

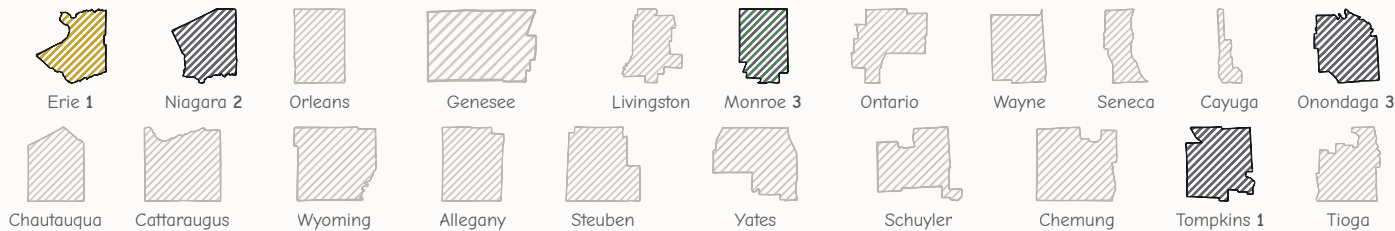


NIAGARA ASSEMBLY · REGIONAL NEWS / 001

Western New York

Issue One · 10 October 2026

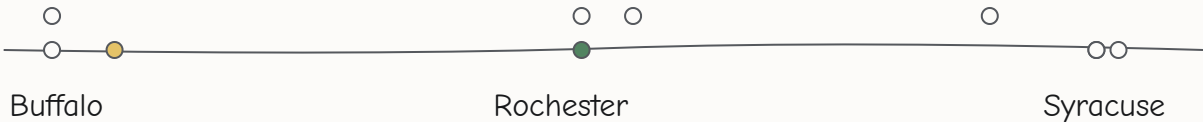
News from Sept. 28 to Oct. 9, 2026



County outlines · counts show stories in this issue · green: completed / yellow: announced / grey: other news

Issue One covers Western New York investment and industry news from Sept. 28 to Oct. 9, 2026. Solstice Advanced Materials announced a \$49M Buffalo R&D expansion and Goodyear said it will close its Niagara Falls chemical plant, while defense contracts touched Liverpool, Syracuse and Niagara Falls.

Reviewed news from the Niagara River to Syracuse: who is investing, building, hiring and starting up. Every story has passed Niagara Assembly’s source review, and each one carries our reading of it: how far along it is, and what is still unconfirmed.



Story locations, schematic. Green: completed. Yellow: announced. Hollow: other stages.

In this issue

Investment and industry	6	In development	2
Corridor news	2	Dollar figures, jobs & public support	
People, organisations & sources			

Read online: niagaraassembly.com/desks/us/ny/western-new-york/issue/one/

The issue in figures

Amounts as stated in the stories. Each figure is its own kind of money; contract ceilings are excluded.

\$49M Investment announced	\$30.1M Contract money committed contract or award	\$37M Award, as the company reports it contract or award
\$75M Purchase price completed	\$1.4M Grant not counted: corridor news	\$6M Proposed spending not counted: in development

Announced investment and committed contract money tied to work in the region

\$49M announced investment + **\$18.9M** committed contract money = **\$67.9M**

plus an undisclosed share of an \$11.2M contract (Liverpool, Lithuania)

Contract amounts come from a secondary listing; the original notice wasn't accessed.

Investment

\$49M Solstice to invest \$49M expanding Buffalo R&D center

Announced · investment · Peabody Street, Buffalo

Investment total
\$49M announced

Contracts: money committed

\$18.9M	Lockheed Martin's Liverpool radar work gets \$18.9M contract change	Contract or award · obligated · Liverpool, Onondaga County · ceiling \$1B
\$11.2M	\$11.2M radar-parts contract splits work between Liverpool and Lithuania	Contract or award · obligated · Liverpool, Lithuania · ceiling \$64.5M
\$14.3K	Niagara Air Reserve Station awards base-support contract	Contract or award · obligated · Niagara Falls, Niagara County · Corridor news · ceiling \$38.8M

Contracts: money committed total

\$30.1M contract or award

1 line from other sections not counted

Awards as reported

\$37M	SRC reports \$37M Air Force prototype award	Contract or award · award · Syracuse, Onondaga County
-------	---	---

Awards as reported total

\$37M contract or award

Deals

\$75M	Constellation Brands buys SpikedAde for \$75M	Completed · transaction · Rochester (buyer HQ)
-------	---	--

Deals total

\$75M completed

Grants

\$1.4M	Cornell's Peter McMahon receives \$1.35M photonics research award	Contract or award · grant · Ithaca, Tompkins County · Corridor news
--------	---	---

Grants total

Not totalled: in-development and corridor news are listed, not counted

Proposed

\$6M

Wilbert's seeks approval for \$6M Salt Road expansion

Application only · proposed · Salt Road, Penfield or Webster · In development

Proposed total

Not totalled: in-development and corridor news are listed, not counted

Jobs

Job figures as the sources state them. Where they disagree, the story shows each one.

