

# City of North Tonawanda releases preliminary 2025 budget

\$45.4M plan includes capital spending, tax increase; Common Council expected to adopt budget Nov. 6

**BY TERRY DUFFY**  
Editor-in-Chief

The City of North Tonawanda released its preliminary 2025 budget of \$45,420,116.36 on Oct. 1. The budget expands from NT's adopted expenditures of \$44,082,156 and revenues of \$43,247,289 in 2024. It calls for a continued greater reliance by the city on outside funding sources, includes spending for a sidewalk capital improvement project, and a temporary sewer use hike to cover expenses from a water meter replacement project. It also forecasts a 4.44% tax levy increase.

For 2025, the budget introduces what Mayor Austin J. Tylec called "a new approach that is both responsible and informative." He said the plan includes new initiatives aimed "to create innovative programs, increase services, enhance programs or reduce expenses." The budget also calls on further action by the city's council on proposals beyond merely adopting the 2025 budget.

"This process ensures that every proposed change is carefully considered and aligned with our city's long-term goals," Tylec said.

According to Tylec, the budget seeks to expand on the city's grant funding opportunities over the coming year, which saw North Tonawanda utilize \$17.5 million in outside funding sources in 2024 to assist various programs. "Leveraging grants have assisted with many capital projects, but we also took on some initiatives to help contain operational costs, reduce expenses and increase revenues."

In capital projects, the budget includes \$50,000 in spending for the city's sidewalk replacement program that could see approximately 200 additional sidewalk blocks replaced. It also includes \$140,000 in budgeted revenue from rental registration funds in the Building Department covering 5,000 rental units, and it includes \$101,000 in revenue from a proposed parks and recreation fee schedule.

All three proposals would require separate votes by the city's council prior to its signing off on the entire 2025 budget.

The budget also includes a temporary \$1 increase in the NT sewer rate - from \$5 per 1,000 gallons to \$6 per 1,000 gallons. The city's water rate is expected

remain at \$3 per 1,000 gallons of use - a rate that has remained unchanged since 2021, Tylec said. "By contrast, other municipalities have frequently raised their rates during this same period, resulting in much higher costs for their residents."

According to Tylec, the temporary increase is from the city's \$6 million water meter replacement project that's expected to begin in November. "The increase is intended to offset the budgetary deficit of \$547,540 by adding \$595,376 to our sewer budget while we complete the water line replacement."

The new tax levy would total \$22,263,948 - a \$908,948 increase from 2024 - while increasing the tax rate from \$16.05 to \$16.62 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The plan is designed to increase the city's unappropriated fund balance account by \$57,296. For a property valued at \$100,000, the owner would have an additional cost of \$56.88.

The budget also seeks to use \$422,000 in remaining American Rescue Plan funds, greater reliance on grant funding, and overall utilizing fund balance monies. It

also includes the aforementioned 4.44% tax levy to balance out the plan.

"While any tax increase is never ideal, I believe our city's leaders and departments have effectively navigated challenges that could have caused severe financial setbacks, all while driving North Tonawanda to become one of the most notable resurgences in Western New York," Tylec said.

At this writing, the 2025 budget is on file in the city clerk/treasurer's office and online at [www.northtonawanda.org](http://www.northtonawanda.org) for public review. The NT Common Council is expected to vote on the 2025 budget at its Nov. 6 meeting. The budget is due to be filed with the state comptroller's officer by mid-November.

In closing, Tylec added, "Our 2025 budget is a testament to our city's reliance and potential. By continuing to prioritize sound financial practices, seeking new revenue streams, and investing in our community, we are laying the foundation for a bright and prosperous future for North Tonawanda."



## More pumpkins stolen in Lewiston

The Lewiston Beautification group informed the Tribune/Sentinel that more decorative pumpkins were stolen from their Center Street display this week. Thefts occurred either late Tuesday or early Wednesday. Volunteers are "beyond frustrated" this happened for a second time since displays were installed two weekends ago.

Lewiston Police Department Chief Frank Previte said his department is reviewing camera footage and is intent on finding the person or group involved. He also emphasized these pumpkins thefts are a misdemeanor punishable by municipal law.

### IN THE NEWS

#### Town of Niagara Senior Center events

The Town of Niagara Senior Center will host the following events at 7000 Lockport Road:

√ Oct. 22: Yoga/exercise with live instructor, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; bingo, 11 a.m. to noon; lunch, noon.

√ Oct. 23: Silver Sneakers with live instructor, 9:30-10:30 a.m.; bingo, 11 a.m. to noon; lunch, noon.

