

Howze announces candidacy for North Tonawanda Common Council

Ryan Howze, 31, husband, father and North Tonawanda homeowner, has announced his campaign for 2nd Ward alderman in North Tonawanda. Howze's run for public office is a result of a calling to serve his community.

"I love North Tonawanda; that's why I purchased my home here and decided to raise my family here," he said. "It's a privilege to be afforded this opportunity."

Howze's platform will encompass



Howze said he has experienced what he called a

Howze

filling what he called the "obvious" void in communication in North Tonawanda government. As a member of the city's Police Reform Committee, Howze said

lack of communication between local government and the residents of North Tonawanda firsthand. Howze recalled the difficulty he had connecting with his local government while serving in his capacity as a committee member.

A key focus of his campaign will be addressing such issues, removing communication barriers between local government and its people, and facilitating public access to the municipal government.

Howze has vowed to work with his fellow council members once elected and expressed his willingness to ensure he will be accessible to his constituency throughout his tenure. Howze plans to incorporate public input as he works to address the fiscal crisis – something he said the current majority council has failed to do.

"We can continue down the current majority council's path of governing in the dark, or we can give the people of North Tonawanda what they de-

serve – a transparent approach to addressing the issues at hand," Howze said.

He noted his firm believe government is a service and it is the responsibility of those who govern to serve the people.

Howze enjoys the endorsement of the Niagara County Democratic Party and the Working Families Party in his race for 2nd Ward alderman.

Restaino to seek second term as Town of Niagara justice

Town of Niagara Judge Anthony L. Restaino announced he is seeking reelection for a second term as town justice for the Town of Niagara.

Restaino is a graduate of Niagara University and received his juris doctorate degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He is a practicing attorney with Restaino Reddien LLP, the firm he started with his partner in 2013, and an as-

sistant social services attorney for Niagara County.

During his first term, Restaino and his court have had to adjust in accordance with major legislative changes implemented in the New York State Criminal Law. Some of these changes include the "Raise the Age" legislation and the major criminal justice reforms implemented at the beginning of 2020.

In response to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on the court, Restaino has implemented an online system for the payment of court fines and was the first town court in Niagara County to submit a plan and receive approval to conduct virtual court proceedings.

"This first term has been very challenging, but at the same time

very rewarding," Restaino said.

With respect to the challenges faced by the court, Restaino added "A lot is asked of the clerks in the town and village courts. I am thankful that I have such dedicated and hard-working clerks in my court. Without them, the challenges faced this term would have been much more difficult."

He said, "It has been truly an

honor to serve the Town of Niagara residents as their town judge. I hope to have earned their continued confidence and support as I look forward to continuing to serve in this capacity."

Restaino will be running on all party lines.

Teixeira announces bid for re-election for Town of Niagara Town Board

Town of Niagara incumbent Charles F. Teixeira announced he would be seeking reelection for councilman of the Town of Niagara Town Board. He is a lifelong resident of the town, and a graduate of Niagara Wheatfield High School and Erie Community College.

Teixeira, a Democrat, is a 3A licensed wastewater treatment plant operator and was previously a New York state board-certified optician and small business owner of The Avenue Opticians.



Teixeira

If reelected, some of the projects he is working on with the board and wants to see completed are the following:

- Belden Center sewer and road project completion.

- Continue working with the Buf-

falo Niagara Waterkeeper on the 30 acres of land the town acquired along the Cayuga Creek, resolving the flooding issues in the neighborhood along the creek, while preserving a park-like green space with trails.

- Recently, the Town Board secured \$3.36 million in Greenway funds, with the purpose of finishing the master plan at Veterans Memorial Community Park. Some of the upgrades to the park will be a miniature golf course, enlarging the existing pond with a handicap-accessible

dock, and more outdoor areas for folks to gather, making this a destination for Town of Niagara residents and for all who visit.

- Continue to work closely with all the department heads in the Town of Niagara to keep taxes below the 2% tax cap, while providing quality services to residents.

"As an elected official in the Town of Niagara, I realize the broad spectrum of challenges to make our community thrive and, at this time, I feel the Town Board is progressively

moving in the right direction needed to support each part of the community equally," Teixeira said. "I truly enjoy representing the constituents of the Town of Niagara and would love the opportunity to continue working in this capacity as our town continues to grow."

The Democratic, Conservative and Working Families parties have endorsed Teixeira.

Primary day is June 22, while the general election is Nov. 2.

Schmigel seeks second term in NT's First Ward

Robert D. Schmigel of North Tonawanda is announcing his intent in running for reelection as Alderman in the city's First Ward. Schmigel, who was first elected to the North Tonawanda Common Council in 2019, said he is seeking his second term for several reasons.

He listed the COVID-19 pandemic as somewhat crippling to his vision to see continued small business growth not only on the Oliver Street corridor (away from the downtown district), but Meadow Drive and the vacancies left by both Dunkin Donuts and Taco Bell. While he is glad to see rebounding of some new business, including the reopening of Brownie's Sports Bar and Pizza Amore moving into the recently closed Little Caesar's, he noted there is still vast potential to attract new business throughout the city. He said that the city has seen challenges during the pandemic, but noted its attraction to new business needs to continue on Oliver Street. He sees businesses such as Buffalo Wings and Brewhouse, Little Black Heart Coffee, The Mana Bar, and Mayor's Pizza as indicators of new business desiring to move into North Tonawanda's original business district.

