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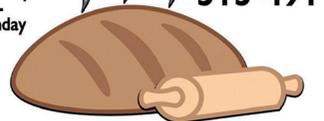
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Proposed Short-Term Rental Ordinance Sparks Debate



(Cont. on pg. 3)

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THE CRIME
PAGE 4

Niagara Falls

Paying for Dyster's Follies: Refuse Fee Due in August

By: Staff Reporter

Niagara Falls Mayor Robert M. Restaino announced that the due date for payment of the Refuse Fee (a/k/a 'Garbage User Fee') has been extended to August 15th as residents were mailed the bill late due to the July 4th holiday.

Payment of the Refuse Fee will be

(Cont. on pg. 2)

Henry Wojtaszek Cleared of Any Wrongdoing Despite Maziarz's Repeated Attacks

By: Frank Parlato

An investigation led by a special prosecutor appointed to investigate former Niagara County Republican Chairman

(Cont. on pg. 6)

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NIAGARA FALLS

Refuse Fee Cont. from Cover



Former Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster proposed the 'Refuse Fee' (a/k/a 'Garbage User Fee') for the first time in 2018 but it was not passed by the City Council. Dyster then included the fee in his budget prior to leaving office. It was at this time, in 2019, that it was approved by the City Council.

done in two separate payments of \$90.50, which is the fee for a single residential home. Residents will have the option of paying directly at City Hall or mailing in their payments.

The 'Refuse Fee' was originally proposed under the leadership of Mayor Paul Dyster and was ultimately approved by the Niagara Falls City Council in November of 2019.

Dyster's original plan, part of his progressive strategies for one of the poorest cities in the USA was to dramatically increase recycling by residents. He wanted Niagara Falls

to surpass every city in the USA in the percentage of refuse that was recycled.

By shifting the emphasis on recycling he renegotiated the contract with Modern Disposal. While Dyster predicted that it would ultimately result in cost savings to residents, it turned out to be exactly the opposite and garbage costs went up dramatically.

For the first time in the city's history, to absorb the new, unplanned and increased costs, residents were required to pay a refuse collection fee, while, at the same time, being severely limited in the amount of refuse they could bring to the curb.

It was an historic blunder, that this paper warned repeatedly against prior to its adoption.

The current Mayor has inherited this additional cost to taxpayers from the profligate former Mayor Dyster.

In short: The user fee is the total of all expenses incurred by the City to have the waste hauler collect and dispose of waste per the total number of refuse carts issued, as well as the fees associated with recycling collection and processing. Commercial properties pay a slightly higher rate than the residential route as they may require additional effort to collect and/or the volume of waste is greater than a residential parcel.

Unpaid residential and commercial property bills are the personal liability of the owner of the property. All unpaid bills by the respective due dates will incur a \$5.00 per

month late charge. Any such unpaid fees and late charges remaining in November will be added to the following year's property taxes. The amount added to the property taxes will include an additional \$15 administrative charge for each delinquent account.

It will be nothing short of a miracle for the current Mayor Restaino to undo the incredible wasteful spending of Mayor Dyster, a man who got more than \$200 million in casino cash, with virtually nothing to show for it, while plunging the city into ever deepening debt.

Mayor Dyster stood by silently when Gov. Andrew Cuomo renewed the Seneca Compact and failed/ forgot/ was negligent in securing an agreement for any payment to the

state or the City from the Senecas.

So while Dyster had money to spend like a drunken sailor and to fill in his growing budget deficits, the Restaino's administration has no such revenue and no immediate hope of any from the casino.

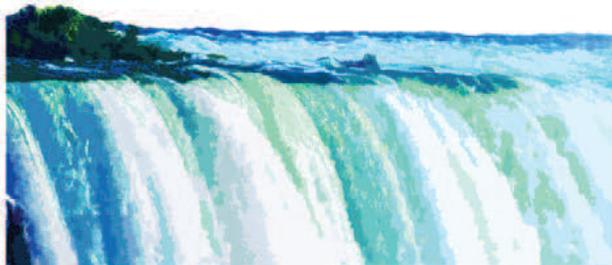
On top of that, the pandemic came in his first few months in office and devastated much of the businesses and tourist revenue in this city.

Mayor Restaino is up against it and if, with the help of the Council, he pulls us out of this, - it will be nothing short of a miracle.

