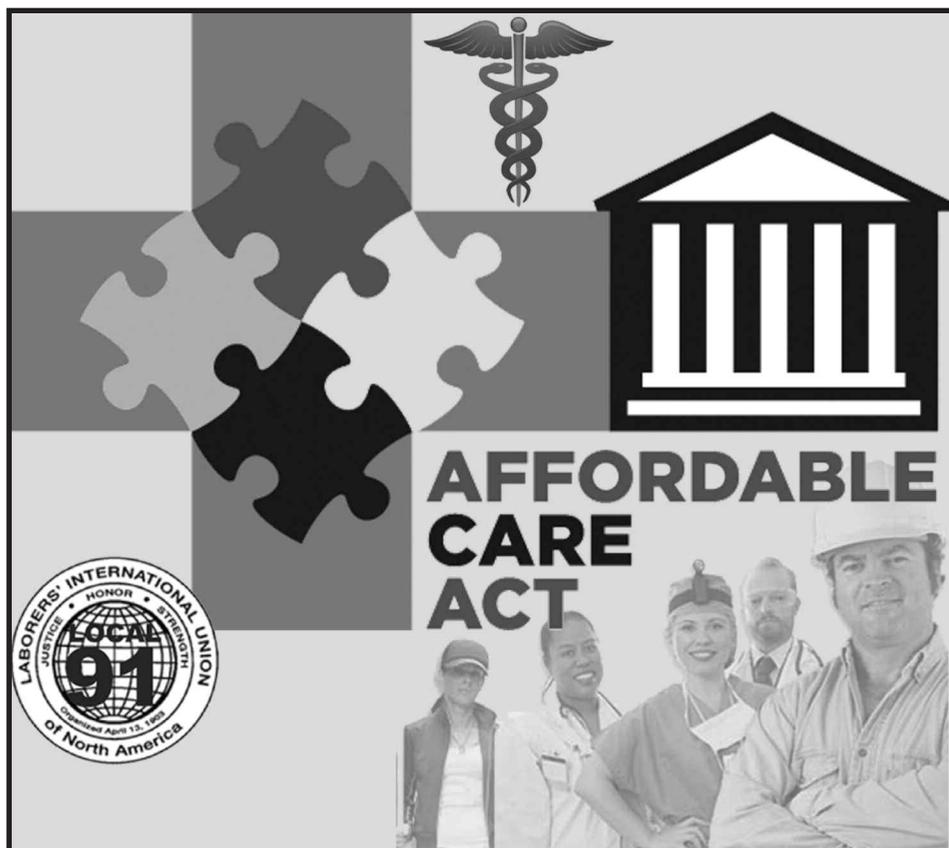


Two Days Salon
4314 Military Rd
Niagara Falls, NY 14305
716-990-3659

SAVE \$5
With this ad

TWODAYS SALON

Call for appointment
716.990.3659



SUPREME COURT'S ACA RULING PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONGRESS TO STOP THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S PICK-POCKETING OF WORKING PEOPLE

In the last week of June the US Supreme Court rendered a decision in the case of King v. Burwell upholding the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA has enabled millions of Americans to have access to healthcare benefits which is a good thing, however, those benefits have come at the expense of and on the backs of working men and women. The Supreme Court's ACA ruling is an opportunity for Congress to stop the Obama Administration's pick-pocketing of working people so that the law lives up to its intention of providing access to affordable quality healthcare for all.

LIUNA will work with like-minded members of Congress to achieve a more equitable policy that truly provides affordable quality healthcare for all without mandating lower quality care for the working class. Millions of workers in multi-employer plans, including LIUNA members, have had quality coverage for generations. They collectively bargained for it, paid for it out of their paychecks, and were never a drag on our nation's health care system. Unless Congress fixes the ACA, their plans will be destroyed through new costs and taxes, such as the 40-percent so-called "Cadillac tax" and the transitional reinsurance tax. In just one year, without covering the cost of a single doctor's visit or hospital stay, the transitional reinsurance tax drained \$45 million from LIUNA affiliated health plans. The fees and taxes make the "Affordable" in the ACA an oxymoron.

