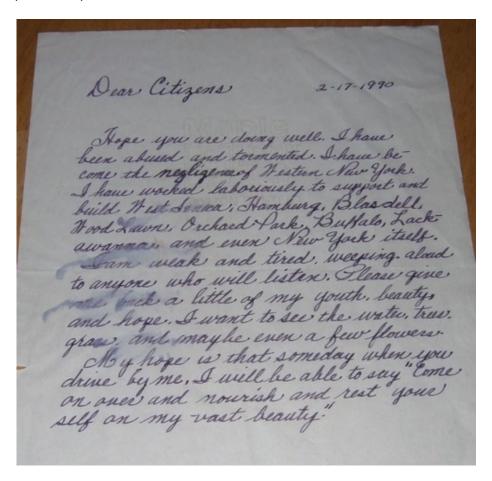
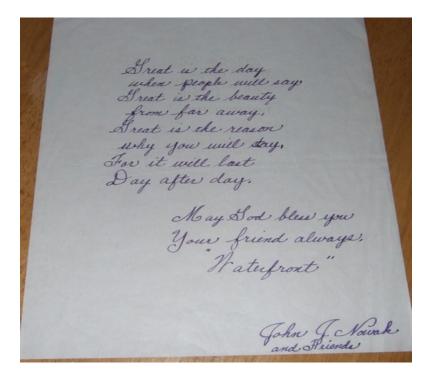
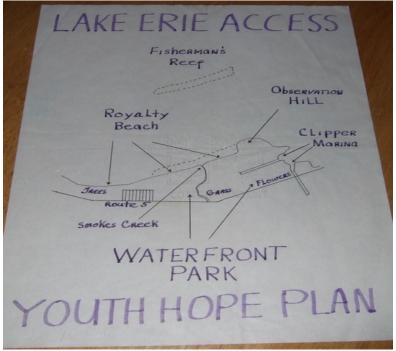
Waterfront of our City Lackawanna

In 1990, I began to be interested in the waterfront of our City Lackawanna, where once stood the Bethlehem steel mill, employing 20,000 people. Most of the plant closed down in 1983, except for the coke plant section. The politicians got to together with business men and planned to build a tired burning plant on our front door, our waterfront. The name of our city "Lackawanna" was an old Indian name meant forks or union of waters. Two streams enter Lackawanna and they become one stream entering into the lake. I wrote a letter, made a drawing and wrote a poem, presenting to politicians and organizations of the area. I had my mom write it, being she has the best penmanship.



Smearing, from my tears years ago is my best memory





Presented in person to the office of Senator Patrick Moynihan, office of Henry Nowak, sent to governor Como, in person to Gorski (Erie County Executive), mayor Griffin of Buffalo, Mayor Radich of Lackawanna, Mayor of Orchard Park, City hall of Blasdell and Hamburg, City council of Lackawanna, Environmental Protection Agency, Army of engineering Corps., Tift Farms, Channel Seven, Six and Three, Buffalo News and Horizons Waterfront Commission in 1990.

I talked to them about building a park, cleaning up the waterfront.



Around 1991, me and my niece wearing her life preserver, were on lake Erie, fishing beside an underwater reef. A short distance from the mouth of Niagara River and the Peace Bridge. We were in an old fiberglass boat about 20 feet long, painted red and white by my parents. The waves were four to five feet high perhaps from earlier winds, remained a stiff breeze. The boat on its sides imitated as if planks of wood. Reminded me of an old fishing trowler, and a deep V haul, curving underneath slightly to it's bow, enabled it to cut through the waves. Gentling throwing the top of the waves forward, as if it was made for bad weather. Trolling, we caught our limit of very large walleyes, each about eight to ten pound. Surprise how many large walleyes we were catching. Remembered at the time how recently the water in lake Erie became clear, able to see 30 feet down, through the water. The water use to be like spit pea soup. Then came the Zebra mussels, supposedly came from balas water in the large tanker ships, from across the world. They cleared the water in lake Erie as if pristine. I imagining how pristine the water must have been 200 years ago, teaming with fish. I thought of perhaps naming the boat after the girl from the skating rinks, but didn't know if it would be a good idea, to do that to myself. Decided it be best I shouldn't. I at times had imagined if perhaps her name there.

Presented to Horizons Waterfront Commission in 1991.

Gentlemen and Ladies,

This may be the last chance to give back the honor to Lackawanna. If you have ears to hear and eyes to see please save your first born.