In the meantime, when you pay your garbage fee, remember who brought it to you - your former Mayor who the residents of this city elected three times.



NIAGARA

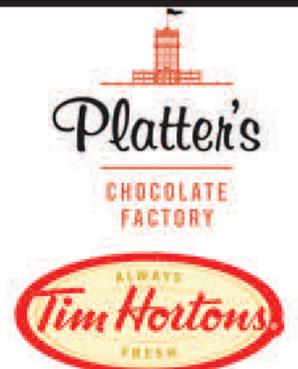


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Sanborn: Smokin Joes (gas station and store) & Tim Hortons

Wilson: Lakeside Market

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

Mayor Proposes Airbnb Style Rentals Be Limited to Downtown Area Cont. from Cover



Niagara Falls Mayor Robert M. Restaino is advocating for the ordinance to be passed into law.

What started with a moratorium on short-term rentals [AKA AirBNB style rentals of homes] in Niagara Falls earlier this year has turned into a comprehensive proposal by the Restaino administration.

A proposal was released this past week

by the administration that would provide for structure in an area that was previously unregulated.

Specifically, the proposal would (i) limit short-term tourist rentals to the downtown area, (ii) requiring all owners to

join Airbnb and pay taxes, and (iii) make owners legally responsible for any potential disorderly conduct by its renters.

This proposed ordinance would require landlords to pay the same occupancy tax (a/k/a 'Bed Tax') as hotel and motels throughout the City of Niagara Falls. The administration says that this tax, along with sales tax on the rental price, would be collected by Airbnb.

Mayor Robert M. Restaino spoke with the Niagara Reporter shortly after the proposal was released.

"The proposal geographically centers the industry in an area that could use investment, provides an easier area for permitted use for enforcement, and avoids proliferation throughout the city resulting in some neighborhoods losing their quiet character," said Mayor Restaino.

One question that has persisted since the moratorium was put in place earlier this year has been enforcement.

"Enforcement is always the issue," said Mayor Restaino. "This is just another reason to limit location because our code enforcement department is thin and stretched out as it is. The proposal also provides for an appeal process if an owner believes they have been incorrectly cited."

There are multiple steps that this proposal must survive before it is enacted into law.

The first step, which has already been completed, was to go before the Niagara County Planning Board on Monday, July 20th, 2020. After a lengthy meeting, the County Planning Board advised against the ordinance.

The second step is clearing the Planning Board which meets on Wednesday, July 20th, 2020. As of the date of this publication, it is fully expected to pass.

The third step is a public hearing where residents of Niagara Falls will voice their opinions and concerns to the City Council. The fourth and final step is a vote by the Council.

The City Council is set to meet on July 29th, 2020, but there is skepticism that the ordinance will go to a vote at that time.

It is more likely a public hearing and vote on the ordinance will take place at the Council's first meeting back from their August recess on September 2nd, 2020.

Councilman Ken Tompkins, who was the City Council representative on a committee to formulate a short-term rental proposal, is not yet fully on board.

"As of right now I like it better than the existing one," said Tompkins, "but I have some questions. My number one issue is enforcement. I do not see where and what the penalties are for the bad players. I sent an email to the mayor and the council asking about five or six questions and I

haven't gotten any questions. Until I have answers, I cannot support it at this time."

Speaking with the Buffalo News, Councilmember Andrew Touma said he believes the ordinance, "could make it safer for our guests. Some of these short-term rentals have opened up in areas of the city that might not be the safest. You can really keep an eye on it if it's restricted and you keep it in the downtown core."

Council Chairman Chris Voccio was hesitant to weigh in publicly prior hearing residents' opinion on the issue.

"Short term rentals have become an important component of our local economy and they also have an impact on quality of life issues," said Chairman Voccio, "so getting this ordinance right is important. I'm looking forward to hearing comments and recommendations from the planning board meeting, from the administration, from my colleagues on the Council, and from the general public. Whatever ends up becoming law, we need to make sure it has teeth and we can enforce it effectively."

One outstanding issue is what to do with existing rentals. Luckily, a memo from Niagara Falls Corporation Counsel, Christopher Mazur, Esq., stated that existing rentals can remain open regardless of location. According to Mazur, this would only change if the property is sold or the city license is not renewed. The full memo is posted on the City website.

The fee structure for rentals will be \$250 per year for a single unit and \$400 for a double unit. This rental fee structure will replace the prior permit system.