Schmigel said the River Road construction, slated to begin late spring, would provide a safer access in and out of the city while being biker- and pedestrian-friendly. The bike path expansion also will be key to continuing to be a better link connecting people into the city's downtown district.

The incumbent said he is also envisioning a more visited Gratwick Park – an area former City Councilman Russ Rizzo called "the Jewel of

the First Ward." Schmigel said he wants to see Gratwick Park become the most sought-after park in Niagara County, because of its spacious location along the Niagara River. He said it could attract more than a summer crowd, with youth soccer games, boat launches and summer concerts, making it a four-season destination for city residents and local communities as well.

"Many of us drive past it daily, but how many of us have enjoyed it for its location, adjacent to the Niagara River – a great place to walk, relax and admire the sunsets, etc." Schmigel said.

He recently asked residents to submit suggestions for what they would like to see added to Gratwick that would make it more of a city destination. Events such as Thunder on the Niagara, which draws people from all over the country as an annual event and is a great weekend outing, is an example. New and improved restrooms are coming to Gratwick and should surely be more welcoming than the previous facilities. The new restrooms are slotted for this year.

Finally, Schmigel said he is proud of his networking with his council peers and city department heads, and wants to continue to build on those partnerships for the betterment of the First Ward and entire city.

"This isn't Washington, D.C., politics," Schmigel said. "What I am doing is representing the residents of the First Ward, who want results, strong communication, and results."

He said this occurs when elected officials work together for the betterment of the city, and that is his plan for his second term. Schmigel

said he is honored to sit on the board of the Lumber City Development Corp., an organization that attracts new business ventures and allows current business to expand through low-interest loans, grants and other avenues, where the mayor and one city official are part of its astute committee members wanting the city continue to offer viable opportunities for business to succeed and stay in the Lumber City.

While some have painted a dismal financial forecast for the city, Schmigel said the last thing city officials want to do is raise taxes and burden the taxpayers. Noting the increases this year, he said they were not as bad as naysayers predicted. Schmigel noted the general fund and water fund do anticipate growth by year's end by streamlining and not reducing services the residents depend and

expect.

The TAN, or tax anticipation note, is exactly as it states, a very-low-interest loan. It's something many municipalities use yearly to offset money to cover expenses until annual city tax revenues are collected from residents. Schmigel said that, even during the best of times, prior to him sitting on the Common Council, the TAN has been exercised by the city and it is a responsible way while securing funding in lieu of anticipated revenue streams. Schmigel said, "Its use is suggested as best practice by the state comptroller's office, and by no means a cry for help."

Schmigel, happily married to his wife for 25 years and proud father of three successful adult children, is a store manager for CVS, a national pharmacy retailer. He has 30-plus years of manager experience and

noted his years in retail have provided insight into running a successful business. Schmigel said he being open-minded and proactive, and can establish ties, network and deal with vendor.

Schmigel is optimistic for the future of North Tonawanda and its continued forward momentum. He said he is committed to working with the mayor, the Common Council, and all city officials to be firm and fair, listen and be proactive in doing what is best for all city residents, and won't back-down while working for a solution.

The Youngstown Village Diner
425 Main St., Youngstown • 745-9858
~ WEEKLY SPECIALS ~
MON CLOSED
TUE 6AM-8PM - Spaghetti and Meatballs, Chicken Parm, Eggplant Parm, Penne Parm or Liver & Onions
WED 6AM-8PM - Swedish Meatballs over Noodles, Hot Turkey Sandwich or Fish
THURS 6AM-8PM - Stuffed Cabbage Rolls or Fish - *Battered, Breaded, Baked*
FRI 6AM-2PM - Haddock, Fish Sandwiches, Tuna Melts & New England Clam Chowder
SAT & SUN OPEN AT 6AM - Eggs Benedict, Banana Walnut Pancakes, Spinach & Feta Omelet & Our Full Breakfast & Lunch Menu
With a View of Niagara River

OLD FORT NIAGARA

Patriots' Day
Saturday, April 17th, 2021
ALL DAY - Commemorating the beginning of the American Revolution in 1775 and honoring veterans.
SEE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT ON OUR WEBSITE
www.oldfortniagara.org
745-7611

WELLNESS PARK PHARMACY
COME SEE THE DIFFERENCE

Local, Independently Owned & Operated Pharmacy Offering Fast & Friendly Service and FREE Local Delivery

Flu/Shingles Vaccinations with prescription
Compounding Available
CBD OILS
Creams, Gummies, Capsules & Topical Applications
Large Variety with Competitive Pricing
PCT Line Available for Pain, Anxiety, Inflammation, Insomnia

8672 Buffalo Ave. Niagara Falls
MON. - FRI. 9-6 • SAT. 9-3
260-1918
www.wellnessparkpharmacy.com



This page is sponsored by
Modern Disposal Services, Inc.
4746 Model City Road, Model City, NY - 754-8226