√ Oct. 24: Yoga/exercise, 9:30-10:30 am; bingo, 11 a.m. to noon; lunch, noon.

√ Oct. 25: Presentation, "Family history class - discover your roots," 10 a.m. to noon

For more information, call 716-297-5243.

#### Town of Wheatfield Lions Club free pancake breakfast for seniors

Submitted by the Town of Wheatfield Lions Club  
The Town of Wheatfield Lions Club is announcing its invitation

to all seniors (for example AARP members, those over 50, etc.) to come to our Club House at 6535 Ward Road (next door to the American Legion) for a free pancakes and sausage breakfast (including coffee, orange juice, and milk).

This event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Sunday, Oct. 27.

Come and enjoy a meal here and time to sit, relax, and be served. This is just our way to honor and recognize our senior citizens with appreciation for all that you do, and have done for our Town of Wheatfield.

#### Town of Niagara to host annual veterans appreciation breakfast

Submitted by Senior Director Joe Proietti  
If you are a Town of Niagara

veteran of any branch of the U.S. military, please call and register for the annual veterans appreciation breakfast. It is Thursday, Nov. 7, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Calvin K. Richards Senior Center, located at Veterans Memorial Park, 7000 Lockport Road.

This event is free to all Town of Niagara veterans. Additional guests are \$13 per person.

Tickets are available at the Town of Niagara recreation office or at the Calvin K. Richards Senior Center. You must register and pick up your tickets by Monday, Nov. 5.

Then join the Town of Niagara Lions Club on Monday, Nov. 11, for the annual Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park.

### Lutheran Church of the Messiah

Pastor Timothy Anas  
915 Oneida Street, Lewiston  
716-754-4944  
[www.messiahlewiston.org](http://www.messiahlewiston.org)



9am Sunday School and Coffee Hour  
10am Worship Hour - Live Streaming

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**Town of Wheatfield Annual Halloween Party & Not So Scary Haunted House**

**October 26, 2024, 6-8pm**  
**2795 Church Road**

Featuring:  
**Photo Opportunities, Haunted House, Hay Rides (weather permitting), Self Directed Stations, Light Refreshments, 4 and under secure play area**

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#### Build your Body's Resistance

An individual under stress or with a weakened health condition is more likely to get sick than a healthy person exposed to the same germ. In order to take hold and make a person sick, germs need an internal environment conducive to their growth and development. Our health is based on a properly functioned nervous system, immune system, endocrine system, etc.

Basic microbiology teaches that the capability of an organism to cause disease is determined by its genetic properties, which may only be expressed under certain appropriate environmental conditions. However, this must be weighed against the ability of the host (infected person) to repel the invasion and prevent injury.

Anyone can adopt certain basic health habits to enhance their body's general health. It may sound like common sense, but you actually have to do them to get the result. Habits such as: proper sleep (7-8 hours/night), drinking plenty of pure water, breathing fresh air, eating lots of fresh or minimally processed fruits and vegetables (preferably organic), organic chicken, pastured eggs, wild caught fish and grass fed meats. Improving health also includes moderate regular exercise, like walking and taking time for relaxation.

As a general rule, avoid milk, ice cream, cakes, candy, cookies and pop. Milk is a mucus builder, which can provide an environment favorable to certain germs. Sugar can suppress the immune system, making it less able to fight back.

Keeping your spine in alignment through chiropractic helps improve your health and has been found to keep your body's systems functioning well - to handle the challenges you may be exposed to. Certain whole food nutritional supplements and herbs may help the body improve resistance through your body's own internal defense system. We can help, call (716)754-9039.

This article is not intended to diagnose, treat or cure any disease or to make any medical claims. It does not supplant competent medical care or dissuade anyone from seeking competent medical attention for any injury, illness, or other physical condition.

**The Youngstown Village Diner**  
425 Main St., Youngstown • 716-745-9858

~ WEEKLY SPECIALS ~  
MON CLOSED  
TUE 6AM-2PM - Spaghetti & Meatballs, Chicken Parm, Eggplant Parm, Spaghetti Parm  
WED 6AM-2PM - Polish Sausage w/Parsley Potatoes & Sauerkraut or Fish  
THURS 6AM-2PM - Steak & Cheese Hoagie or Fish - Battered, Breaded, Baked  
FRI 6AM-2PM - Haddock, Fish Sandwiches, Tuna Melts & New England Clam Chowder  
SAT & SUN OPEN AT 6AM - Eggs Benedict, Banana Walnut Pancakes, Spinach & Feta Omelet & Our Full Breakfast & Lunch Menu

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