The Mazur memo says keeping rentals downtown, "will limit the spread [of short term rentals] into more remote parts of the city and hopefully create a 'critical mass' in the lodging and hospitality industry in our downtown tourist zone."

Mayor Restaino, who is a licensed attorney, told the Buffalo News that he is not worried about any legal challenge to the ordinance.

"When people say things are illegal, I say, 'Show me where it was declared illegal,'" said Restaino.

Not everyone is on board with the mayor's proposal to limit the short term rentals to downtown.

One property owner in the Deveaux area of the Falls said he is approved for short term rentals and has earned decent money for it over the last few years.

"I don't think it is fair that I can't continue to earn money from this," he said. "It is my property after all. Why should only downtown properties be able to make the money. My house is an excellent rental. No one has ever complained and being near the gorge, it provides renters with an excellent experience in a safe neighborhood."

SPoT Coffee Is Open!



Staff Reporter

The newest addition to Downtown Niagara Falls, SPoT Coffee, located at 24 Buffalo Avenue, officially opened on Friday, July 17th, 2020. Regular hours for SPoT are 7:00am to 9:00pm. Free parking is available in front of the building and also across the street in the city lot.

SPoT Coffee has been headquartered in Buffalo since 1996 and the company prides themselves on offering the 'highest quality coffee and fresh hand crafted cuisine in a warm, welcoming atmosphere.'

SPoT Coffee Manager Matt Green spoke with the Niagara Reporter after their opening weekend and said that it surpassed all expectations.

"If this past weekend is any indication, we attracted folks from across Niagara and Erie County," said Green.

Despite being in a tourist area, Green assured residents of Niagara Falls that SPoT Coffee is there for them as well.

"It answers a market need," said Green, "but more so it gives locals and tourists a location to come together, mix

cultures and learn about one another."

Green is confident that SPoT Coffee will really change perceptions of Downtown Niagara Falls for certain residents.

"Having SPoT here will give you a greater appreciation for what downtown has to offer," said Green. "It's encouraging for us to see locals back down here because for so long it didn't happen. It's energizing to see someone who hasn't been downtown in five years sitting out on the patio, enjoying a cup of coffee listening to the rapids."

This SPoT Coffee location marks the first one in Niagara County and highlights the completion of phase one in Rupal Hospitality's plan to reopen the building as a banquet and entertainment facility.

President of Rupal Hospitality, Nirel Patel, had originally expected the cafe to open in mid-spring with the rest of the project to be completed by year's end. However, that initial plan was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Once finished, the \$4.5 million project will feature several entertainment spaces and a rooftop lounge with views of the Niagara Falls rapids.



The proposed short-term rental ordinance, if passed, would limit such properties to be in Downtown Niagara Falls.



THE CRIME

WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Niagara County Sheriff's Office responded to 6724 Williams Road in the evening hours of Sunday, July 5th, 2020, after reports of an armed robbery at the Speedway Gas Station. According to police, a white female displayed a knife demanding cash from the store clerk. An undetermined amount of cash was taken from the store. The female suspect fled the scene accompanied by male on a motorized bike. The robbery is currently being investigated by the Criminal Division at the Sheriff's Office.

-Niagara Falls Police and Medical responded to the 600 block of 9th Street on Monday, July 6th, 2020, after reports of a deceased male in the basement. According to police, the death is being treated as a fatal overdose.

-Niagara Falls Police, Fire and Medical responded to the 1900 block of Niagara Street in the evening hours of Monday, July 6th, 2020, after reports of a man laying in the street. He was transported to the hospital for treatment.

