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Local leaders tour Stavatti-Niagara aircraft manufacturing hangar



Pictured, from left: Town of Niagara Supervisor Lee Wallace, Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, John R. Simon and Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino, in the 47,000-square-foot hangar, review the facility blue print.

Stavatti Niagara Ltd. President and CEO John R. Simon conducted a tour through the company's newly-acquired, 47,000-square-foot hangar where the company will be bringing aircraft manufacturing back to the Empire State. On tour was Town of Niagara Supervisor Lee Wallace, New York State Assemblyman Angelo Morinello, and Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino.

Wallace previously stated the former U.S. Army Reserve Center had largely been underutilized for many years. After the tour, he said, "It's a very exciting project. The Town of Niagara, when we first entered into the agreement with the Department of Defense to purchase this facility, back in 2005, we envisioned something of great need and great fortune to the town, and to the county. But never dreamed that it would be something like this. It will change the face of not only the Town of Niagara, but of Niagara

County, and will create thousands of jobs. Just a win-win for everyone."

Those "thousands of jobs" of which Wallace spoke includes not only Stavatti jobs, but also the spin-off jobs that such projects create. Stavatti's 19.8-acre site will serve as its prototype development, production and aircraft low-rate initial production center (rate, as in volume).

Stavatti said he anticipates the employment of nearly 600 aerospace engineering, development and manufacturing professionals at the site within the next five years. Anticipated key programs are next-generation Stavatti military, commercial and general aviation aircraft that include the SM-27 Machete (turboprop), SM-28 Machete (turbofan), SM-31 Stiletto, SM-100 twin-engine intermodal transport and SM-150 personal air vehicle.

After the tour, Restaino said, "It's an incredible and impressive building."

He went on to say he was impressed with the level of detail that was shared with him during the tour, and "I'm excited about the project."

A feather in the hat of 145th District Assemblyman Morinello, the project came to his region after an extensive 15-month review of responses from over 30 states and three Canadian provinces. Stavatti down-selected the former U.S. Army Reserve Command facility in June and started acquisition.

"It is extremely exciting that Stavatti has chosen the former Army Reserve Center ... for their headquarters and manufacturing facilities," Morinello said. "Our area is famous for airplane development and building, and Stavatti will carry on that proud tradition our area is known for. This project will benefit all of Western New York."

Simon said he welcomes opportunities to give other such tours to stakeholder representatives.

Garden Club gives back



The Lewiston Garden Club has continued to contribute to the festive spirit of the community during the pandemic. Activities included: the preparation of the wreaths hung by the village's Department of Public Works on lamp posts, placement of wreaths on Center Street fences, and decoration of small gardens in the village.

On Dec. 7, club members gathered to prepare donations for four families that were identified by Community Missions. Items provided included: foodstuffs, gifts for individual family members, decorated wreaths, and gift cards. The van sent for pick-up was filled with the donated items.

Members are looking forward to 2021 to hold regular meetings and plan for GardenFest 2021, which will be held June 19-20. GardenFest 2020, the major fundraiser for this organization, had to be canceled due to COVID-19.

Shown in the picture, from left: Garden Club members Doreen Albee, Kathleen Harold and Barbara Landree.

Catholic Health to serve as western region lead for COVID-19 vaccination planning

On Wednesday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced a hub approach to implementing the state's COVID-19 vaccination administration plan. He named Catholic Health the western region hub lead.

Incorporating the western economic development area, the region includes Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. Under the direction of New York state, Catholic Health will work with health care and community partners across the five counties to execute the regional vaccination plan.

"Catholic Health is honored to partner with regional leaders to establish a planning network that ensures the quickest, safest and most equitable distribution and administration of this precious vaccine to people across our region," said Mark Sullivan, president and CEO of Catholic Health.

As equitable distribution is a critical aspect of the vaccine planning process, Catholic Health will work with coordinating partners to quickly establish a health equity task force to identify key issues and best practices

SEE CATHOLIC, on Page 19

HIBBARD'S OLD PORTAGE SHOP

Christmas Eve 9:00am-4:00pm - Closed Christmas Day

OTHER DISCOUNTS & CASE PRICING DO NOT APPLY. PRICES GOOD 12/18/20 - 12/24/20

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