

NEED TO READ

ONLINE wnypapers.com



► Center Street construction, part 1

► RG&E and AAA New York State join forces to prevent distracted driving

► Riders raise funds in Lewiston

► Consumer alert: NYS Division of Consumer Protection offers fire safety tips in Fire Prevention Month

► Niagara County Department of Health: Results of rapid testing of school staff 'very encouraging'

► Halloween events, hours in Niagara County



► Local officials call on residents to demand state protect theater industry

In print and online, we are your No. 1 source for local news Niagara Frontier Publications and www.wnypapers.com

# Opinions

Use of all submitted letters and editorials is at the discretion of Niagara Frontier Publications. All entries should include the writer's/organization's name, number and address. Submissions, which may be edited for content/style/accuracy, do not necessarily reflect the opinion of NFP staff.

## Niagara County

### Time for New York to share CARES Act funding will all counties

This past week, I had the pleasure to take part in a press conference with Congressman Chris Jacobs, State Sen. Rob Ortt, and my colleagues in other local governments in Western New York. The purpose of the event was to call on New York state to release CARES Act funding to counties with smaller populations.

As you may recall, the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Security Act) was passed in March by Congress and provided more than \$2 trillion to battle various impacts from the pandemic. Part of those funds were earmarked to help state and local governments with costs incurred,

as we battled COVID-19 in our communities. New York state's share of this funding was over \$7.5 billion.

NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE



Becky Wydysh Chairwoman

The wrinkle in this legislation? Only counties with populations in excess of 500,000 received direct payment from Washington. Everything else went right to New York state. In Western New York, the only county that exceeds that threshold is Erie County, with a population of over 900,000. Niagara County's population is

about 210,000. Only nine counties across the state received direct aid, totaling about \$2.3 billion. The additional \$5.2 billion remained under state control.

For their direct payment, Erie County received \$160 million in CARES funding while Niagara and the other counties of Western New York received nothing. No one begrudges Erie County receiving the funding and they have instituted some very worthwhile programs with the funds. These include grants for small businesses, help with child care and rent/mortgage assistance, funding to school districts, and so much more. But there is simply no justification for such disparate treatment for communities that are right next to each other. Small businesses and families in Niagara County need help just like those in Erie County.

As your local representatives, we came together to demand that Gov. Cuomo release CARES fund-

ing to ALL counties. It's no secret that all local governments are facing significant budgetary challenges because of the pandemic. Not only would our fair share of CARES funding help Niagara County, we would look to help city and town governments, which are in a similar position with their own budgets.

In addition, we call on Washington to avoid this situation in the future, as the next expected piece of federal legislation to provide additional pandemic funding proceeds. Going forward, all counties should be eligible for direct payment from Washington, rather than being left to hope and pray New York state sends funds our way.

### Geiben: Seaman will ensure justice prevails

The time has come to choose Niagara County's next district attorney. I know both candidates and their families. They both care about their families and our community, want to prevent animal abuse and keep us safe. That's unquestionable.

However, there is only one candidate who has stood in a courtroom, faced a jury and successfully convinced these jurors

that a criminal must be convicted beyond a reasonable doubt for their actions against society. That's Brian Seaman. And Brian has done it time after time, holding criminals responsible for the most serious and violent crimes, including murder and attempted murder of a police officer.

Brian Seaman is a highly respected prosecutor who has been endorsed by several law enforce-

ment organizations and officials including Lewiston Police Chief Frank Previte. Brian has earned their trust by working closely and cooperatively on cases with them to ensure that justice prevails.

Sometimes during elections, experience and qualifications seem to get brushed over, in part due to fluff and feel-good testimonials. But for the office of Niagara County DA, experience and qualifica-

tions do matter, and our lives and safety truly depend on it. There's only one candidate who is backed by law enforcement, trial-tested, tough and ready to lead as DA on day one, and that's Brian Seaman.

Please join me in voting for Brian Seaman on Nov. 3 for Niagara County district attorney.