-Niagara Falls Police sought information on a group of fifteen juveniles ranging from 12-years-old to 16-years-old who are responsible for an assault and robbery on Tuesday, July 7th, 2020. According to police, the alleged incident took place in the late afternoon hours near 21st Street and Jerauld Avenue. Suspects allegedly attacked another group of kids in the area and then attacked a man in his 60's who was trying to intervene causing severe trauma to his head. That elderly man was transported to a hospital for treatment. Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 2200 block of Ferry Avenue on Tuesday, July 7th, 2020, after reports of shots fired. According to police, at least five bullet casings were recovered from the scene. No injuries were reported but police are continuing to investigate the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police and Fire dispatched responded to the 500 block alley between 24th and 25th Street in the evening hours of Wednesday, July 8th, 2020, after reports of a stolen vehicle fire.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to Niagara Street and 20th in the evening hours of Wednesday, July 8th, 2020, after reports of a stolen vehicle. According to police, the suspect ditched the car and fled on foot.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the area of 22nd Street and Niagara Avenue in the evening hours of Wednesday, July 8th, 2020, after reports of a stolen vehicle.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the Niagara Falls City Market on Pine Avenue on Friday, July 10th, 2020, after reports of a stolen vehicle. According to police. The complainant left their vehicle running and unlocked while they went into a store.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to Frankie's Donuts in the early hours of Saturday, July 11th, 2020, after reports of an armed robbery. According to police, the suspect displayed a knife and demanded money from the register. The suspect ran off with an undisclosed amount of cash in the register and a donut.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the area of 28th and Pine Avenue on Saturday, July 11th, 2020, after reports of a stolen vehicle. According to police, the owner of the vehicle was seen running down the street after his car.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 2400 block of Willow Avenue in the evening hours of Saturday, July 11th, 2020, after reports of a vehicle theft.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the Rainbow Bridge on Sunday, July 12th, 2020, after being requested by Customs and Border Patrol for three Canadian citizens with narcotics.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to 19th and Ashland Avenue on Monday, July 13th, 2020, after reports of a stolen vehicle with a child in the car. The suspect ditched the vehicle and fled on foot only to return some short time later where he was arrested. The suspect was a 13-year-old juvenile.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 400 block of Niagara Street in the evening hours of Wednesday, July 15th, 2020, after reports of an assault. According to police, a man was transported to a hospital after he was assaulted and knocked unconscious by two other males.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1000 block of Niagara Avenue on Saturday, July 18th, 2020, after reports of a stolen vehicle out of the Town of Niagara crashing into a pole. The suspect fled the scene on foot. Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the area of 19th and Walnut Avenue in the evening hours of Saturday, July 18th, 2020, after reports of shots fired. According to police, a vehicle was shot at by someone in a passing vehicle. It is believed that the vehicle that was shot at backed into the vehicle the shooter was in, which started the escalation. No injuries were reported.



Registered Apprenticeship

The US and New York State Departments of Labor recognize and monitor registered skilled apprenticeship programs in NYS and throughout the United States. The Laborers' International Union of North America publicly promotes our successful model of labor-management registered apprenticeship programs to combat the growing emphasis on employer programs supported by taxpayers.

What is Registered Apprenticeship?

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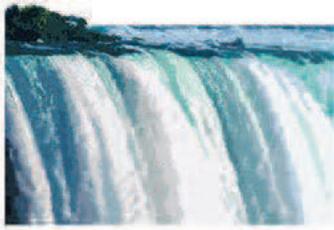
It's on-the-job learning and education. Registered Apprenticeship includes on-the-job learning from an assigned mentor combined with technical training provided by apprenticeship training centers, technical schools, community colleges, and institutions employing distance and computer-based learning systems.

It's a credential. At the end of the apprenticeship, all apprentices receive a nationally recognized credential. Some apprenticeship programs offer interim credentials as apprentices achieve important milestones during their apprenticeship.

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

Registered Apprenticeship programs are operated by partnerships of employers, labor management organizations and government. Apprenticeship sponsors – employers, employer associations and labor-management organizations – register programs with federal and state government agencies. Sponsors provide mentors, on-the-job learning opportunities and required technical instruction to apprentices. Incorporating Registered Apprenticeship directly into your workforce development system will strengthen your local and regional economy by offering highly trained and educated residents. Let Registered Apprenticeship be your competitive advantage. Laborers' Local 91 accepts apprenticeship applications the first Tuesday of every month from 8 AM – 12 noon at our training facility located at 4500 Witmer Industrial Estates Niagara Falls, NY 14305.



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Niagara County SPCA Breaks Ground on \$1.5 Million Surgical Suite



Friday, July 17, 2020 was a momentous day for Niagara County SPCA as the animal shelter broke ground for construction on a new \$1.5 million, 2,000 square foot state-of-the-art surgical suite.

Up until now, surgeries for the animals housed there have been performed in a 144 square foot surgical trailer that was donated by the SPCA Serving Erie County. Not only have SPCA veterinarian Dr. Christopher Brown and infirmary staff had to endure extreme temperatures during surgeries, but space constraints restricted the size of dogs the SPCA could operate on to 50 pounds or less.

