

*** ELECTION 2023 ***

James Abbondanza announces campaign for City Council seat

Submitted by James Abbondanza

James Abbondanza (D) will seek a seat with the Niagara Falls City Council this election cycle. Abbondanza, who ran in 2021, is a vocal advocate for governmental transparency, financial responsibility, and quality of life issues for the people of Niagara Falls.



James Abbondanza

Abbondanza stated, "The efforts and resources of our local government are being spent in the wrong places. Our needs are straightforward: The residents want a cleaner, safer city. I know it will not happen overnight – it will take a lot of work on a lot of different fronts – but I also know City Hall isn't even trying to address this. The focus from City Hall is elsewhere on projects with no real plans, like Centennial Park, that are going to sink us financially. Start with rebuilding basic services for the people who live here, and the rest will come

in due time."

One of Abbondanza's key platform points is working to improve the quality of life of his fellow residents by focusing on policy and smart, well-formed legislation that will benefit the residents

and address problem areas such as illegal dumping, blight, nuisance laws, lack of community programs, and crime.

Another point in his platform is transparency. In May 2022, Abbondanza was responsible for helping organize a protest to bring awareness to the fact that City Council had cut the ability for the public to be heard on the issues being voted on at council meetings. The protest was also focused on bringing to light what the candidate called "the mayor's special meetings, in which the public was not allowed to speak."

Abbondanza said "Corruption, dishonesty, and greed thrive in the dark. Transparency in government is the light we need to keep our leaders in check and on task."

He said, "My interest in government has always been civic rather than political. It was an eye-open-

er to see things from a political perspective during my campaign run in 2021. I learned a lot about the process of elections and campaigns, and the different people and groups that are involved. It brought home to me the belief that, although I am running on

the Democratic ticket, it is not the parties that matter – it is us, the people. I stand with the people of our city and not with groups that put their own interests in front of those of the citizens.

"The citizens of Niagara Falls should be the first consideration when our leaders make choices. Unfortunately, the only time our representatives seem to think of us is when they need more of our hard-earned money to fill in the deficits caused by their mismanagement."

Abbondanza is a graduate of The Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and an IT profes-

sional of more than 25 years. He is currently the president of the Weston Avenue Block Club as well as chair of the Niagara Beautification Commission. As an advocate for community groups and community involvement, Abbondanza has said he sees the immediate benefits to building relationships with your neighbors and fellow residents.

"We all live in this city – together. We are family, friends and neighbors, and we need to have one another's backs," he said.

In addition to raising his three sons in Niagara Falls, Abbondanza is an avid photographer and a recent winner of a 2023 New York State Council on the Arts SCR Grant.

For more information on Abbondanza's campaign for City Council, or to contact him, please visit www.voteabbondanza.com.

NCCC to host job fair

Niagara County Community College invites job seekers from across the region to its annual spring job fair on April 25. This open house-style event will be free and open to the public. Attendees will have the chance to meet with representatives from area employers from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Learning Commons on the col-

lege's Sanborn Campus at 3111 Saunders Settlement Road.

"We look forward to welcoming community members who are planning to enter the workforce, looking for new opportunities or just exploring job options," said spring job fair organizer Shannon Stott of the NCCC Career and Transfer Services office. "Our

aim is to help participants take the next steps in their careers."

Employers that will be recruiting at NCCC's job fair include: Arrow Systems Inc., Chiavetta's, Empower, Erie County Medical Center, Fresenius Kabi, Horizon Health Services, Hospice & Palliative Care, Intandem, Just for Kids, Kelton Enterprises, Mc-

Guire Group, Mount St. Mary's Child Care Center, New Directions Youth and Family Services, New York Power Authority, New York State Police, Niagara County Employment & Training, Niagara Falls Country Club, Niagara Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, New York Army National Guard, New York State Office of Parks

and Recreation, Revlet Sales, Seneca Gaming Corp., Six Flags Darien Lake, Tops Markets, Turf Tec of WNY Inc., United States Border Patrol, United States Marine Corps, Venture Forthe Inc. and Wegmans.

For more information about the NCCC spring job fair, contact Stott at 716-614-6268.

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"WE AREN'T DONE YET"

Thank you very much for your continued support. Giving the DeGlopper Expansion Committee the space in the latest Island Wide Dispatch to help get the message out that "we aren't done yet" is very much appreciated. The article covered all the main ideas that needed to be expressed to curb the community's questions regarding the ongoing fundraising efforts.

We are hopeful that the community continues to step up in their support for the Phase II of this project.

Sincerely,
Elsie Martino
Secretary
DeGlopper Memorial Expansion Committee

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