William E. Geiben  
Town of Lewiston Councilman

### Says Ceretto will unite community

Hello, my name is Beth Ceretto. I have been a resident of Niagara County my entire life. During this time, I operated my own day care service and became a councilwoman for the Town of Lewiston. However, my biggest accomplishment is my four wonderful children.

I am writing to you today to seek your support for my eldest son, John II, who is running for Niagara County district attorney.

My husband was employed by Tulip Corp. on Highland Avenue in Niagara Falls and I was a stay-at-home mother of four. As a family, we faced a great deal of adversity. But with adversity came knowledge. I made it a point to use those obstacles to teach my children invaluable life lessons such as to never judge another based on their race, ethnicity, or social economic standing; to always help a person

in need; be generous; and show compassion for all living things.

John II grew up in an extremely humble household – a household where teamwork was essential for survival. John II has always been a true leader. He is always there to lend a helping hand and will listen to anyone in need.

John II knows that we must come together as a community – that much like our household, of-

fenses involving fear and violence will not be tolerated. We cannot continue to allow evil in our homes and community.

I now ask you to please support my son, John Ceretto II, for Niagara County district attorney.

Beth Ceretto  
Former Town of Lewiston Councilwoman

Get Connected & visit wnypapers.com  
Local News, Stories, Classifieds, Coupons,  
SERVICE DIRECTORY Plus Exclusive PHOTOS, VIDEOS & MORE

Niagara County  
**Tribune/Sentinel**  
Founded February 14, 1987  
PUBLISHER Skip Mazenauer  
GM/MANAGING EDITOR Joshua Maloni  
EDITOR IN CHIEF/SENTINEL EDITOR Terrence P. Duffy  
INTERIM TRIBUNE EDITOR Michael DePietro  
DISPATCH EDITOR Larry Austin  
WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA EDITORS Joshua Maloni, Lucia Spiritosanto, Toni Snyder  
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Colleen Rebmann, Jeff Calarco, Marcy Lombardo  
CIRCULATION Kim Wendt  
PRODUCTION MANAGER/GRAPHIC DESIGNER Wendy Juzwicki  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Lucia Spiritosanto, Toni Snyder  
CLASSIFIED MANAGER Toni Snyder  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Jennifer Walowitz  
ACCOUNTING/OFFICE MANAGER Halie Hernandez  
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS/REPORTERS Kevin and Dawn Cobello, Autumn Hall, Wayne Peters, Mark Williams Jr., David Yarger  
©2020 Niagara Frontier Publications  
1859 Whitehaven Road  
Grand Island, N.Y. 14072  
Phone (716) 773-7676  
Fax (716) 773-7190  
Editorial: Tribune@wnypapers.com  
Dispatch@wnypapers.com  
Sentinel@wnypapers.com  
Advertising: NFPDesign@wnypapers.com  
Classifieds: NFPClassifieds@wnypapers.com  
Circulation: NFPcirculation@wnypapers.com  
Legals: legalnotice@wnypapers.com  
Website: wnypapers.com  
Grand Island Publishing Corp. Newspaper is printed in the U.S.A. and all rights reserved. © 2020 by Grand Island Publishing Corp. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the publisher. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will be returned only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.  
All letters, news releases and photos received will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication or brochure and are subject to Grand Island Publishing Corp's. unrestricted right to edit, comment or reject.  
All original artwork, layout and design remain sole property of Grand Island Publishing Corp. Reproduction in whole or part of any advertisement is strictly forbidden.  
Grand Island Publishing Corp. will not be liable for errors appearing in advertisements beyond replacement of the space occupied by the error. The publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement at his sole discretion. Notification must be made in writing within one week of publication. Verbal notifications will not be accepted.  
Grand Island Publishing Corp. does not knowingly accept any kind of fraudulent advertising. We suggest you investigate thoroughly any advertisement before you reply.  
Verbal cancellations will not be accepted. Written authorization to cancel a display or commercial classified ad must be received by Grand Island Publishing Corp. before deadline for insertion.  
The Tribune is published weekly.  
Display Ads Deadline: MONDAY 5 PM  
New York State Press Association, Niagara County Builders Association, Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, Wheatfield Business Association Inc., Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, The Niagara USA Chamber.