+12

Solstice to invest \$49M expanding Buffalo R&D center

Announced · Peabody Street, Buffalo

Disputed

Goodyear to close Niagara Falls chemical plant: sources disagree on jobs

Plan approved · Niagara Falls, Niagara County

Public support

Tax credits and other public awards; kept apart from the dollar figures.

\$1.4M

Excelsior Jobs Program

tax credit · Solstice Advanced Materials

\$1M

Luminate NY (state-backed accelerator)

accelerator award · Gekko Photonics

Coming up

Dated next steps in this issue’s stories, soonest first.

Oct. 31, 2026	Production ends; decommissioning follows	The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company · Niagara Falls, Niagara County
June 2027	12 new full-time jobs due	Solstice Advanced Materials · Peabody Street, Buffalo
June 30, 2029	Contract work expected to finish	Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems · Liverpool, Onondaga County
March 30, 2030	Contract work expected to finish	Lockheed Martin Global Inc. · Liverpool, Lithuania
Nov. 30, 2031	Contract work expected to finish	Criterion Corporation · Niagara Falls, Niagara County

Investment and industry

Announced

\$49M investment

Solstice to invest \$49M expanding Buffalo R&D center

Expansion · Oct 9, 2026 · Peabody Street, Buffalo · Solstice Advanced Materials

Solstice will invest \$49M to expand its Buffalo R&D center, adding 12 jobs, with up to \$1.4M in state Excelsior tax credits. The governor's and company's announcements quote different spokespeople and name forms.

Jobs	12 added
Public support	\$1.4M tax credit (Excelsior Jobs Program)
Next	12 new full-time jobs due, June 2027
Districts	NY-26 · Senate 63, 61 · Assembly 149, 141, 142, 140, 143 (Buffalo)
Stage	Announced Oct. 9, 2026

Sources disagree on spokesperson Sources disagree on legal name

Sources disagree on spokesperson

Ryan Hulse, Senior Director for R&D	Governor Kathy Hochul newsroom
Tom Isberg, Vice President, R&D	PR Newswire

Sources disagree on legal name

Solstice Advanced Materials US, Inc.	Governor Kathy Hochul newsroom
Solstice Advanced Materials (Nasdaq: SOLS)	PR Newswire

Sources: [Governor Kathy Hochul newsroom](#) (primary source); [PR Newswire](#) (company source)

Completed

\$75M transaction

Constellation Brands buys SpikedAde for \$75M

Acquisition · Oct 6, 2026 · Rochester (buyer HQ) · Constellation Brands

SpikedAde production location not disclosed.

Next	SpikedAde team moves into Constellation's Beer Division
Districts	NY-25 · Senate 56, 55 · Assembly 137, 136, 138 (Rochester)
Stage	Completed Oct. 7, 2026

Production location not disclosed.
Source: [Rochester Business Journal](#) (news report)

Contract or award

\$37M award

SRC reports \$37M Air Force prototype award

Contract · Oct 1, 2026 · Syracuse, Onondaga County · SRC, Inc.

SRC reports a \$37M Air Force prototype award for its Ghost Mantis technology. No production commitment or local job count disclosed.

Next Air Force prototype evaluation
Districts NY-22 · Senate 48 · Assembly 129, 128 (Syracuse)
Stage Contract or award Oct. 1, 2026

Company-reported; not independently confirmed

Source: [SRC, Inc.](#) (news report)

Plan approved

Goodyear to close Niagara Falls chemical plant

Closure · Sep 29, 2026 · Niagara Falls, Niagara County · The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

Goodyear plans to close its Niagara Falls chemical plant, with production expected to end Oct. 31, 2026. Sources differ on jobs: about 85 across two sites (SEC filing) vs. 60 local (Niagara Gazette).

Next Production ends; decommissioning follows, Oct. 31, 2026
Districts NY-26 · Senate 62 · Assembly 145 (Niagara Falls)
Stage Plan approved Oct. 1, 2026

Sources disagree on jobs lost

Sources disagree on other site

Warn notice not disclosed.

