

Town of Niagara Police expect renewed progress on home base modifications

BY TIMOTHY CHIPP

Town of Niagara officials gave approval for \$12,500 of masonry work to the west side of Town Hall to eliminate a major need affecting its police department.

Granto Glass Block Construction, of North Tonawanda, was officially chosen to complete work needed to finish the police department's move to the former supervisor's office that began earlier this year.

Town of Niagara Police Chief Craig Guiliani said the work will pave the way for a new door, which the department will receive Aug. 1, to be installed where only a brick wall currently exists.

It's a modification to the building he says is about safety and security: for his officers, people suspected of crimes, and for those who wish to report instances.

"How it was set up before wasn't very secure," Guiliani said. "We'd have someone in line at the office reporting a (sensitive issue) with someone behind them paying a bill."

Originally, work was set to begin in May, Guiliani said. The office space completed its renovation shortly after, allowing police officials to relocate without the separate entrance. But it did solve the security and privacy issues.

Still, the department needed to "parade" suspected criminals under arrest through the main hallways of Town Hall, Guiliani said.

Work on the door failed to proceed, though, after the original contractor hired to complete the work reported he was injured and unable to proceed, Guiliani said.

So, officials put out another request for bids and received one bid, from Granto Glass Block Construction, Guiliani said. The bid was actually lower than the second- and third-place bids from the original round.

"There aren't that many masons out there to do the work," Guiliani said.

He noted the door, once installed, will go a long way to furthering the department's transformation from a room in Town Hall to the actual department headquarters he envisioned when Supervisor Sylvia Virtuoso approached him about making the switch before she officially took office at the start of 2024.

Meeting notes

In other Town of Niagara news, council members approved financing a \$240,000 purchase of a front-end loader requested by Highway Superintendent Richard Sirianni.

The machine, which will be paid over five years beginning

one year after the purchase date, will also require approximately \$43,000 in interest payments over the span of the financing period.

The new machine will be used for various tasks in the town's highway barn, including loading salt in the winter.

Sirianni said during the town's work session earlier this month that the current front-end loader has broken down three times since he took office toward the end of 2023.

Finally, council members approved the creation of a liaison committee of Niagara businesses, meant to be a sounding board for the commercial community and the Town Board.

Member businesses are: The Fashion Outlets Niagara Falls USA, Stephanie Neal Insurance, LMG Awards and Trophies, Firth Jewelers, Joe Ceconi Chrysler Complex, American Glass, Tim Hortons, Judi's Lounge, One Hemp Holistics, Workbea, and Cooper Sign Old Glory Flag.

"Please talk to your fellow business people and see what they need from the town," Virtuoso said, addressing committee members in attendance Tuesday.

The Niagara Town Board will next meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, at Town Hall, 7105 Lockport Road.



Celebrating the 716

716 Day – a date of homage to Western New York's area code and an ode to local businesses and nonprofits – was celebrated Tuesday across the region. Several organizations used the occasion to raise awareness and/or funds.

At the Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA, both local businesses and nonprofits were invited to the mall's main courtyard to share more information with the public. Some of the participants included Community Missions, the United Way, Niagara Falls USA, the Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce, and Artpark & Company.

Pictured at a new Niagara Falls-inspired photo area, from left: Artpark & Company Director of Marketing & Sales Andy Dulski, Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls USA Marketing Manager Susie Swiatkowski, and Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce Director of Finance Suzanne Raby.

DOT to host public information meeting on proposed LaSalle Expressway bridge rehabilitation project

Open house set for Wednesday, July 24, at Niagara Falls City Hall

Submitted by the New York State Department of Transportation

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYS-DOT) will host a public information meeting from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 24, pertaining to a proposed bridge rehabilitation project scheduled to begin next spring. The project will use cost-effective strategies to address deficiencies and minimize the lifecycle costs of maintenance and repairs on the bridge carrying the LaSalle Expressway over Cayuga Creek and Cayuga Drive in the City of Niagara Falls.

The LaSalle Expressway is an important corridor that provides access to the Niagara Falls International Airport and the City of Niagara Falls.

The informal, open-house meeting will be held in Council Chambers at Niagara Falls City Hall, located at 745 Main St., in the City of Niagara Falls. The session will feature displays about the project, and provide an opportunity for discussion with NYSDOT representatives who will be available to receive comments and answer individual questions. No formal presentation will be made.

The project proposes to rehabilitate the bridge, which was built in 1970, to extend the service life and allow for the structure to remain in service for 30 years or more. Repairs to the bridge will include replacement of the bridge deck, repairs to the steel girders, replacement of the bridge bearings and repairs to

the concrete substructures.

During construction, an offsite detour will be utilized while the bridge deck is replaced. A separated detour for cars and trucks will be provided utilizing Buffalo Avenue, Williams Road, U.S. Route 62 and Interstate 190. The offsite detour will be in use for a maximum of 120 days or less, minimizing impacts to the traveling public.

For further information, or to request a sign language interpreter or assistive listening system, contact Kelly Schuman-Ekes, regional structures engineer, at 716-847-5243; or write to the New York State Department of Transportation, 100 Seneca St., Buffalo, New York 14203. Reference project identification number 5814.08.

About the Department of Transportation

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