

# Concerning graffiti in North Tonawanda puzzles residents

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Interim Tribune Editor

A weekend vandalism spree in North Tonawanda has left a community and investigators puzzled. The North Tonawanda Police Department says it received four reports of a strange message spray painted around the city while photos posted on a North Tonawanda-centric Facebook page show at least one more. The incidents are believed to all have occurred overnight on Sunday, June 26. Photos show at least three concrete walls and a garage

belonging to local businesses, and one boat were hit. In each case, the same crudely written message was drawn, each involving the words "Hydra Hitmen for Hire." Commenters on the online community forum have widely different speculations about the meaning of the graffiti. Some cited a connection to video games as a popular video game streamer on YouTube and Twitch goes by the moniker "Hitman," while his video game team name is "Hydra." Others believe that, because the

graffiti includes the words "onion link," it could be advertising a murder for hire service on the "deep web." The deep web, refers to parts of the World Wide Web whose contents are not indexable or browsable with common internet search tools like Google, or Bing. In order to use the deep web, users must use software that enables anonymous communication. The most popular of these is Tor, which is an acronym for "The Onion Router." Whereas many websites on the traditional web have domain names ending

in .com or .org, sites that are only available when using Tor end in .onion. Despite its sinister name, much of the deep web is actually completely harmless content. However, there are pockets of the deep web that are used for illegal activity, including murder for hire services. A website called deepweb-links.live shows that a Tor hitman service called "Hydra Hitman" does appear to exist. Police can't offer many specifics on the investigation as it's currently ongoing but officer Darryl

Truty says that they are aware of these theories and are investigating all possibilities. He says as far as the graffiti goes, he believes the tagged areas were basically random and not intended as a direct threat on the property owner. "We're taking it seriously is all I can say. We're following up on our leads. If anybody knows anything more about it, please let us know," Truty said. Investigators are urging anyone with information to contact the North Tonawanda detective bureau at 692-4312.

## LEWISTON POLICE BLOTTER

The following activity occurred Monday, June 15, to Saturday, June 20, as reported by the Lewiston Police Department. LPD reported 193 response calls during this period. For more information on arrests and other activity, visit the Lewiston Police Department's new mobile app or its page on Facebook.

- Monday, June 15**
- **5100 block of Bridle Path Lane, trespass** – Caller to 911 reported a male and female party was on her property attempting to enter/leave the area in a vehicle; unknown registration. Patrol checked area with negative results.
  - **5400 block of Military Road, traffic complaint/investigation** – Caller to 911 reported debris left from a couch in the roadway.
  - **800 block of Upper Mountain Road, vehicle/traffic stop** – Officer initiated call. Drive cited for an uninspected vehicle violation from March 2020. Uniform traffic ticket issued for Lewiston Town Court.
  - **Center/N. Seventh streets, suspicious activity** – Caller to 911 reported a group of juveniles were enticing her small child with candy; incident beginning to escalate.
  - **N. Fourth/Onondaga streets, suspicious activity** – Dispatch reported a male in the street yelling at people. Patrol responded.
  - **3900 block of Creek Road, suspicious activity** – Caller reported a male knocking at the door late in the evening, requesting transport to the Niagara Falls City Mission. Patrol found the male had not taken prescribed medication for schizophrenia for seven months; subject taken to Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

- Tuesday, June 16**
- **4100 block of Lower River Road, suspicious activity** – Caller to 911 reported a male in a grey Jeep Wrangler, urinating in front of her. Caller said the male, described as being in his 40s, about 5 foot, 10 inches and wearing a T-shirt, shorts and ball cap had parked in a handicapped parking spot and urinated in front of her in a main parking area; male then left. Plate number logged.
  - **Niagara Falls Boulevard/Williams Road, vehicle/traffic stop** – State Police cited a driver for failure to yield. Uniform traffic ticket issued.
  - **800 block of Escarpment Drive, ordinance violation** – Caller reported a tree contractor had dumped tree trimmings and debris over the escarpment area after being warned not to do so. Caller advised by patrol the wood chips spread were a composing material and not harmful to the environment.
  - **800 block of Center Street, disturbance non-domestic** – Caller to 911 reported a male customer was belligerent at a gas/convenience business. Male had no mask, would not leave and was out of control. Caller said the male was likely intoxicated and demanded cigarettes from customers at surrounding tables. Patrol responded.
  - **300 block of N. Seventh Street, overdose** – Caller to 911 reported a male on location had overdosed,

was unconscious and in need of Narcan. Caller refused to give further information. Patrols on location found the male, 23, had overdosed on heroin and already taken Narcan, according to a female. Report taken.

