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North Tonawanda

Pappas declines to seek reelection

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

North Tonawanda Mayor Arthur G. Pappas announced on Tuesday that, after seven years in the position, he would not be seeking reelection.



North Tonawanda Mayor Arthur G. Pappas
(Image courtesy of his office)

In a press release titled "Moving On," Pappas said he is proud of the contributions he has made to the city and will look to continue to remain active in the community.

The announcement reads:

"This is my formal announcement that I will not be seeking reelection during this year's upcoming election cycle.

"I have always been proud of my contributions to my community through teaching, youth programs, as a school board member, among many other volunteer activities, but there was a time to move on from each of those positions and now it's time to move on from the office of mayor.

"I am just as proud of the accomplishments we as North Tonawandans have made during my tenure. I am able to walk away knowing economic development – despite a pandemic – is progressing well. All of the city departments are functioning efficiently for the residents of North Tonawanda. Again, despite a pandemic and recession, tax increases are minimal compared to other small cities all across the state.

"I am happy to be able to leave office, knowing the residents of North Tonawanda have been well represented with an open-door policy and can enjoy a high quality of life. I am confident and happy to say my successor will have a smooth and easy transition into the role as mayor thanks to all we (mayor, council, city employees, business owners and citizens) have achieved as we enter my seventh year as mayor of our great city.

"I am looking forward to the next challenge as I hope to remain active in our community."

Before entering politics, Pappas, a retired Starpoint school teacher, served on the North Tonawanda Board of Education for 17 years – he served nearly as long as school board president. In 2014, he was elected to the city's Common Council where he filled the seat of Alderman-at-Large Robert J. Clark after his death. Not long after, then-Mayor Robert G. Ort vacated his position after being elected to the New York State Senate, and the Common Council selected Pappas to fill the position.

Pappas was most recently elected to a four-year term in 2017.

Wydysh offers insight offered on state, County COVID-19 vaccination efforts

BY TERRY DUFFY

Editor-in-Chief

The Lewiston Senior Club and Town of Lewiston Senior Center hosted 2nd District Niagara County Legislator Becky Wydysh, chairwoman of the Niagara County Legislature, on Tuesday. She visited to offer some insight to an issue of demand among residents: When and where can I get vaccinated?

Wydysh was joined by 1st District Legislator Irene Myers, who appeared via Zoom. Myers was out of town recently and was adhering to COVID-19 isolation protocols with regard to travelling.

"I know that many of you have questions, about COVID, about the vaccine especially," Wydysh said. "It has been very frustrating trying to get those appointments."

Wydysh said a representative from the Niagara County Health Department was hoping to accompany her to Lewiston, but was busy in Lockport conducting a COVID-19 vaccine



Lewiston seniors listen as Niagara County Legislature Chairwoman Becky Wydysh speaks about COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Legislator Irene Myers participated via Zoom.

point-of-distribution that day. "They're going to give about 700-800 doses today. They couldn't be here because they are far too busy; we actually have some doses to give out."

SEE COVID-19, on Page 3



Lewiston Police seeks community input with survey

BY TERRY DUFFY

Editor-in-Chief

The Lewiston Police Department issued its anticipated community survey this week, seeking input on its service operations, police practices and any needs for improvement.

Found on LPD's new phone app, as well as online, the LPD survey is the department's response to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's state mandates issued in June 2020 calling on police reform measures. It was developed in response to the police-involved death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the resulting national protests.

Cuomo's executive order – the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative – requires all New York police agencies, including the LPD, to "develop a plan that reinvents and modernizes police strategies and programs in their community based on community input." Those that don't formulate a plan risk losing state funding.

Over past weeks, LPD, working with the Town of Lewiston, established a community panel headed by Supervisor Steve Broderick, a retired lieutenant with the Niagara County Sheriff's Office. Other members include Councilman John Jacoby, town attorney Alfonso



The Lewiston Police Department office on Creek Road, in front of the Lewiston-Porter campus.

Marra Bax, Lewiston Police Chief Frank Previte, Lewiston-Porter Superintendent of Schools Paul Casseri, Niagara Wheatfield Superintendent of Schools Daniel Ljiljanich, Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch and Deputy Mayor Vic Eydt, Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Pauly and

James Bissell, representing the Tuscarora Nation.

Following leadoff meetings with Previte, the committee worked on developing a series of questions intended to gauge community sentiment and provide responses. The survey opens with

SEE PUBLIC, continued on Page 13

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