



ARTHUR G. PAPPAS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Pappas Announces Ground Breaking Ceremony for New Raymond Klimek Veterans Park Band Shell

NORTH TONAWANDA - Mayor Arthur G. Pappas joined Niagara County Legislator Rich Andres, North Tonawanda Director of Parks and Recreation Patty Brosius, as well as additional City and County Officials, for a ground breaking ceremony in dedication of a new open air band shell in Raymond Klimek Veterans Park, which will replace the aging event stage purchased in 2003.

"I want to thank County Legislator Rich Andres for spearheading the effort in gaining the funds necessary for the new band shell," said Mayor Pappas. "North Tonawanda has excellent representation in State, County and City government and we continually work together in order to gain the necessary funding for these quality of life improvements for the City."

The band shell, purchased at a cost of \$89,836, was obtained with help from a grant provided by the Niagara River Greenway Commission, in the amount of \$90,000. An additional \$25,000 will be provided by the City of North Tonawanda in kind, for additional improvements in the park, including \$3,500 of electrical work, landscaping, installation and maintenance of shrubs and flowers, along with grass seeding. Additional storage facilities will also be featured.

Legislator Andres, chair of the committee that oversees County Greenway allocations, felt the band shell would make a perfect fit for Greenway funding. "North Tonawanda has a wonderful amount of waterfront parks and I am so excited this project will create yet another attraction to bring people to the waterfront," said Legislator Andres. "We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated officials that put results ahead of politics, and I am happy to be a part of this effort. The view and the atmosphere will make this a truly special place to hear great music, in our great City."

Entertainment opportunities are already being considered, with at least eight (8) Easy Listening Summer Concerts possible, which feature both easy listening and big band sounds, popular with residents and visiting senior citizens. In addition to concert nights, special events are held in Raymond Klimek Veterans Park as it is home to the U.S. Navy Seabees Monument, the U.S. Marines Corp. Monument and Robert Clark Purple Heart Monument. The band shell will be a staging area for the special events held by various occasions, whether it be military ceremonies or resident activities such as movie nights, wedding ceremonies and as a main hub for special events, such as walks/5K's, bicycle rides and other culture events.

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