The ignorance and the arrogance of the Administration and many in Congress is evident in the disrespect shown to working men and women in the writing and implementation of the ACA. The Administration bent over backwards to make changes for corporations and insurance companies, but has totally disregarded the issues affecting the working class. We call on Congress to seize this opportunity to fix Obamacare by contacting your elected representatives. Congressman Brian Higgins - 716-852-3501; Congressman Chris Collins: 716-634-2324; Senator Charles Schumer - 716-846-4111; Senator Kirsten Gillibrand - 716 854-9725.

Sabres, Bills Getting Plenty of Hype From Local Media

Tony Farina

Will this be the year the Buffalo Sabres and the Buffalo Bills make the playoffs?

If you have been following the media hype about the two franchises, including the drafting of budding hockey star Jack Eichel, you would think both teams are on the verge of something big. Let's hope so.

I'm going to take and wait-and-see atti-

who believe the Bills have a chance to break their 15-year playoff drought but they'll need to find somebody who can throw the ball just a little to get to the post season. I don't know who that quarterback will be right now and neither does Rex Ryan and the front office. But there's hope for some kind of miracle among Bills fans who never really quit until it's over, which usually happens fairly early. But I think this year there's hope for something more than a winning season.



Terry Pegula made his fortune from fracking and owns the two Buffalo major league sports teams. Fracking is illegal in Buffalo.



It takes talent to win in professional sports, talent, grit and determination.

tude until we're much farther along than hyping ticket sales for two franchises that have not been winners for a long time.

There will be some action on the ice as early as next week and folks can get a glimpse of the supposed "savior" for the Sabres although realistically, expectations should indeed be tempered given Eichel's youth and the fact he's not exactly joining a team with Bobby Orr and Gordie Howe on the roster. But hey, I hope he proves to be the real deal and the Sabres, along with their new \$52 million man, forward Ryan O'Reilly who scored 55 points (17 goals) in 82 games last year for Colorado, can take a giant step forward from the abysmal performances of the last few years. I question whether O'Reilly's numbers are worth \$52 million, but somebody thinks so.

As for the Buffalo Bills, they are already getting their share of local media hype which is driving ticket sales and sending expectations through the roof for a team with a new coach who, by the way, hasn't won anything so far, and no proven quarterback on the roster.

Now I'm certainly in the camp of those

Unfortunately, suspension or not, Tom Brady is still around and so is Rob Gronkowski, and in my mind, that makes New England the team to beat again, followed closely by Green Bay and Seattle. But maybe the Bills will take the next step and Terry Pegula will finally have something to crow about besides fracking billions from Pennsylvania.

Let's all stay tuned and hope for the best but I would caution local sports fans to be careful not to fall for the media sales pitch you are currently getting and remember Rome wasn't built in a day, and while Eichel may be a potential star and Rex Ryan is promising the playoffs, these franchises haven't won anything yet, and it may take time to reverse the years of decline. But let's wait and see and hope for the best!

WE BUY HOUSES

Alberthouse
REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT Upper 2 bedrm
\$550.00/mo.
Other apts available.
Little Italy

Call: 716-876-9927

Email: AlberthouseBuysHouses@yahoo.com

WE BUY, SELL & FINANCE
REAL ESTATE

Affirmative Action, Free Housing, Free Lunch, Free Everything, Yes, We Have No More to Give



**J. Gary
DiLaura**

**The Right
Side**

(Ed. Note: J. Gary

DiLaura is a retired FBI Special Agent and his lengthy experiences in law enforcement obviously shape his perspectives. His opinions are his own. If you disagree with him, after pausing a moment to consider that the First Amendment permits him to write things you do not agree with, you might consider, rather than attacking him, attempting to rebut him. In this way you add to the discourse and seek a solution. Email DiLaura at news1926@gmial.com)

I am going to ask you, the reader, to think about what I am about to write.

First I want to make this statement: I do not consider myself a bigot or a racist.

I spent the better part of my life enforcing the laws of the United States, which includes the Civil Rights Laws.