- Wednesday, June 17**
- **400 block of Ridge Street, damage to property** – Caller reported a cable wire was knocked down and damaged his vehicle. Statement taken and cable provider contacted about incident.
  - **5100 block of Oak Hill Drive, assist public** – Caller reported a tree contractor taking down trees for a neighbor was discarding said trees on his property. Patrol spoke to the homeowner and advised the tree service was only to cut certain trees. Officers said the complaint was a civil issue and the tree service was done cutting trees in the area. Report taken.
  - **100 block of S. Water Street, death** – Caller to 911 from a boat reported finding a deceased body in the water. Canada Border Service officers on location for body recovery. Patrols responded.
  - **400 block of Ridge Street, assist public** – Caller to 911 reported a blocked vehicle in a parking lot. Call determined to be a civil matter; parties left and were to address it later on.
  - **Garlow/Upper Mountain roads, traffic complaint/investigation** – Male caller reported driving southbound on Garlow Road from Upper Mountain Road when an older model Chevy Trailblazer, with no plates and broken front windshield began following and drove close to his vehicle in an unsafe manner.
  - **Saunders Settlement/Tuscarora roads, vehicle stop** – Officer initiated call – Driver cited for speed in zone; vehicle clocked at 79 mph in a 45 mph zone. Uniform traffic tickets issued for Lewiston Town Court.

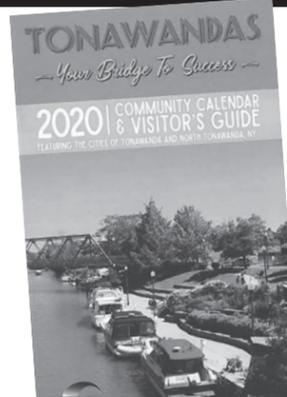
- Thursday, June 18**
- **2200 block of Saunders Settlement Road, robbery, armed** – Caller to 911 reported an earlier theft of five packs of Cigarillos cigars from the business, value \$22.75. Patrol said the suspect and vehicle were located in subsequent traffic pullovers.
  - **Military/Upper Mountain roads, vehicle/traffic stop** – Driver cited for aggravated unlicensed operation and speed in zone. Vehicle clocked at 86 mph in a 45 mph zone. Appearance and uniform traffic tickets issued for Lewiston Town Court. Report taken.
  - **2500 block of Lower Mountain Road, assist** – Caller reported safety concerns from trucks at a construction site. Patrol responded.
  - **900 block of Pletcher Road, harassment** – Male caller reported the property landlord's brother had been texting him, with a \$5,000 bribe to move out ASAP. Caller said he was paid to live at the residence until the end of July and felt threatened. Patrol reviewed the messages and did not find anything threaten-

- ing.
- **4400 block of Liberty Avenue, disturbance non-domestic** – Caller to 911 reported a female had just entered the residence to attack her and spat on her. Patrol responded.
- Friday, June 19**
- **Balmer/Lutts roads, vehicle/traffic stop** – Officer initiated call – While conducting a premises check on a business due to earlier thefts patrols reported a white truck towing an unlicensed trailer had exited the property. Vehicle/property check by responding officers found that a group of individuals had been doing burnouts on the property earlier. Subjects advised against doing so. Rightful owner of the truck cited for unlicensed trailer; uniform traffic ticket issued.
  - **1100 block of Jarrett Drive, assist** – Per a 911 call, patrol conducted an attempt to locate a male for the Cheektowaga Police Department. Patrol spoke with a parent who said he had not seen his son in over a week and the male was kicked out of the residence due to a drug problem. Male found to be living in Buffalo and receiving methadone treatments.
  - **Swann/Porter Center roads, shots fired** – Officer initiated call. Patrol reported a shooter complaint had been called in.
  - **900 block of Center Street, suspicious activity** – Caller reported drunk male in a supermarket parking lot was approaching females and trying to get them to go home with him. Male party identified by patrol and advised of acceptable behavior on the premises.

- **1100 block of Ridge Road, vehicle/traffic stop** – Patrol reported a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed. Rightful owner cited for speed in zone; vehicle clocked at 86 mph in a 50 mph zone. Uniform traffic tickets issued for Lewiston Town Court.
  - **Walmore/Saunders Settlement roads, vehicle/traffic stop** – Officer initiated call. One suspect in custody; charges not specified and Miranda rights read. Tow of vehicle with 12-hour hold initiated.
- Saturday, June 20**
- **1-190/Upper Mountain Road, vehicle/traffic stop** – Officer initiated call. Rightful owner cited for speed in zone; vehicle logged at 94 mph in a 55 mph zone. Uniform traffic tickets issued for Lewiston Town Court.
  - **900 block of Mohawk Street,**

- **assist public** – Male caller to 911 reported a female party keeps calling and has an order against him. Patrol handling the situation.
- **400 block of Water Street, MVA property damage** – Caller to 911 reported an intoxicated male driving a pickup truck had attempted to load a boat and struck a sign and pole and nearly hit a person. Reckless driving reported. Patrols on location.
- **Chew/Saunders Settlement roads, traffic complaint/investigation** – Caller to 911 reported a party was not letting vehicles travel on Route 31 and created a road-block.
- **2100 block of Langdon Road, traffic complaint/investigation** – Caller to 911 reported cars racing in the area; approximately 40 vehicles involved. Patrols responded.

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