

*** ELECTION 2020 ***

Braun announces run for NT clerk-treasurer



Braun

Donna Braun announced her candidacy for North Tonawanda clerk-treasurer, a position she was appointed to last August by the City Council. Prior to the appointment, Braun served seven years as Second Ward alderwoman on the City Council.

"The clerk-treasurer position is really about running the nuts and bolts of the city's finances, along with providing residents with the services offered through the clerk's office," Braun said. "My private sector experience managing bank accounts,

reconciling payments, overseeing vendor contracts and so on, plus my time spent on the City Council interacting with all facets of city government, makes me uniquely qualified for this position.

Braun said the city's finances are in moderately good shape, consider-

ing the economic consequences of the pandemic. She said some of the issues that have been raised are more about improving the processes rather than change the course.

"The rebirth of North Tonawanda has probably been one of the best-kept secrets in all of Western New York and we have a solid foundation to continue growing," Braun said. "But we do need to tighten up some of our internal management processes."

Beyond elective office, Braun

has long been active in the North Tonawanda community. She is a civic member of Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Erie-Niagara Sunrise Exchange Club, a member and inductee of North Tonawanda Football Hall of Fame for her work as treasurer, president of Third Warders' Ladies Auxiliary, served on the fundraising committee for the YWCA, is a member of the Niagara County Clerks Association and supporting member of Gratwick Hose Firehall.

Braun has resided in the city for 30

years, with her husband, Ken, where they raised their three children.

"I am proud to say that I also have five grandsons, and my children have chosen to live here in our great city to raise them," she said. "I view elected office as an extension of my long-time commitment to serving our great community. I look forward to running a campaign based on my qualifications and experience."

Carpenter seeks reelection in Town of Niagara



Carpenter

Marc M. Carpenter is running for reelection to the Town of Niagara Town Board.

"I have resided in the town for 50 years," he said. "I am recently retired

from the GM Tonawanda Engine Plant where I worked on the machine floor and served as the UAW/GM suggestion plan administrator. My wife, Gerry, and I have raised our three daughters here.

"During my tenure on the board, we purchased the land and designed the initial phase of what is known today as the Veterans Memorial Community Park. I am looking

forward to seeing phases III and IV being implemented. We have also updated all our neighborhood parks with new equipment. We are working to make the Town of Niagara a greener community by installing new LED lighting throughout the town.

"One of my longtime goals has been to try to attract good-paying, private-sector jobs, like the new Stavatti

Aerospace LTD, which has the potential of bringing in 596 new production and technical jobs.

"I pride myself in standing up, being accountable and trying to put our residents' needs first. I strive to keep our taxes low and under the 2% tax cap while maintaining our much-needed services that our residents rely on. I presently serve as the town police commissioner and I am on

the Town of Niagara Police Reform Committee.

"With your help, I look forward to continuing to serve our great community with dignity and pride. I firmly believe that a 'public office is a public trust.'

"I have been endorsed by the Democratic, Republican, Conservative and Working Families Party."

DiBernardo seeks to retain his seat on NT Common Council

2nd Ward Alderman Frank DiBernardo will ask voters to allow him to continue in the role to focus on several efforts to continue moving North Tonawanda forward. He said his focus is on improving economic development, addressing fiscal opportunities, restoring pride and safety to local neighborhoods, and making NT a choice of destination for future residents and visitors.

DiBernardo is a lifelong NT resident who is married and has three grown children. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and a Master of Business degree. Before being appointed to the council last September, DiBernardo was active in the community with several di-

verse roles spanning more than 16 years as a civil servant and volunteer. He served for six years as a NT School Board member, of which two of those years were as president.

A press release said, "His peers, recognizing his ability to manage budgets and large-scale projects, appointed him to represent them during two successful teacher contract negotiations and supervision of a \$48-plus million capital project."

During this time, DiBernardo also helped launch and was an active board member for the Academy of Engineers and Architects at North Tonawanda Senior High School, where he served for over eight years.

DiBernardo had recently been on three committees for North Tonawanda, which he resigned from for his appointment. He served for several years on the Planning Commission, Board of Assessment Review and Cable Commission.

DiBernardo has been employed by General Motors for more than 23 years. During those years, he

has held a vast array of roles, which include engineering, maintenance, production supervision, capital project launches and management. In these roles, his responsibilities included day-to-day operations, long-term planning, budget attainment, continuous improvement, leading and working in diverse teams.

These strengths he has built, DiBernardo said, will assist in translating into the responsibilities required as an alderman.

Since his appointment, DiBernardo worked with City Hall to close an 18% budget gap for 2021 and address the New York state audit findings from early 2020.

"I would like to continue to work with City Hall on revenue increases, whether reoccurring or one time, lowering expenses and being a fiscal watchdog," DiBernardo said.

He has been involved in a lead role on getting requests for proposals for services to the city that have potential for expense savings. DiBernardo said he would like to continue using his experience to help drive these efficiency gains, which will help NT in becoming more fiscally sound yet continue to grow as a community. Utilizing the neighborhood watch, police department and volunteers, DiBernardo said he wants to make sure NT is a community

that harbors safety for all, for anyone that wants to call NT home.

"This is an area we need to excel at as safety is the No. 1 priority for all," his announcement read.

"North Tonawanda has had a surge of positive movement in recent years, from the economic development of downtown and capital upgrades, to our wastewater treatment and water distribution plants," DiBernardo said. "We have had several recent businesses open, from SPoT Coffee to El Gringo (soon) in downtown, to signing an agreement with Pennrose LLC for development on Tonawanda Island. Home values have soared, with homes having multiple offers and above national average transaction percentage from asking price. NT has received national recognition as places to live in NY from safety to affordability to overall quality of life (GoBankingRates, MSN)."

DiBernardo said he would like to keep this momentum going forward as an elected official representing his constituents."

"We as a city, police, fire, DPW, neighbors, merchants, volunteers need to continue to work together to make NT the safest and highest quality of living around," DiBernardo said. "We are one team, one city, moving forward together."

Town of Porter justice seeks reelection

Town of Porter Justice David Truesdale has announced his intention to seek reelection to an 11th term as town justice. Truesdale, a lifelong resident of the Town of Porter, is completing his 40th year as justice.

Truesdale graduated from Lewiston-Porter in 1966 and went on to graduate with his BS in elementary and early secondary education degree in 1970. He completed his graduate studies at Niagara University in 1975. In 1970, he began his 32-year teaching career at Wilson Central School, where he taught fifth and sixth grades and served as teacher on special assignment.

Truesdale has served on several committees within the Town of Porter. He has also served as a commissioner on the Town of Porter Recreation Committee. He is a life member of the Youngstown Volunteer Fire Co., where he has served as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, trustee and assistant chief.

As stated by Jennifer Pauly of the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, "Dave has provided leadership and has created an example of good citizenship while enhancing the well-being of the community."

Truesdale is completing his 40th year as Porter justice and has mentored many of the younger judges throughout the county as they have been elected to the bench. He is a member of the New York State Magistrates' Association and the Niagara County Magistrates' Association, where he has served as president and treasurer.

Truesdale completed his basic judicial training through the New York State Unified Court System in 1981 and has successfully completed advanced training through the same agency each year since then.

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