I investigated police brutality allegations by black citizens against white police officers in the late 1960s, while I was in Charleston, S. C., a difficult task in a city that was very racially charged!

I served there when restaurants still displayed "reserved" signs on all tables to keep out black citizens and gas stations still had "three" rest rooms!

I was a young, white, FBI agent who before that never witnessed discrimination and who enjoyed devoted friendships with many black, school friends, like Clarence Ward, fellow athletes, like Ron Nabors and Frank Carter, and too many to count fellow musicians (I play the saxophone professionally and I favor the blues).

And I was given the task of investigating white lawmen, with whom I had to work.

When there was brutality I was color blind.

I worked hard to enforce the law that every American regardless of race deserves equal access to every opportunity America has to offer.

Equal opportunity, not necessarily equal results.

I agree with a quote of writer William Saroyan, "In a democratic state every man is the equal of every other man up to the point of exertion, and after that every man is free to exert himself to do good or not, to grow nobly or foolishly, as he wishes."

However, there is a limit to what people can accept about what has become in America the actual opposite of the quote above: Equal results without equal efforts through entitlement.

Today, we are expected to believe that in a democratic state the only proof of every person being equal to every other



America has come a long way to change race relations since the mid 20th century.

person is that, regardless of exertion, everyone must be guaranteed equal results.

I believe people in general have reached the limit and are ready to reject this foolish idea.

And that includes hard working black Americans who are as fed up as the rest!

This country was founded primarily by white, Christian, Europeans, mostly of English, Welsh and Scottish descent.

The foreign born-population of the United States however really started to increase around 1850 when Irish Catholics, Germans, Czechs, Hungarians, Swiss, Scandinavians, Chinese and Mexicans came by the millions.

They became Americans, most settled in the north, and about 160 years ago, many of them fought in a war, a Civil War, costing hundreds of thousands of lives, fought in large part to free black people who were grievously brought here from Africa over the course of centuries in chains as slaves.

Those who fought for their freedom won the war, and blacks became part of a largely white European society that for the most part and for many decades considered them inferior.

Since the end of the Civil War, and particularly during the latter half of the 20th Century, the American government has struggled to right a wrong that was perpetrated before any living American today was born and to bring the black people forward and on par with the rest of society.

All the while, millions of poor white immigrants, who could barely speak English, have managed to prosper without government help.

Following the Civil War there came unabated millions more immigrants and added to the list above came Italians, Poles, Greeks, Spaniards and on and on.

Meantime America passed Civil Rights Laws and outlawed segregation. The American government ordered federal troops to enforce integration.

The government took white children and bused them, against their will, to black schools and black children, against their will, to white schools.

They created "Affirmative Action" giving racial preferences to black people in many critical aspects of life, in a society where all people are supposed to be created equal.

They created job training, built hous-



Rev. Al Sharpton sometimes uses incendiary language that seems to smack a little bit of racism, such as, "White folks was in the caves while we was building empires. We taught philosophy and astrology and mathematics before Socrates and them Greek homos ever got around to it."

Or "So if some cracker come and tell you, 'Well, my mother and father blood go back to the Mayflower,' you better hold your pocket. That ain't nothing to be proud of. That means their forefathers was crooks."

But Sharpton also speaks in virile language about the value of hard work. He said, "I was raised by a single mother who made a way for me. She used to scrub floors as a domestic worker, put a cleaning rag in her pocketbook and ride the subways in Brooklyn so I would have food on the table. But she taught me as I walked her to the subway that life is about not where you start, but where you're going. That's family values."

ing projects, provided free food, free bus-ing, free books, free cell phones, and every possible incentive to put family first and foremost.

No amount of government handouts, no midnight basketball, big brother program or free housing seemed to be able to solve the demise of the black family.

Today 71% of all black children are born into a one parent family.

Yet, in much less time, and with virtually no public assistance, people from so-called 3rd world countries, like India and Asia, have prospered.

These are also "non-white" people.

They came here oftentimes not speaking our language and have become business people with children who learned respect and responsibility at home, winning national spelling bees and scoring high numbers on SAT tests regularly.

The India emigrants are today the wealthiest ethnicity in America – including the entire batch of Europeans.

