

Town of Niagara plans ahead for 2022

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

The Town of Niagara opened 2022 with its organizational session earlier this month. There, a number of procedural matters, including meeting schedules, town designations, members and personnel appointments, were approved for the year ahead.

These include:

- Town Board work sessions are at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month, with a second work session on the second Wednesday as needed. Official Town Board meetings will take place at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, following the second Wednesday of each month, and will be changed as needed. All meetings will take place at Town Hall on Lockport Road.

- Meeting schedules for the town's various boards include: Planning, first Tuesday of the month; Zoning, second Tuesday of the month; Environmental Commission, fourth Tuesday of the month; and the Citizen's Advisory Board, third Tuesday of the month.

- Town Hall operating hours: from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

- The board designated the Ni-

agara County Tribune/Sentinel and the Niagara Gazette as its official town newspapers. KeyBank and M&T Bank were named as official town depositories.

- Department liaison appointments of Town Board members include: Supervisor Lee Wallace – building inspector, Highway and Parks/Recreation; Councilman Mark M. Carpenter, police; Councilman Samuel S. Gatto, courts; Councilman Richard A. Sirianni, fire; and Councilman Charles F. Teixeira, water/sewer.

- Supervisor appointments include: Teixeira, deputy supervisor; Patricia Wallace, confidential secretary; Wallace, budget officer; Pete Aimes, town historian; and Jacqueline Siegmann, NYPA audit clerk.

- Town personnel appointments include: Robert Herman, administrative duties of drainage/sanitation; Sylvia Virtuoso, administrative duties of tax collector; Melissa Cerrillo, deputy tax collector; and Lisa Restaino and Grace Destino, justice clerks.

Also, Rober Herman, director of Parks; Robert Evrard, deputy highway superintendent; Charles Haseley, planning/zoning officer/stormwater management;



Brian Bieter, water/sewer superintendent; Amanda Haseley, recreation director; Carpenter, police commissioner; Virtuoso, registrar of vital statistics; and town auditors, to be determined.

- Other town appointments include: consulting municipal law firm (in house) – Hodgson Ross and Barclay Damon; prosecuting attorneys – Jason Caffarella and

Craig Touma; consulting engineering firm (in house) – GHD Consulting Inc.; dog control – Niagara County SPCA; and town insurance carrier – Keller Insurance.

- Members of the Town of Niagara Police Department include part-time officers Michael Rozyczko, James Bissell, Pat Williams, Salvatore Paonessa, Patrick

Dworak, Michael Lee, Benjamin Shirbaxk, Michael Haybes, Walter Nichols, Travis Maggard, Joseph Dobmeir, Vanik Aloian, Scott Milleville, Chris Soluri, Dominic Senese, Daniel Jones, Alex Wagner and Anthony Haag.

For more information on Town of Niagara organizational matters, visit www.townofniagara.com.

IN THE NEWS

Community Missions postpones 'Sweetheart Dinner'

On Friday, Community Missions announced, due to the increased prevalence of COVID-19 throughout the region, it is postponing the 25th annual "Sweetheart Dinner" to Friday, April 1.

A press release stated, "The event will still take place at Sheraton Niagara Falls, and will feature all of the fun that our supporters have come to enjoy over the years!"

There are a few changes to note to this year's event:

- √ All attendees must show proof of vaccination to be admitted into the event.

- √ Seating will be limited to promote social distancing.

- √ The beginning of the cocktail and basket viewing time has been moved to 5:30 p.m., allowing guests more time to view baskets in order to resolve congestion in those areas.

Special rates are still available at the Sheraton Niagara Falls for the event, however, the prices have slightly increased. Rates are now \$119 for the "Sweetheart Package," which includes room, HydroSpa passes for two, strawberries and champagne in the room, breakfast for two and exclusive casino offers. The room-only package is now \$79. Links to book these rooms are not yet available, but will be soon.

Community Missions stated,

"We are exploring contactless options for registration and to purchase basket tickets and bid on silent auction items."

Visit www.wnypapers.com for a ticket link.

For more information, contact Christian Hoffman via email or at 716-285-3403, ext. 2247.

Niagara Pride 2nd annual winter sock drive to help homeless

Niagara Pride is hosting its second annual winter sock drive to benefit local homeless. The organization seeks donations of new socks, undergarments, T-shirts and personal hygiene items, which will be given to local homeless shelters and other agencies.

Individuals wishing to donate can drop off items at the Niagara Pride offices, located inside St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 140 Rainbow Blvd., Niagara Falls, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Feb. 11, 18 and 25, and March 4. The sock drive runs from Feb. 1 until March 5.

Niagara Pride is also seeking community partners willing to serve as drop off locations. It encourages business, churches and other organizations interested in donating to contact Niagara Pride directly to schedule a pickup.

All donations made to Niagara Pride during the month of February, whether cash or check, or through its website (www.niagarapride.org), will be used to pur-

chase socks as part of this drive.

Niagara Pride President Ronald Piaseczny said, "From our work in the community, we know that items like socks, undergarments and personal care items are often overlooked when donating clothes items to homeless shelters. Socks are actually the No. 1 item requested. Socks help with staying warm and dry during our winter months."

A press release noted, "Last year, Niagara Pride set a goal of 600 pairs to be donated and through the incredible generosity of WNYers, 2,213 pairs ended up being donated. This year, Niagara Pride is hoping to raise 2,500 pairs of socks."

For more information on the sock drive, contact Niagara Pride at info@niagarapride.org or at 716-298-7656. Visit www.niagarapride.org to make a monetary donation.

Youngstown VFW Aux. student art contest.

The VFW Auxiliary of Lake On-

tario Post 313 has announced its participation in the 2022 Illustrating America Art Contest, set to take place this summer at the annual VFW Auxiliary Convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

Open to grades 3-8, students are asked to show how they view today's world through drawings and paintings while competing for national awards. They are required to submit an original two-dimensional piece of artwork. Coloring sheets, digital artwork and photography are not accepted.

The entry must be submitted during the current 2021-22 school

year and the application must include a teacher or supervising adult's signature.

More information on student eligibility requirements, contest rules and entry forms is available at www.vfauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities. Students will need to submit their entries to the VFW Auxiliary of Lake Ontario Post 313 by March 31.

Interested students, parents and guardians are asked to contact Barbara Jesz at 716-287-8686 or bjesz@msn.com for additional details.

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