Sources disagree on jobs lost

About 85 jobs across Niagara Falls and Bayport, Texas combined; no Niagara Falls-only figure
60 local jobs
Niagara Falls-only headcount not confirmed

SEC EDGAR / Goodyear
Niagara Gazette via CNHI
WKBW

Sources disagree on other site

Bayport, Texas
Pasadena, Texas

SEC EDGAR / Goodyear
Niagara Gazette via CNHI

Sources: [SEC EDGAR / Goodyear](#) (primary source); [Niagara Gazette via CNHI](#) (news report); [Spectrum News](#) (news report); [WBEN / Audacy](#) (news report); [Buffalo Toronto Public Media](#) (news report); [WKBW](#) (news report)

Contract or award

\$18.9M obligated
Contract ceiling \$1B

Lockheed Martin's Liverpool radar work gets \$18.9M contract change

Contract · Sep 28, 2026 · Liverpool, Onondaga County · Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems

An \$18.9M change to an existing Air Force radar contract with work in Liverpool. The ~\$1B figure is the contract ceiling, not new spending.

Next Contract work expected to finish, June 30, 2029
Districts NY-22 · Senate 50 · Assembly 128 (Liverpool)
Stage Contract or award Sept. 28, 2026

Contract ceiling, not money committed or spent. From a secondary listing; original notice not accessed.
Source: [Forth / War.gov mirror](#) (news report)

Contract or award

\$11.2M obligated
Contract ceiling \$64.5M

\$11.2M radar-parts contract splits work between Liverpool and Lithuania

Contract · Sep 28, 2026 · Liverpool, Lithuania · Lockheed Martin Global Inc.

An \$11.2M radar-parts contract change with work in Liverpool and Lithuania; the Liverpool share is not disclosed.

Next Contract work expected to finish, March 30, 2030
Districts NY-22 · Senate 50 · Assembly 128 (Liverpool)
Stage Contract or award Sept. 28, 2026

Regional share not disclosed. Contract ceiling, not money committed or spent. From a secondary listing; original notice not accessed.
Source: [Forth / War.gov mirror](#) (news report)

In development

Application only

\$6M proposed

Wilbert's seeks approval for \$6M Salt Road expansion

Expansion · Oct 6, 2026 · Salt Road, Penfield or Webster · Wilbert's Premium Auto Parts

Not an approved or under-construction project as of source date.

- Next Penfield Planning Board decision on the application
- Districts NY-25 · Senate 55 · Assembly 135, 130 (Penfield, Webster)
- Stage Application only Oct. 6, 2026

Sources disagree on municipality

Sources disagree on municipality
Salt Road, Penfield
1272 Salt Rd, Webster, NY 14580

Rochester Business Journal
Wilbert's Premium Auto Parts website

Source: [Rochester Business Journal](#) (news report)

Stated intent

Gekko Photonics confirms Rochester office, plans local hiring

Update · Oct 2, 2026 · Rochester, Finger Lakes · Gekko Photonics

Gekko Photonics says it has a Rochester office and plans local engineering hires and regional suppliers; no headcount or facility announced yet.

- Public support \$1M accelerator award (Luminate NY (state-backed accelerator))
- Next Local engineering and support hiring (no headcount given)
- Districts NY-25 · Senate 56, 55 · Assembly 137, 136, 138 (Rochester)
- Stage Stated intent Oct. 2, 2026

Company-reported; not independently confirmed

Source: [Gekko Photonics](#) (news report)

Corridor news

Contract or award

\$1.4M grant

Cornell's Peter McMahon receives \$1.35M photonics research award

Grant · Oct 1, 2026 · Ithaca, Tompkins County · Cornell University

Research grant, not a production or hiring commitment: \$1.35M over five years for programmable photonic chip research at Cornell.

Districts NY-19 · Senate 52 · Assembly 125 (Ithaca)

Stage Contract or award Oct. 1, 2026

Research funding, not a production or hiring commitment

Not counted in WNY production totals.

Source: [Cornell Chronicle](#) (news report)

Contract or award

\$14.3K obligated
Contract ceiling \$38.8M

Niagara Air Reserve Station awards base-support contract

Contract · Sep 28, 2026 · Niagara Falls, Niagara County · Criterion Corporation

Base maintenance and logistics contract at Niagara Air Reserve Station: \$38.8M ceiling, \$14,317 obligated so far. Contractor identity is still being confirmed.

Next Contract work expected to finish, Nov. 30, 2031

Districts NY-26 · Senate 62 · Assembly 145 (Niagara Falls)

Stage Contract or award Sept. 28, 2026

Company identity still being confirmed

Being confirmed: contractor identity. Contract ceiling, not money committed or spent. From a secondary listing; original notice not accessed. Not counted in WNY production totals.

Sources: [Forth / War.gov mirror](#) (news report); [HigherGov](#) (news report); [Womyn Owned](#) (news report)

People & organisations

Names, roles and organisation locations as recorded in the issue.