Meantime, the black youth – young men primarily - are responsible for 50% of the nation's violent crime, oftentimes targeting white people for the fun of it, using every and any excuse they can find to riot, perhaps inspired by the likes of the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Al Sharpton.

They riot for the fun of it, not for any reason that makes any sense and in cities that are run by black elected politicians and contain a black majority.

The nation has elected a black president.

Yet, it's not enough!

Whites are holding them back.

The entire program has FAILED!

Free everything... affirmative action, everything that has been tried has failed and the liberal elite say, "Let's just try one more thing, like free health care and free this and free that, and free, free, free....!"

It has failed because of the complete refusal of so many blacks to look at Amer-

ica as their home, their country, their opportunity to become something special!

Perhaps I am too sheltered but in 29 years of law enforcement and two decades in private business - to this date - I have never heard any German, Italian, Spanish, Polish, Greek, Armenian, English or any other immigrant citizen say he or she hated America or "God damn" America, but, I have heard (and continue to hear) black Reverends, black politicians, black leaders and black citizens say they hate America!

They refuse to name their children traditional American names that would ease their children's acceptance into mainstream society, but instead make up names that sound "African", but aren't.

They encourage their children to stand out, but not by their accomplishments, but by wearing their hats crooked, their pants on the ground and to develop an attitude that defies reason with a language of violence, hate and even rape that most respectable blacks despises.

They listen to and unfortunately believe people like Michelle Obama, flying around with 200 friends and relatives, on our dime, in 747s, bashing America and its rich white people, while staying at \$1500 per night motel rooms.

She and her entire family draw pay-checks of hundreds of thousands of dollars, but we are the elite.

I sincerely believe that respectable whites are not out to get black people, but I also believes that whites are fed up with the danger and violence, the "or else" threats of the likes of Sharpton and Jackson, and the increasing taxes required to pay the way for those who are capable of working but will not.

Couple all this with a president who uses race to enrage black people to enhance what I believe is his Islamic Muslim agenda and you have an explosive situation waiting to detonate.

Series to Chronicle Life of FBI Special Agent J. Gary DiLaura

Tony Farina

If you read this newspaper, you may have read a column or two by J. Gary DiLaura called "The Right Side," a provocative, conservative-leaning view of the world in the words of a former special agent of the FBI.

Over the next several weeks, we're going to take a peek at the life of this retired crime fighter now living in Niagara Falls who spent the last 20 years of his 29-year FBI career in the Buffalo office, one of 56 field offices in the United States and one of three in New York State (Albany, New York).

In his day, Agent DiLaura, who characterized himself as a "hustler," was no shrinking violet sitting around an office drinking coffee.

He was an aggressive lawman who was involved in street shootouts, the Oklahoma City bombing investigation and Timothy McVeigh, and local cases involving familiar names like Niagara Falls plumber John Gross. DiLaura investigated and subsequently arrested numerous high profile Western New York figures from the political, business and crime worlds, including a raft of them residing in Niagara County.

DiLaura didn't always go by the book, and at times did it his way, leading to confrontations with his superiors but winning

him many honors during a career that was marked by dangerous street confrontations with armed hoodlums and sharing the back seat of a car with New York crime boss John Gotti.

And how about investigating the robbery of screen actress Sophia Loren in New York City, a scene she did not want published for personal reasons.

It is all part of the DiLaura journey, and we will take a look at some of those drama-filled moments in the career of a special agent who went to Niagara Falls High School and now makes a living running a self-storage business, a far cry from his FBI days.

Of course, DiLaura's Buffalo stop included working with two men who now sit as federal judges, the Hon. Richard Arcara and the Hon. William Skretny.

Judge Arcara was the United States attorney in Buffalo when DiLaura got here in 1975 after five years in wild and wooly New York City.

Cases put together by the FBI are prosecuted at the federal level, and Arcara would have been at the top of the food chain for federal prosecutions in Buffalo when DiLaura came to town and Judge Skretny was a first assistant under Arcara.

