

A message from Wheatfield Supervisor MacSwan

The Town of Wheatfield has had a very busy summer with numerous activities and work accomplishments. COVID has changed so many things in all of our lives in the past years. During the COVID pandemic, the town has strived to continue to provide services to all of our residents.

- The reconstruction of Niagara Falls Boulevard at Ward and Witmer roads has started with the relocation of utilities. There will be much-needed turning lanes added to these intersections. In the near future, an LED Wheatfield sign will be added to the stone wall at Nash Road and Niagara Falls Boulevard.

- The Wheatfield Family Picnic at Fairmount Park has returned after a two-year break due to the COVID pandemic. The family picnic was successful, with a great turnout.

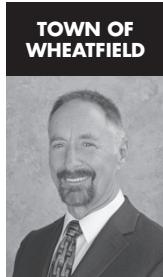
- The Town of Wheatfield Highway Department has been very busy this year, paving

almost five miles of roads. In addition, major drainage projects have been completed.

- The town's water tower has been stripped of its dilapidated masonry exterior, and is being prepared for a repainting that has begun.

- The Wheatfield Senior Citizens celebrated its 50th anniversary with a well-attended banquet and awards dinner at the Adams Fire Company facility. Congratulations to the seniors!

- The first annual military vehicle show was held at our town's Veterans Memorial behind the Town Hall. Within the next few weeks, the town's Veterans Group, in conjunction with town employees, will erect a stone wall at the back of the Veterans Monument, bringing the memo-



Don MacSwan
Supervisor

rial close to completion.

- The Town of Wheatfield Town Board is researching the planning of an inclusive playground at Fairmount Park, with a hopeful starting date in the spring of next year. The Parks and Recreation Department has made numerous upgrades to Fairmount Park to include some new playground equipment, with more to be installed in the spring of next year.

- The town's outside auditors have substantially completed their audit of the Town of Wheatfield financial records for the year ending Dec. 31, 2021, and, based on a recent exit conference with them on their audit findings, we are pleased to report that the town continues to be in a strong financial position. This is the result of an increase in revenues – particularly in sales tax revenues – and by controlling expenditures, including a continued reduction of the town's outstanding debt.

- Dave Godfrey, our county legislator, wants to remind any county resident who has received a Purple Heart in any campaign to register with the county clerk to participate in our Purple Heart events during the year.

- The Town Clerk's Office continues to offer several options to make payments on water bills, tax bills and other fees. You can also find your billing information on the town's website at www.wheatfield.ny.us. Go to the home page, the gold box on the left side, click "bill pay" – click "water or tax" to find billing information and paid receipts. To make payments, follow payment instructions.

- Get your water bills by email. Sign up for paperless billing by providing your email address on your water bill stub.

Payment options:
 ✓ Direct/auto withdrawal from your bank account on the 15th of the month – must complete the application and provide bank ac-

count number or a voided check (no cost);

- ✓ Online payments using a credit card or checking account can be made at www.wheatfield.ny.us (vendor convenience fee applies);

- ✓ In person or via a dropbox located at Town Hall; or
- ✓ By mail.

- It has recently been brought to our attention that contractors claiming to represent the town, offer services and charge the residents a cash amount for picking up brush, etc. This is false. The town has no private contractors performing work for our community.

- Under these uncertain economic times the Town of Wheatfield will continue to control our expenses and still provide services to our residents.

Enjoy the upcoming fall and holiday season.

Stay safe, healthy, and God bless.

Greenway, OFN discussed at YBPA fall membership meeting

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

A number of items of interest were discussed at Tuesday's fall meeting of the Youngstown Business and Professional Association, held in the Officer's Club at Fort Niagara State Park.

- Niagara River Greenway Executive Director Greg Stevens updated visitors on the Experience Niagara pathway. The project, part of the Seaway Trail system, includes the Youngstown Greenway bike path. Once complete, it will link Artpark State Park in Lewiston to Fort Niagara State Park and Four Mile Creek Park in Youngstown, and continue to Porter on the Lake town park.

"We've been working for some time with the Town of Porter, the Village and Town of Lewiston (and others)," Stevens said. "New York state has just completed a phenomenal \$300 million investment in what is the nation's longest connected Greenway Trail system. The only part that is not done is from Ninth and Seneca in the Village of Lewiston to Fort Niagara. We'd like to come across in the Town of Porter to the lake. We're working on a plan to extend the trail."

Plans call for the trail to run from Ninth and Seneca streets up toward Mohawk Street in the village, proceed up north to the bike path along the Niagara Scenic Parkway to Joseph Davis State Park, and continue north to Fort Niagara and out to the lake.

"We plan to include markers in

the road from Joseph Davis up to Fort Niagara," Stevens said. "That we want to do as soon as possible."

For more information on this ongoing project, visit NiagaraRiverGreenway.com

- Bob Emerson, executive director of Old Fort Niagara, reported on new challenges facing operations at the fort that have stemmed from recent passage of firearms-related legislation in Albany.

"I wanted to say a couple of words about New York state's new gun law and muskets – if you can believe that," he said. "This law threatens Old Fort Niagara in a very big way. It threatens our programs; it threatens our reenactment events, which are a very big part of our budget. I think it's an existential threat to Old Fort Niagara. It takes us out of parades; it takes us out of community events ... it takes us out of firing over veterans' graves."

"It's a terrible, terrible law, and we are working to have it amended to exempt historic firearms like muskets. ...It's very important to our survival."

Emerson said area legislators, including State Sen. Robert Ort and Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, are working on behalf of OFN interests in Albany to address the issue.

"I want to make people aware of it, because a lot of people don't know just how bad this is," Emerson said. "And it could some really serious, serious damage to Old Fort Niagara."

- Mark Butera, secretary of



Barb and Mike Costello are shown accepting tributes as the YBPA Youngstown Business of the Year. (Photo by K&D Action Photo and Aerial Imaging)

YBPA, discussed the new 2022-23 Town of Porter-Village of Youngstown brochure.

"We're really proud of how this brochure came out," he said. "We were able to expand the business listings section; the schedule goes from September 2022 to September 2023; and we've provided ex-

panded listings for all the information."

Butera said the brochure, which was prepared by Niagara Frontier Publications and distributed with last week's Tribune-Sentinel, is available at a number of locations throughout the River Region.

- Wrapping up, the YBPA officially paid tribute to the Ontario House (aka Stone Jug) as its 2022 Youngstown Business of the Year.

"It's been open since 1931, but it seems it's been there forever," YBPA member Colleen Mary Summerville said.

She went on to recognize Ontario House owners Mike and Barbra Costello and staff for the work they have done in restoring the 1840s-era building at Main and Lockport streets, operating the bar/restaurant, along with updated Airbnb accommodations upstairs in the building, plus an all-new entertainment complex in the backyard.

"The Jug is not just an establishment – the Jug is family," she said. "And the people are our neighbors, and they're part of our community – (and) one of the best things you can have in any neighborhood."

Summerville, along with officials from the Town of Porter, Village of Youngstown, Niagara County and Morinello, joined in offering tributes to the Costellos for their work since taking over the business in 2015.

For more information on the YBPA, visit its webpages at www.youngstownnewyork.com and www.youngstownny.com; or on Facebook.

Town of Porter Republican Committee

Bandana's
930 Lake Rd, Youngstown

Annual Fundraiser
Thursday, September 22, 2022 • 5pm–7:30 pm
Tickets: \$40 pp or \$75 Couple

Sponsorship Available for this Event:
**\$150 Patriot **\$250 Eagle **\$500 God Bless America

Please join us at Bandana's at the outdoor bar and grill to support our town's Republican Committee!

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