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NCCC ahead of the curve amidst BUDDING CANNABIS INDUSTRY



A Niagara County Community College horticulture student works in a field, as Niagara Falls Culinary Institute associate professor and chef Nathan Koscielski poses with his specialization certificate in culinary cannabis and edibles from the American Culinary Federation. (Photos courtesy of NCCC)

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO
Tribune Editor

On March 31, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed legislation legalizing adult use of cannabis throughout New York. During the announcement, Cuomo said the development of an adult-use cannabis industry in New York has, "The potential to create significant economic opportunities for New Yorkers and the state." Its estimated the industry could bring in \$350 million in tax revenue each year and potentially create 30,000 to 60,000 jobs.

With new jobs comes the need for an educational infrastructure designed to train for these new positions. But while many schools around the state are just now beginning to design programs to meet this new demand, Niagara County Community College finds itself very much ahead of the curve.

In 2019, the college began of-



fering a cannabis-focused curriculum through its horticulture program. Last year, it expanded its cannabis-centric course offerings to its accomplished culinary arts program. NCCC is now one of the only SUNY-accredited schools to offer a culinary-centric cannabis course.

"It's interesting because we

really did come out ahead," said Lydia Ulatowski, vice president of academic affairs. "We were just anticipating – looking at places like California and Colorado and knowing that it's been legalized in different states – we just knew that eventually New York would get involved in this, and so

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Stavatti Aerospace OK'd



The Stavatti SM-100AT, designed to combat forest fires, will be produced at Stavatti Aerospace's SNAPPER facility in the Town of Niagara.

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO
Tribune Editor

A site plan from Stavatti Aerospace Ltd. to begin initial construction and repairs at the former Army Reserve base located in the municipality was approved

by both the Town of Niagara and Niagara County planning boards last week. The approved plans allow Stavatti to begin remediation efforts to bring building No. 4, a 37,500-square-foot hangar, up to

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NT: Mayor announces charter revision committee

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO
Tribune Editor

Earlier this week, North Tonawanda Mayor Arthur G. Pappas released a statement announcing the formation of a charter revision committee – an independent body set up to review the city's aging charter for outdated or redundant codes.

"This committee is made up of North Tonawanda residents from all walks of life," Pappas said. "The committee is bipartisan. Any current elected officials or anyone running for office are not included. The committee will operate with total autonomy, including from my office."

Members named to the committee are: Mitchell Banas, Daniel Brick, David Burgio, Scott Depaolo, Lou Dalporto, Deborah Dexheimer, William Lewis, Dale Marshall, Cindy Oberjosh, Jay Shepherd and Amy Sileo.

If the committee does recommend any changes to the city charter, it will need to be put up for a public vote.

During Tuesday's Common

Council work session, Pappas said the committee is composed of a mixture of individuals from various political parties, as well as individuals representing business, legal and education sectors. He said it also features some "general citizen representation, to a degree."

"We've tried to create a kind of well-rounded committee," Pappas said.

The first initial meeting of the new charter review commission was held Thursday, April 29. Pappas said the initial meeting was not open to the public as it was more of an informal opportunity for members to meet each other and to get a sense of the task at hand.

"We consist of 11 members at the present time. Future meetings probably will be open to the public to some degree for listening purposes," Pappas said. "Although they certainly are not members of the committee, the public will be able to sit in and listen. More details on that will be coming after we have this initial meeting."

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