DiLaura remembers both men well, and sings their praises as prosecutors who were courageous and committed to bringing true



Love him or hate him, J. Gary DiLaura has an opinion on just about everyone and everything with whom he came in contact.



J. Gary DiLaura came across a lot of individuals in his legendary career. One of them was Mafia boss John Gotti. It did not end well for Gotti.

criminals to justice, while safeguarding the due process rights of the innocent until proven guilty.

So for the next several weeks, we will examine some of the experiences of special agent J. Gary DiLaura and kind of put you right in the seat with him in that unmarked FBI car as he strives to bring the guilty to justice and make us all a little safer.

In a way, my time as an investigative reporter in Buffalo corresponds pretty closely with DiLaura's time here as a special agent.

We will also examine that connection as part of the series on this former hard-charging crime fighter.

Look for Part I of the J. Gary DiLaura story next week.

Letters to the Editor

Sweeney Payne you're right!

First are you hitting the nail on the head with the way this whole City of North Tonawanda works in all departments.

But I could go on, but will stay with the article in the June 30-Jul 08 edition.

First of all I don't know where you get the Info that Mr. Wachowicz lives in Clarence. He did at one time, but since then he has built a house that encompasses the end of Sweeney Ct. This is one of his successful housing developments in our city.

Now I do agree 100% with updating the Old Colonel Payne for what he wants to do with the parking lot for the old bowling Alley.

Just as any other city or town let's not do what a Benderson does.

Fix up that building on Wheatfield, beside probably using it just for part of a warehouse and the BIG part an eyesore.

Yeah what a great deal on Michael's Landing again this is a prime example of who you know, how about that special parking lot put in by the City and Chained Off only for use at the banquet facility.

Don't get Me wrong He has put in nice little affordable houses over the years on some of the City Streets instead of Empty Lots, beside the Sweeny Court Houses also Daigler Drive, after Ryan's high

cost Homes weren't doing nothing. So Sad to Hear He works with the Person who just about killed the spirit of the Volunteer Fire Co.'s when he was a so called Mayor and wanted His private Train set

by demolishing the boat Houses at the part where Niagara River & Canal meet. I think that is a man named Burgio, who built, again who you know !!!!! This mansion

where a restaurant use to stand about in that area, but oh No the Owners where told after a Fire. That is Historic Land, that is where the Old Niagara Falls Blvd Bridge Crossing was or something like that ,so they couldn't rebuild.

AGAIN MONEY TALKS----WORKING PEOPLE LOSE OUT !!!!

Thank You,
Mr. Martinsville

Gotta Better Plan for Housing in Falls

This is in regards to Mike Hudson's article on the abandoned housing problem from the Jun 30 – Jul 8th edition.

There is a better way to deal with these abandoned houses than what the current Dyster administration is doing.

Have the City Inspector determine which houses can be saved and then spend the money slated for demolition to rehabilitate these houses. Once rehabbed these houses can be given to residents who are at the mercy of slumlords renting apartments and houses that are just above conditions that would otherwise have those buildings condemned.

Give these now fortunate people the chance to become homeowners and taxpayers. With the stipulation that they reside in their new homes for a minimum of five years.

If vacated within those five years the homes revert back to this housing development project. This would lead to 12 to 25 houses per year back on the tax rolls and 12 to 25 families now as homeowners.

I find that a homeowner will take much better care of their property than a renter will. Let's give this city back to the people one

house at a time. It's time for innovative thinking and action instead of words.

Then maybe for once Niagara Falls will be mentioned in a good way with even the possibility of other communities following the Niagara Way to save their housing stock while helping those less fortunate become proud homeowners and responsible taxpayers. Frederick J Staniszewski
Niagara Falls / Lasalle

It's Like the Man Says - for Welfare workers and asbestos

Read your article on the cleanup of asbestos with welfare recipients.

I worked on that program.

If you only knew how many times we were put in a situation like that.

All the old county buildings were riddled with asbestos. The big shots who told us to clean up all that crap told us it was full of asbestos and told us not to tell anybody. If anybody happened to come around and see what we were doing, we were told to play dumb. I can't tell you how much of that we all inhaled. You would be shocked to know half the sh*t they pulled on people like myself with no choice but to work and without proper safety equipment or otherwise would lose benefits.

