

* * * ELECTION 2023 * * *

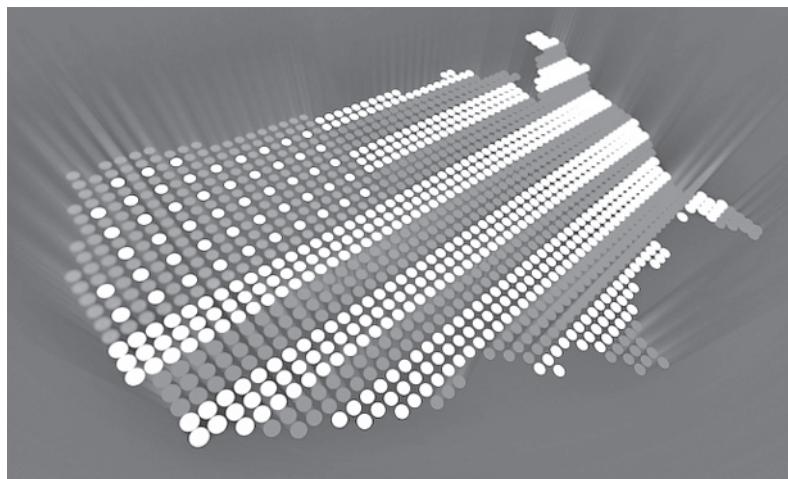
Broderick, Virtuoso, MacSwan take top town posts

Supervisor candidates in the towns of Lewiston, Niagara and Wheatfield ran unopposed and cruised to victory on Election Day.

• In **Lewiston**, Republican Steve Broderick was reelected with 98% of the vote (1,956 votes). Town Clerk/Tax Collector Donna Garfinkel (R) also was chosen to serve another term, gathering more than 99% of the vote (1,968). Town Board candidates incumbent Jason Myers (R, 28.76%/1,262) and Sarah Waechter (Democrat, 28.62%/1,256) edged William Burg (R, 28.37%/1,245). Mitchell Zahno (R, 99%/1,894) also ran unopposed and will serve as superintendent of highways. Justices the Hon. Hugh Gee Sr. (51%/2,388) and the Hon. Thomas Sheeran (49%/2,320) ran unopposed and were reelected.

• The **Town of Niagara** will have a new supervisor as long-time Clerk Sylvia Virtuoso (D) claimed more than 99% of the vote (811). She will replace Lee Wallace, who opted not to run for reelection. Melissa Cerrillo (D) will take over as clerk, gaining 99.5% of the vote (797). Democrats Michael Lee (42%/742) and Johnny Parks (30%/534) trumped Republican Donald Schildhauer (27.5%/489). Richard Sirianni had the backing of both major parties and will serve as superintendent of highways (99%/880). Similarly, the Hon. Samuel Gatto was on both major party lines and netted 99% of the vote (895).

• **Town of Wheatfield** Supervisor Don MacSwan (R) was reelected with more than 98% of the vote (1,456). Clerk Kathleen Har-



rington-McDonell (R) also won another term, collecting nearly 99% of the vote (1,485). Republicans Gilbert Doucet (49.44%/1,423) and Larry Helwig (49.06%/1,412) will return to the Town Council. Republican Paul Siegmann took the superintendent of highways line with almost 99% of the vote (1,468).

In the **Town of Porter**, Clerk Kara Hibbard (R, 97%/508) and Town Board members Jeffrey Baker (R, 49%/506) and Lawrence White (R, 48%/496) were reelected. Republican David Burmaster will serve as superintendent of highways (97%/519).

City of North Tonawanda Clerk/Treasurer Donna Braun (R) was reelected with nearly 99% of the vote (4,859). Top aldermen vote-getters were Joseph Lavey Jr. (R), alderman-at-large, with 58% of the vote (3,731); and Republicans Robert Schmigel, Ward 1 (58%/1,204); Frank DiBernardo, Ward 2 (54%/931); and Joseph Marranca III, Ward 3 (60%/1,626).

In the **City of Niagara Falls**, Mayor Robert Restaino (D, 48%/3,455) edged Republican challenger Carlton Cain (46%/3,253). The City Council race went to Democrats Brian Archie (28%/3,858) and James (Jim) Perry (24%/3,125).

Election results are not yet official.

Next Step

The Niagara County Board of Elections reported a voter turnout of 24.43%.

As to the status of absentee ballots and their impact on the final tallies – particularly close races across the county – Niagara County Board of Elections Democrat Commissioner Lora Allen said absentee ballots are actually the first results the board tabulates in Lockport.

“You have the status of the absentee ballots,” she explained. “The absentee ballots, on election night, (they) were the first reports that went up. They had to be postmarked by the 7th (Nov. 7)

and have to be in our office by the 14th. So, if there’s any stragglers out there, (we’ll record them).

“The absentees are reported on election night. A lot of people think (differently). The old way was we used to open them after. But now they’re open and read in on election night.

“They’re actually in (now). The majority; of course, you have the late people. But the majority, they’re in there and they’re reported at 9 o’clock. That was the first numbers that went up on election night before the districts came in.”