Don't be deceived and follow the way of our forefathers. While giving us a fantasy of jobs for everyone.

There will always be the poor. We need instead a dream of solid foundation. Made up of a clean and open waterfront. This and nothing else will give the people of Western New York their self-image. Bringing people and families back together, realizing there greatest hopes for a self- reliant society base upon honesty and truthfulness.

Buffalo can and will become a great community. Making us the extra mile stone for generations

and cities to come.

Sincerely John Nowak

I created a large sign about eight foot by eight foot, drawing a sunset, the water and three fish. On it I wrote, Children, Help Save our Waterfront!

Children Help Save our Waterfront!

I place it in the front yard of one of my parent's houses, directly in front of the exit and entrance of the large department store. The largest store in our city, before it close, some years ago. It moved to where the old mall use to be, near the thruway. About the mall, remember when me and the girl entered, walked toward the center open plaza, she suddenly became upset, angered. She notice a girl was sitting or perhaps standing a distance away, perhaps notice she may of looked at us somewhat not nice. I wondered why she was so angered, thinking perhaps she was overreacting. Then feeling perhaps she loved me, or at least watching out for us. I wondered perhaps my long hair and black leather jacket, wasn't the best appearance. A few years after this, in the center of the mall, I notice the girl I left behind at the eternal flame falls. I said, hello, we may of chatted for a few seconds, and then went on our way.

Others in Lackawanna had came together to spearhead the move to stop the proposed tire burning plant and the another proposed project an infectious waste burning facility. Some people received death deaths over the phone. Some city workers drunk, ridiculed protesters. Knowing of a family that moved away from the city, due to death threats, fear for their children. The tire burning plant, was eventually defeated a year or two later.

What is special about Lackawanna?

1-14-1993

What is special about Lackawanna? Is it the dilapidation, rusting, and polluted waterfront? Might it be the almost 50 bars across from many of your homes, on our most public streets, enticing our women and men? Were our past leaders worthy of your honor, truthful and looking out for your interest?

There is something we can say is special about Lackawanna. Our city has a small town friendliness, convenience, and is perched partially upon a ridge liken to an eagle. Our city is surrounded by freshwater teaming with fish, abundant farms, rolling forested hills and distant vineyards.

For eighty years and then some, we have wavered in doubt of our real hope. I ask of the businesses occupying our waterfront, between Route 5 and Lake Erie, how many depend solely upon the now returning cleaner water? How many jobs can be relocated on this side of Route 5? How many jobs does Lackawanna actually need?

I hope the treasured thoughts in our hearts will be to reclaim, restore, and reform our waterfront. To protect and continue to nurture our young women and men to become lifetime married, responsible, more caring parents, and to cherish and enjoy this enduring place to live.

To accomplish a more neighborly perspective, accountable and caring city government, we need to introduce legislation that will give city and school jobs to only residents of Lackawanna. Current non-resident employees should have their jobs if they become residents within one year.

We are a city of many families. Because of this, there should be only one city or school job per family, residence, dependent upon sufficient qualification. This will help to protect us against family partiality and spread tax dollars more evenly among our citizens. Employees who have worked longer

then seven years should not be affected.

If family businesses, clubs, institutions, professors of colleges, and even politicians, with their political parties use volunteers to reduce cost, then our city needs to reach out and do the same.

We should always have a paid government workers of about fifty percent of the city work force. With some effort, the other fifty percent can be made up of volunteers into two groups. The first group, because of necessity, can have incentive of reduced city and school taxes, based upon hours of service. The second group of volunteers' incentive could be the gratitude of the contributing to the honor of Lackawanna. Special days of recognition could be sponsored by citizens and city government. This approach will stabilize our taxes and reduce them below their current levels.

I , John Nowak, an Independent Candidate, have no political party machine backing me. So hopefully, my allegiance is to the many neighbors of the third ward and Lackawanna.

Your conversation, support and vote is important to me. Yet you should know I am not retired, nor a home owner, I lived with my parents all my life, and am self employed. However, I will try my best with my heart, understanding, breath, and strength to help support and care for Lackawanna and her people. Please do not turn your back any longer, our waterfront needs you.

May God bless all John Nowak

In 1995 I ran for mayor writing.

Lackawanna's Waterfront Park

7-8-1995

There are technologies available, some using high temperature to break down contaminates, into harmless substances. Others being used today, by the city of Tonawanda, to save there waterfront for a park. But as so many of our hopes, our leaders are silent, not willing to search them out and use ingenuity to make our honorable hopes come true.