Jack, off the welfare workfare now

Trash Plan Fails Because it did not consider the needs of the people

Mr. Hill, a friend of mine, gave me permission to use his foto.

He is a long distance truck driver who lives on 6th St. and Buffalo Ave. where peo-

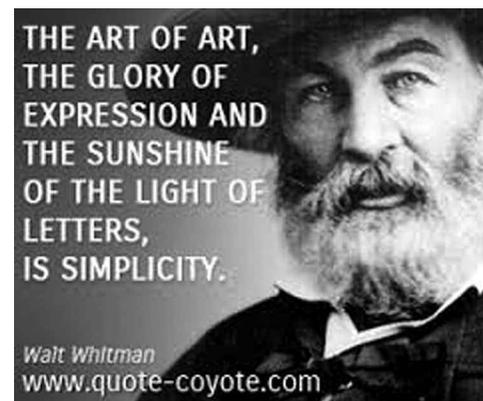


ple dump rubbish and debris constantly in the alley behind his house.

Here, Mr. Hill demonstrates the large plate glass shards which were dumped in the alley, behind a house where young children play.

The glass when dumped was in panels which the kids may have broken having fun. Whichever way one looks at it, people are dumping garbage there because it is easy to do.

Gerald Skrlin



THE ART OF ART,
THE GLORY OF
EXPRESSION AND
THE SUNSHINE
OF THE LIGHT OF
LETTERS,
IS SIMPLICITY.

Walt Whitman
www.quote-coyote.com

City Hall Jokes

Dyster gifting the school district with \$100,000 of taxpayer money proves one thing. The mayor is much better at freezing homeowner water pipes than freezing his own budget.



Some people refer to it as the “sweaty palm syndrome.” It’s when city department heads and political appointees start thinking about stepping away from a wounded mayor in order to slide over to who they hope will be the next mayor. We prefer to call it the “rats jumping ship syndrome.” Whatever you call it we understand it’s alive and well at city hall.



While it’s true that people passing the mayor’s nominating petitions are routinely being met with resistance, there’s no truth (at least we don’t think so) to the rumor that Kristen Grandinetti was seen circulating Dyster’s petition while wearing a fake beard (well, we think it was fake).



After the Reporter broke the story about Charles Walker failing to pay his taxes it’s now fair to say that there’s three inescapable truths in life: death, taxes and Charles Walker’s inability to pay taxes.



Paul Dyster’s SWEET team car was spotted on Cayuga Island on June 19, looking for trash code violators on the neat, spotless, high-tax paying island. The joke is that the only thing violating the city code in the Cayuga Island neighborhood on June 19 was Jayne Park where the grass was 15 inches tall.



Dyster’s City Democratic Committee is having serious trouble gathering enough petition signatures for His Honor. It’s strange how frozen water lines, \$89 million in wasted casino revenue, a mysterious \$7.6 million deficit, a \$50 million courthouse, department head salaries in excess of \$100,000, millions of dollars for consultants and endless potholes can damage a politician’s reputation.

Type casting! Because Mayor Dyster tried and failed to end the music festival

promotion career of Rick Crogan, we understand that the mayor is now being considered for the role of the Devil in Don McLeans’s legendary rock anthem, “American Pie.” Remember, Mr. Mayor, “Fire is the Devil’s only friend.”



Hold onto your hats. We are told that Donna Owens is hard at work developing Mayor Dyster’s parking plan. Considering how she did with the trash plan there’s a good chance we’ll end up with oversized green parking spaces covered in black trash bags.



Mayor Dyster gave us a canoe launch, a cricket field, a \$50 million courthouse, a \$13 million ice pavilion renovation and a \$44 million train station. It almost makes you forget that he also gave us a \$65 million debt, a \$7.6 million deficit, a zero balance in the \$89 million casino account and a tax increase!