"We at Niagara County SPCA are incredibly grateful to everyone who had a hand in making our new surgical suite possible. With an anticipated completion date of February 2021, the Niagara County SPCA looks forward to partnering with cat rescue organizations to assist with Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return

(TNVR) efforts as a way to address cat overpopulation in many of our communities, to offering low-cost spay neuter clinics for individuals in our community with limited financial resources and to preparing and treating our shelter animals for adoption in the most expeditious and efficient manner possible," said Executive Director Tim Brennan.

The surgical suite was made possible mostly by the taxpayers of New York State. Governor Andrew Cuomo announced in January 2019 that Niagara County SPCA was awarded a grant of \$500,000 through the NYS Companion Animal Capital Fund.

Shelter champion and Army Veteran Bob Nowakowski also made a \$100,000 Challenge Gift towards the project, of which many generous members of the community helped support.

For more information, visit www.NiagaraSPCA.org.

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Wojtaszek Vindicated Cont. from Cover

Henry Wojtaszek has resulted in his exoneration.

It is another chapter in the longstanding vendetta of former State Senator George D. Maziarz against his former friend and ally, Wojtaszek, that has seen several attempts to attack him politically and legally.

This one has also failed.

Wojtaszek is president of the Western Region Off Track Betting and is a lawyer.

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley said she found no basis for prosecuting Wojtaszek over claims brought by Maziarz.

In 2019, Maziarz accused Wojtaszek of engaging in a bid-rigging scheme to help Four Points Communications win a Niagara County grant-writing contract in 2012.

Maziarz claimed that 2016 FBI notes of an interview with Michael J. Norris, a former Niagara County Republican chairman—who was elected to the Assembly later that year - also one of Maziarz's enemies -- reveals that Norris told FBI agents about the process of hiring a new grant writing firm for Niagara County. Norris statements suggest that the bid was rigged in favor of Four Points.

Maziarz obtained the FBI notes in discovery in his own criminal case.

Wojtaszek, as a lawyer, later worked for Four Points, earning fees of about \$50,000 for reviewing grant applications, contacting state officials about the availability of grants, and attending meetings at Four Points' offices. All of these were within the scope of his work as an attorney and consultant.

But Maziarz, adding his own spin to the matter, claimed that Wojtaszek improperly pressured county officials in 2014 to deliver the grant writing contract to Four Points.

The DA disagreed.

In a letter that DA Doorley wrote to Stephan Sercu, Wojtaszek's attorney, she wrote, "After having issued numerous subpoenas and having conducted multiple interviews, and after a thorough review of same, I have concluded that there is no criminal impropriety in relation to Four Points Communications or your client, either for the bid process or the financial dealings of the company."

Doorley was appointed special prosecutor by Justice Paula L. Feroletto, administrative judge of the Eighth Judicial District of State Supreme Court, because Wojtaszek's wife—Caroline—is the Niagara County district attorney and could not investigate a case involving her husband.

The owner of Four Points also denied Wojtaszek improperly helped him win the contract.

Tom Lewis, who owned the company at the time, told this newspaper he responded to an RFP in late 2011 or early 2012, was interviewed by a panel that included Niagara County Manager Jeff Glatz, and was properly awarded the contract in April of 2012.

"That was it," said Lewis, touting his successes for the county. "I was the sole proprietor, did about 12 grants and won six grants... we were extremely successful, winning about \$2 million in grants during that period."

The firm was later headed by Melinda Boesken, Wojtaszek's former law secretary. Boeskin owned the company in 2014-15 when Wojtaszek served as a legal adviser.



President and CEO of Western Regional OTB and Batavia Downs Gaming, Henry Wojtaszek (left) and Former New York State Senator George Maziarz (right)

Maziarz Indicted

Maziarz himself was indicted in 2017 on five felony counts connected to Republican campaigns in Niagara County. The case against him was brought by another of his political enemies, former NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who resigned in disgrace in 2018 after being accused by several women of physical assault.

According to sources, law enforcement became especially interested in Maziarz after he, while knowing he was under investigation for corruption, allegedly ordered his staffers to shred documents in his office.

In response to a subpoena requiring him to appear, Wojtaszek testified before a grand jury convened to hear evidence on the public corruption case against Maziarz.