As to the BOE officially recording and certifying the results, Allen said, “We’re doing our best here and pushing it close. ... Hopefully, everything will be official before Thanksgiving, or maybe the first couple of days in that week.”

Across the County

In other Niagara County contested races:

- In Legislature District 3, Republican Christopher McKimmie (54.2%/1,178) topped Democrat Noelle Citarella (45%/981).

- Republican Christopher Vocchio (63%/838) outlasted Democrat Gaelan J. Baillie (37%/495) in District 6.

- In District 9, Republican Randy Bradt (63%/2,327) bested Democrat Timothy Osborn (37%/1,371).

- District 12 is a dead heat, with Democrat Carla Speranza (50.29%/1,027) leading Republican William Collins Sr. (49.36%/1,008).

- Republican Richard Abbott (62%/1,822) defeated Democrat Bernadette Smith (38%/1,112) in District 13.

In uncontested races:

- Republican Niagara County Clerk Joseph A. Jastrzemski was reelected with almost 99% of the vote (22,257 votes).

- Republican Niagara County Legislator Irene Myers (District 1) garnered almost 98% of the vote (1,478).

- Republican Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh (District 2) earned more than 99% of the vote (759).

- Democrat Jeffrey Elder took the District 4 slot with more than 99% of the vote (675).

- Democrat Christopher Robbins received more than 99% of the vote in District 5 (1,760).

- Republican Jesse Gooch netted more than 98% of the vote in District 7 (1,314).

- Republican Richard Andres has more than 98% of the District 8 vote (1,684).

- Republican David Godfrey garnered more than 98% of the District 10 vote (1,494).

- Republican Anthony Nemi earned more than 99% of the vote in District 11 (1,353).

- Republican Shawn Foti took the District 14 vote with almost 99% of the vote (2,259).

- Republican Michael Hill received more than 99% of the District 15 vote (1,800).

Uniland project once again seems ready for Town of Niagara's OK

BY TIMOTHY CHIPP

Senior Contributing Writer

Town of Niagara officials may be moving toward approving a planned industrial building by Uniland Development Corp., a project that's been before them since June 2022.

Niagara's Building Inspector Charles Haseley told councilmen Wednesday the final details are being nailed down for the proposal to build a 17-acre facility in the area of Woodside Place and Military Road, near the railroad overpass.

And with the plans nearly finalized, the project is recommended for approval.

With one caveat, though. A small buffer, setting off the development from the nearby JoAnn Circle residents, must be dedicated as part of the approval.

“You may want to consider this contingency for approval if it’s not finished,” Haseley said during the town’s scheduled work session.

The matter is expected to be resolved at the town’s next regular meeting, set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday – a week earlier than the normal third Tuesday of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday week.

The project ultimately, if approved, would see the industrial facility take up about 17 acres of an overall 26-acre space. Figuring out what to do with the remaining land, minus the buffer, has led to the project’s stalled progress.

Following a September public hearing for the project, where residents of the JoAnn Circle neighborhood spoke in opposition of rezoning the undeveloped land in the project for apartment development, town officials didn’t include the project on the October meeting agenda to continue negotiations for how to proceed.

Residents in the area preferred the remaining land be rezoned to R-1, which is a zoning for single-family dwellings, or for it to remain as it is, a “light industrial”

dedication.

In October, Supervisor Lee Wallace appeared supportive of the “light industrial” option when discussing the project’s status.

Wallace said the board has full control over the land’s prospective use and can zone it what it wants at any time.

It was unclear Wednesday what decision was made about the zoning going forward.

Solar Sale

In other Town Board news, an agreement to sell a solar farm in the Republic Services Allied Waste Niagara Falls Landfill is in negotiations between New York City-based AC Power 15 LLC and Florida-based Callibrant Energy.

AC Power 15 LLC, which proposed the array giving the town an option to keep generating revenue from a landfill that will soon cease operations, will hand over the facility should the sale be approved.

But, the operating contract re-

quired Town Board approval of any sale.

It’s expected to be approved Tuesday.

If the sale is finalized, the agreement with the town for a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) negotiated in June will be transferred to Callibrant Energy. The town, as stated in the agreement, receives increasing payments over the next 14 years with the final amount set at \$9,700 in 2038.

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Think about it, if “foods” are processed so that they won’t spoil for months or years, doesn’t it make sense that your body will have a tough time breaking them down too? What cannot be digested causes indigestion and a myriad of other symptoms. When foods digest properly, there is no gas produced. Gas appears when food rots as with the fermentation of carbohydrates (sugars and starches) and putrefaction of proteins (meat, fish, eggs, cheese, legumes, nuts and seeds).

However, eating fresh or frozen whole foods without additives such as food coloring, pesticides, preservatives, synthetic vitamins, artificial flavorings, flavor enhancers and other chemicals, provide your body with the necessary building blocks to repair and rebuild as well as detoxify.

Fresh fruits and vegetables contain enzymes that assist the digestive process.

So, add more fresh food to your diet. Eat less processed food, you will be healthier, the gut can heal and not be a source of distress. Most of all, eliminate sugar as it ruins your health in a many ways.

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