Six weeks ago the Reporter joked about how the 2016 budget drama was going to soon unfold. Dyster recently announced the unexpected \$7.6 million deficit and then the council and mayor declared a surprise spending freeze. Next, we’ll see the third act as the controller announces the “drastic state of city finances.” The Reporter is going to award an Oscar for “Best city hall performance in the creation of a fiscal crisis” after the 2016 budget closes in November.

HARD MONEY LOANS AVAILABLE

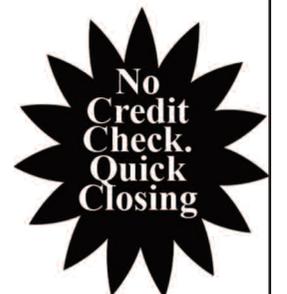
NEED CASH FAST?



- ATTENTION flippers, investors and everyday people with equity in their homes who need cash fast.
- I loan on the value of a home; not on a borrower’s credit.
- Short term loans: 16



From \$10,000 to \$1,000,000...



Business and Commercial loans available too.

Call (716)990-5740 Or email cashcarlisle@gmail.com

Skrlin Flies Confederate Flag in honor/defiance of Obama

To understand Gerald Skrlin, the brilliant artist and political cartoonist, one has to understand a certain quality in the mind of the man that almost everybody who has ever known him has called "defiance."

And if an artist is not defiant, maybe he is not really much of an artist.

In any event, the Reporter is committed to telling the whole truth and right next to the artist's sign calling for scrutiny of allegedly missing money at City Hall, which proudly hangs on the artist's home, a home which also doubles as the Lavinia Porter House Museum, hangs also a Confederate Flag.

So this is the north and Skrlin has not, to our knowledge, ever evinced any interest in the old South, or the Confederacy, or any need to make any kind of anti-black statement (as some see the Confederate Flag to be since it was flown by the state's rights oriented/slave keeping southern states) so why is he flying a Con-

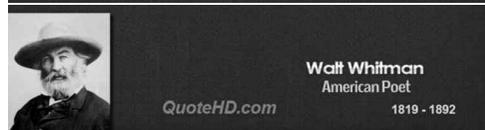


Mayor Paul A. Dyster with celebrated artist Gerald Skrlin, who often lampoons Dyster in cartoons.



A Confederate Flag appears at Skrlin's museum after Obama said the Confederate Flag belongs in a museum.

There is no week nor day nor hour when tyranny may not enter upon this country, if the people lose their roughness and spirit of defiance.



Confederate flag "belongs in a museum" after calls to remove the flag in South Carolina came in following a racially motivated mass murder in a black church.

Ok. We get it. He doesn't care a bit about the Confederate Flag.

He's defiant.

federate Flag all of a sudden?

We didn't even have to ask.

Skrlin wrote, "Obama quote, 'Confederate flag belongs in a museum.' ... Lavinia Porter House Historic Museum".

President Obama did say he believes the

Shame on You



Auntie Lynn

Under bright lights of camera
He steps to the plate
To be judged by the zoom team
And learn of his fate

Get rid of the tall grass
And debris over there
Embarrassed into submission
By viewers' wide stare

Let the world see what happens
To those who oppose
We'll make an example
To quiet our foes

The new hire in office
Must show he's in charge
The more code violations
The more he looks large

Bright colored stickers for the old and the weak

Focus on soft targets who dare would not speak

We'll take all the money from working class poor

For we've wasted their money and now we need more

Back in the chambers they gather in six
The small one with gavel to quiet the mix

I must take control and silence the rhyme

By restricting their speech to MY chosen time

From the high bench they tower
deaf ears to our cries
One busy with texting
Her concern a mere guise

If they continue to oppress
If they continue to abuse
The next camera rolling
Might be from Fox News

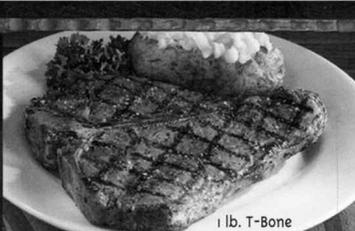
PONDEROSA STEAKHOUSE

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

(Not valid on Easter)
Saturdays and Sundays: 8 - 11 am

PONDEROSA

Expires: 07/15/15

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!