Lonesome our waterfront reflects across to us blackness darkness, with towering whirlwinds of hopelessness buffeted along, liken to the carousing in bars, adulterous living together, and pornographic (a pornographic shop along route five adjacent to the waterfront) by arrogance rooted in the love of money. Falling on us and our children, deteriorating our dreams and moral groundings.

Will lost true love of our priceless view of the water, sunsets, tress, and the fresh air bring us together in meekness? Will we be scattered by haughty voices from religions, forms of atheism, political parties, labor unions, and unconstitutional government sponsored psychologies? Our destiny will solely depend upon the creator's willingness to soften man's hearts to begin Lackawanna's Waterfront Restoration.

The buffalo news paper wrote a small article.

Lackawanna candidate wants 2 mile beach, park

August 21,1995

John Nowak figures he has about 1-in-2000 chance of being elected mayor of Lackawanna (I figured at the time there are about 20,000 people live in Lackawanna, one is going to be elected) but is waging an independent, write-in campaign for post as a way to promote his dream of a two mile-long beach and park on the shores of Lake Erie.

Nowak, 30, who has a one man lawn maintenance and snow-plowing business, dreams of combining Woodlawn beach in Hamburg with a cleaned up Bethlehem Steel site in Lackawanna to form a waterfront park.

He is vague about how to pay for the project but says it would provide "restful peace" for residents and help change Lackawanna's image from a Rust Belt city to a "northern Paradise"

Nowak said he decided to run as an independent rather then seek a party endorsement so that he would not have to go through the petition process.

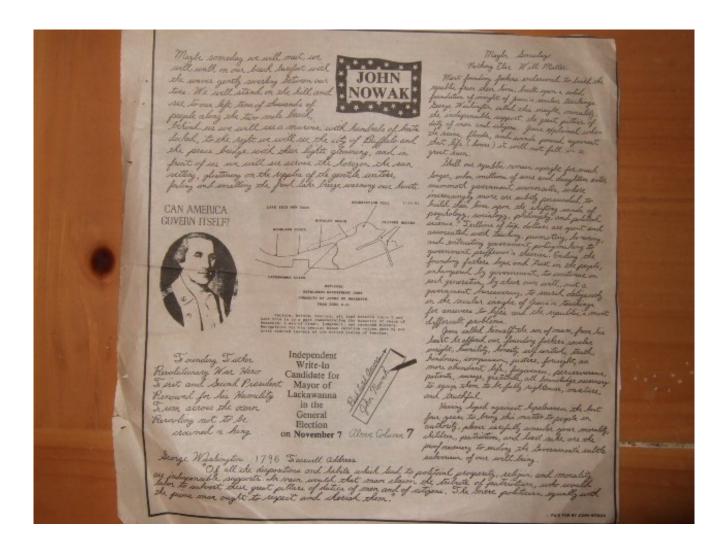
In 1993 Nowak ran as an independent write in candidate (think the Buffalo newspaper made a mistake, I did gather in 1993 the needed amount of signatures, submitting them, officially place my name on the ballot) for the Third Ward Council seat and finished a distant third in a four-person race with 43 votes out of about 1,800 cast.

Found another brief writing I written, how to deal with patronage jobs. Perhaps it was written in my first election campaign, or perhaps my second, can't remember which for sure.

Our city needs a list with a citizens approval of his or her names and their qualifications. In good faith the mayor should sit down with the city council, sort through, and interview these perspective citizens for all future open jobs in the city work force. During the meeting if the mayor and each councilmen cannot totally agree on the best qualified citizen. Then seven best perspectives should have their names written on slips of paper and place in a box. Then the mayor should place her or his hand in the box, without looking, to select the person who will be employed by the city.

Thinking on March 5, 2007, about when I wrote "for affirmative action, against quotas", and finding my brief writing concerning patronage jobs. I thought why not used such a system for granting acceptance into universities. All government universities (private universities volunteer only) will by law, place all students applications into categories from highest accredited to lowest, without indifference to race, color, sex, religion, political. The names in each category, will be written on slips of paper and placed in a box. Then some one perhaps the president of the university, board member, or student, will be selected to reach into the box and pull out the specified number of names, for each category of accreditation.

Perhaps we could also use the system similar to above to awarding tenure to professors.



John Jerome Nowak

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