Mentions

David Sewell

President and CEO, Solstice Advanced Materials

Kathy Hochul

Governor of New York, State of New York

Nicholas Fink

President and CEO, Constellation Brands

Peter McMahon

Award recipient (Cornell researcher; title not stated in source), Cornell University

Robert Restaino

Mayor of Niagara Falls, City of Niagara Falls

Ryan Hulse

Senior Director for R&D, Solstice Advanced Materials

Tom Isberg

Vice President, R&D, Solstice Advanced Materials

Who these stories are about

Based in the region

Constellation Brands

Rochester · 1

Cornell University

Ithaca · 1

SRC, Inc.

Syracuse · 1

Wilbert's Premium Auto Parts

unresolved Penfield or Webster · 1

Based outside the region

Gekko Photonics

Wroclaw, Poland · 1

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

Akron, Ohio · 1

Solstice Advanced Materials

Morris Plains · 1

Headquarters not stated

Criterion Corporation

1

Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems

1

Lockheed Martin Global Inc.

1

By district

Matched by town rather than exact address. How districts are matched.

Congress	NY-19 · NY-22 · NY-25 · NY-26
State Senate	48 · 50 · 52 · 55 · 56 · 61 · 62 · 63
Assembly	125 · 128 · 129 · 130 · 135 · 136 · 137 · 138 · 140 · 141 · 142 · 143 · 145 · 149

Source directory

Source links also accompany each story. The directory keeps their full addresses available in a printed copy.

Governor Hochul Announces Solstice Advanced Materials to Expand in Buffalo

Governor Kathy Hochul newsroom · primary source

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-solstice-advanced-materials-expand-buffalo>

Solstice Announces \$49 Million Investment to Expand Research and Development Capabilities in Buffalo, New York

PR Newswire · company source

<https://finance.yahoo.com/technology/articles/solstice-announces-49-million-investment-153200194.html>**Constellation Brands acquires SpikedAde for \$75M**

Rochester Business Journal · secondary source

<https://rbj.net/2026/10/07/constellation-brands-acquires-spikedade-rochester/>**Wilbert's plans expansion of auto parts facility in Penfield**

Rochester Business Journal · secondary source

<https://rbj.net/2026/10/06/wilberts-expands-auto-parts-facility-penfield>**Gekko Photonics wins the Company of the Year award at Luminate NY 2026**

Gekko Photonics · secondary source

<https://gekkophotonics.com/en/gekko-photonics-company-of-the-year>**SRC's Ghost Mantis Technology Selected for U.S. Air Force LASS Prototype OTA**

SRC, Inc. · secondary source

<https://www.srcinc.com/news-and-events/press/2026/20261001-contract-airforce-lass-ghost-mantis-gen3.html>**McMahon gets Moore Foundation award for programmable photonic chips**

Cornell Chronicle · secondary source

<https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2026/10/mcmahon-gets-moore-foundation-award-programmable-photonic-chips>**The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company Form 8-K: chemical facility closure plan**

SEC EDGAR / Goodyear · primary source

<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/42582/000162828026064270/gt-20260929.htm>**Goodyear will exit chemical business in the Falls**

Niagara Gazette via CNHI · secondary source

https://www.cnhi.com/rss_feed/goodyear-will-exit-chemical-business-in-the-falls**Goodyear Chemical shutting down Niagara Falls facility**

Spectrum News · secondary source

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/buffalo/news/2026/10/01/goodyear-chemical-shutting-down-niagara-falls-facility>**Goodyear closing Niagara Falls plant at end of October**

WBEN / Audacy · secondary source

<https://www.audacy.com/wben/news/business/goodyear-closing-niagara-falls-plant-at-end-of-october>

Goodyear's Niagara Falls chemical plant to close

Buffalo Toronto Public Media · secondary source

<https://www.btpm.org/local/2026-10-02/goodyears-niagara-falls-chemical-plant-to-close>**Community responds to Goodyear closing in Niagara Falls**

WKBW · secondary source

<https://www.wkbw.com/niagara-county/community-responds-to-goodyear-closing-in-niagara-falls>**Contracts for Sept. 28, 2026**

Forth / War.gov mirror · secondary source

<https://www.forth.news/lists/dod/CfWYYiypPGyjdvtXbEB1x>**Criterion Corporation — contractor identity profile**

HigherGov · secondary source

<https://www.highergov.com/awardee/criterion-corporation-610600988>**Criterion Corporation — registration directory comparison**

Womyn Owned · secondary source

<https://www.womynowned.com/vendor/criterion-corporation>

About this edition

Niagara Assembly's Western New York desk follows investment and industry news from the Niagara River to Greater Syracuse. Read our news research methods.

This PDF uses the frozen Issue One export generated 2026-10-10T23:13:54+00:00; research revision 805fbc2. The reporting and review status are those of the issue, not a later update.

Receive regional news

Subscribe through niagaraassembly.com/desks/us/ny/western-new-york/.

Niagara Assembly (unincorporated)
office@niagaraassembly.com