\$2 OFF	\$1 OFF
50 Wings	20 Wings

Call ahead for Fast Pick-up.
Valid on 1st bag only. Not valid w/ Monday Wings Promotion

PONDEROSA

(Not valid on Easter) Expires: 07/15/15

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.

PONDEROSA

(Not valid on Easter) Expires: 07/15/15

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.

\$5⁹⁹	Lunch Buffet
\$8⁹⁹	Dinner Buffet

Lunch valid Mon-Fri: 11am - 4pm,
Dinner valid Mon-Sat after 4 pm; all day Sun.

PONDEROSA

(Not valid on Easter) Expires: 07/15/15

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.

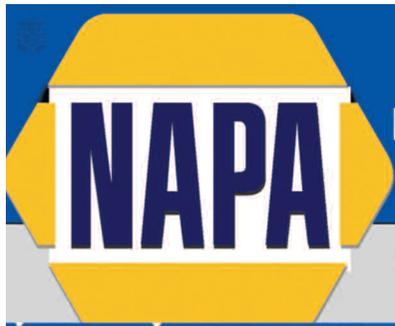
FREE Soda Pop

On purchase of adult lunch or dinner buffet at regular price.

PONDEROSA

(Not valid on Easter) Expires: 07/15/15

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.



NEW HOURS Mon-Fri: 7:30am - 7pm
Sat: 8am - 5pm
Sun: 9am - 5pm

WWW.NAPAONLINE.COM

SPECTACULAR JULY SAVINGS AT NAPA!

HOT Savings!

199^{*/qt.}
NAPA Conventional Motor Oil
Aceite convencional para motores NAPA

FREE

NAPA Racing / Intrepid Fallen Heroes Cap with Any Purchase of **\$25** or More!

NAPA will donate \$1 to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund for every cap given away.

GET A \$15 TO \$25

Mail-In Prepaid Visa® Card with Qualifying Purchase of a NAPA Battery

\$89 **SAVE \$50**

Jump Starter & Portable Power Supply With 16" Cables

58% OFF

199

Purple Power Industrial Strength Cleaner/Degreaser

SAVE \$70

\$79

Wireless Back-Up Camera System

July 1-31, 2015

\$10 OFF

YOUR NEXT PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE

2450 Military Rd. 297-9000



GET ANTI GLARE COATING



Without Coating With Coating Without Coating With Coating

Look Better See Better

ONLY \$10!!!
for single vision lenses

Bring this ad and get an anti-glare coating for only **\$10!!!**

Valid till June 30, 2015

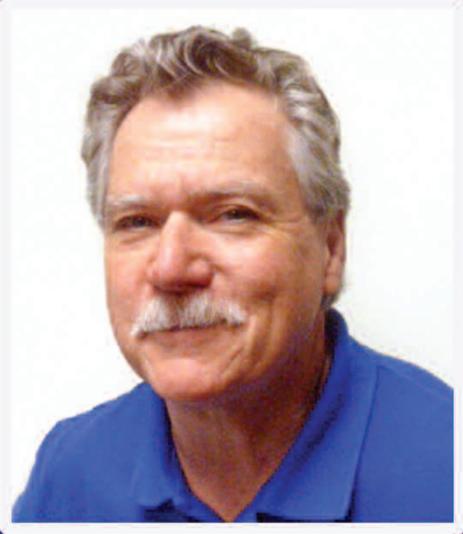
Anti-glare coating benefits:

1. People can see your eyes instead of a glare on your glasses
2. Reduce stress on eyes with less glare
3. Beneficial for people who work on the computer all day. Less glare and stress.
4. Improves night vision and makes night driving easier.

Questions? Call 716-773-7653
www.grandislandoptical.net

2077 BASELINE ROAD, GRAND ISLAND, NY 14072

Personal friend of the Gecko®.

**1330 Niagara Falls Blvd,
Tonawanda, NY 14150**
Across from the Boulevard Mall

Serving Niagara & Erie Counties

Timothy C. Lynch
716-832-3253

Get a quote today!

GEICO
Local Office®

Ask About Our Evening & Saturday Hours!

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2013 © 2013 GEICO