According to Henry's wife, DA Caroline Wojtaszek, "Maziarz was under pressure from a state ethics probe. Unbeknownst to anyone in his 'inner circle,' Maziarz had ordered his staff to burn and shred

all his files."

Just prior to trial, in 2018, prosecutors offered Maziarz a plea deal for a single campaign finance misdemeanor, of filing a false instrument in order to allow him to secretly pay a former staffer.

Maziarz accepted the plea deal and paid a \$1,000 fine.

The Vendetta Starts

Ever since then, Maziarz has sought to attack everyone he felt was connected to his legal woes, starting with Norris and Wojtaszek.

Prior to Maziarz's criminal complaint against Wojtaszek in the Four Points matter, he filed a complaint against Wojtaszek with the State Bar Association's Grievance



\$20,000 during the primary campaign to defeat her.

Most of the money was spent on campaign mailers attacking her. Different mailers went to Democrats and Republican voters. The mailers sent to Democrats tried to paint Caroline Wojtaszek as a Republican. The Republican mailers tried to paint her as a Democrat.

Just before the primary, Maziarz sent a letter to numerous law enforcement officials, and leaked it to the Niagara Gazette, accusing Wojtaszek and his wife Caroline of various misdeeds and alleged crimes.

A frontpage story about Maziarz's letter to law enforcement was published in the Niagara Gazette on July 3rd, 2020, entitled, "Maziarz letters target Wojtaszeks"

In his letter, published in part in the Gazette, Maziarz wrote, "As of yet... none of the bad actors involved in the misuse of [taxpayer] resources ... has been indicted, despite an overwhelmingly clear case against OTB leadership."

Maziarz did not provide evidence of actual crimes, but merely reiterated already investigated claims, suggesting that Wojtaszek got special treatment because, among other reasons, he is white.

It failed to be persuasive.

Caroline won the Democrat and Republican primaries against her opponent, Michael Benedict, virtually assuring her of victory in November.

Wojtaszeks Comment on Maziarz

"George Maziarz has tried every way possible to destroy my family," Caroline Wojtaszek said in a letter to the Niagara Gazette.

Henry Wojtaszek said in a statement released to the media, "It is both sad and pathetic that a former elected official with an ax to grind seems obsessed with attacking me and my family. He continues to make baseless and unsubstantiated claims about me and my family.... My family and I are hopeful that this decision [in the Four Points matter] represents the last time we need to defend ourselves against the bizarre accusations from this vengeful, disgraced and irrelevant politician."

Maziarz also failed in 2018 to obtain a prosecution against two other enemies -- his former senate aides that he claimed stole from his campaign account.

Erie County District Attorney John J. Flynn was appointed to review Maziarz's claims that more than \$350,000 was stolen from Maziarz' campaign fund by his aides.

Flynn determined in 2019 that he could not prosecute any crime connected with missing funds.

Committee attempting to get Wojtaszek disbarred.

That also failed. The Bar Association dismissed the complaint.

Maziarz also pushed for an FBI investigation into Wojtaszek's OTB operations, claiming wrongful spending and/or misuse of tickets to Buffalo Bills and Sabres games, an OTB-funded vehicle, a cell phone and health insurance coverage to board members.

In April of 2019, the FBI reportedly began to investigate potential improper spending and contracts given to firms with political connections to OTB executives. No action has been taken to date and, according to sources close to the case, no wrongdoing was found.

"The matter is dead. There was a lot of hype and no substance. No crimes," said one legal source familiar with the investigation.

The Maziarz vendetta continued during this past primary season, when Caroline Wojtaszek chose to run for Niagara County Court judge.

Maziarz spent more than



NORTH TONAWANDA

Painters Plus Seeking Applications for 10th Annual Project Hope



Reporter Staff

On September 1st, 2020, a lucky homeowner in North Tonawanda will learn that their home was selected to be painted and spruced up for free as part of the 10th Annual Project Hope campaign.

Project Hope, which stands for "Helping Others Paint Exteriors," is an event held by Painters Plus Home Decorating and members of the Chamber of Commerce.

The winner will have their home pressure-washed, primed and painted at no cost to them. People picked for the program are a person or family member that is either disabled, elderly, suffering financial hardships or a veteran.

"It's such an amazing way to give back to the community," said the owner of Painters Plus, Jesse Gooch. "This is going to be our tenth year helping families and each year it seems to get bigger and bigger."

Applicants for Project Hope can be

submitted three ways:

- (1) online at www.PaintersPlus.US
- (2) Mail a letter to Painters Plus at 800 Walck Road, North Tonawanda, New York 14120

- (3) Pick up and application at North Tonawanda City Hall or the Chamber of Commerce Office

Applicants are asked to write a short paragraph about themselves and to explain their hardship or situation. They are also asked to provide a photograph of the house and a way in which they can be contacted.

The deadline for submissions is August 28th, 2020.

Gooch told the Niagara Reporter that this year being the 10th anniversary means a lot to him.

"I can't believe that it has been a decade of Painters Plus doing these projects already," said Gooch. "We are very happy to have transformed so many homes and lives over the last 10 years of Project H.O.P.E. and look forward to continuing for decades to come!"

Day Promoted in NT



The North Tonawanda Police Department announced on Friday, July 17th, 2020, that Detective Michele Day has been promoted to Detective Lieutenant.

Detective Lieutenant Day was joined by North Tonawanda Mayor Arthur Pappas, Niagara County District Attorney Caroline Wojtaszek, and Chief Thomas Krantz at City Hall for the ceremony.

"We are proud of Michele and expect great things," said Mayor Arthur Pappas.

"This is a special day," said D.A. Caroline Wojtaszek. "I am proud to have been a part of this celebration."

Anthony Swan & Simon Griskonis Honored at City Hall



Reporter Staff

Anthony Swan and Simon Griskonis, two members of the North Tonawanda wrestling team, were honored for stepping in and breaking up an attack that was unfolding on July 1st, 2020.

According to witnesses, both young men ran to the victim's aid after she was being beaten, kicked, punched, and slapped by at least three other teenage girls. Many believe that her injuries would have been worse but for the actions of these heroic boys.

Mayor Pappas heralded the boys for making the right decision.

"You had a rough year with school not being open," said Pappas. "A lot of tests

were not given this year, but you guys were tested probably without realizing it a few weeks ago. On this particular test, you both passed with flying colors."

District Attorney Caroline Wojtaszek stated, "we all hope and pray, as parents, that our children will make the right choice when the time comes. These two boys did the right thing when the time came. In the District Attorney's Office we see horrible things, but on the flip side we see the best of humanity as well."

Swan and Griskonis received awards of merit from the North Tonawanda Police Department, distinguished service awards from the District Attorney's Office, and a proclamation from the City of North Tonawanda.

Four Teens Charged in Brutal North Tonawanda Assault



Reporter Staff

North Tonawanda Police have confirmed that four juveniles have now been charged with assault in the third degree by the Niagara County District Attorney's Office for a bullying incident that occurred on July 1st, 2020.

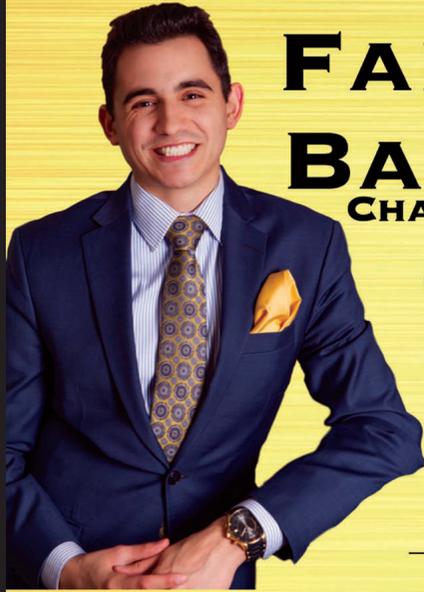
The incident took place at North Tonawanda High School and involved three teenage girls allegedly assaulting a 14-year-old girl. The incident was captured on video and spread across social media like wildfire.

In the video, which spans about one minute and twenty seconds, you can see the three girls taking turns punching, kicking, and slapping the victim. It was also mentioned in the video, and police have confirmed after-the-fact, that urine was also thrown on the girl.

According to police, the teens charged include the three teens seen on camera and an additional teen that was allegedly involved in planning the brutal assault.

The police are not revealing the names of the four juveniles, and nor will this newspaper, due to their age.

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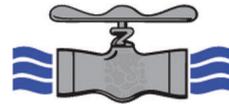
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