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Educator honored

Peter Demmin will be recognized by the Amherst Central Alumni Foundation. See page 34

Fresh cider

Mayer Bros. is back at the Williamsville Water Mill. See page two

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
Town of Amherst
Village of Williamsville
County of Erie
Amherst Central Schools
Sweet Home Central Schools
Williamsville Central Schools

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\$1.00

Improvement plans to address flooding

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

After presenting the proposed Capital Improvements Projects for the 2007 budget process at a recent work session, Planning Director Rick Gillert said the list has already changed. Some of the added projects will address the flooding issue in Town.

Still not finalized, the CIPs will need approval based on the budget and available funding. Gillert said following the presentation Supervisor Satish Mohan had asked that flooding issues be addressed in the coming year.

CIPs are not routine maintenance projects and focus on remedial and town-wide efforts.

Throughout the summer, with many heavy rainstorms recorded, residents came to Town

Board meetings asking when a solution would be found. Sewer systems not able to handle the heavy downpour backed water into roads, houses and lawns.

Town Engineer Jeffrey S. Burroughs said projects are part of a larger list and moved up the list based on health, safety and funding.

"Say the Ransom Creek project, that is out in the future because of the cost of the project," he said.

Burroughs added that urgent projects are taken care of but funding, whether the project is bonded or paid for by tax dollars, also is taken into consideration.

"Flooding projects were not moved back," he said about adaptations being made to the list.

The second draft of the 2007-2012 supervisor's recommended capital improvement program includes waterline replacements, im-

provements to sanitary and storm systems and replacement of grit collectors.

A \$19 million flood control project at Ransom Creek is scheduled for 2011 and will include the construction of a flood control project to provide 25-year storm protection for chronic flooding in the Random Oaks area.

Funding is expected to come through federal or state aid and a sanitary sewer district bond.

If the program is adopted in its current state, which is subject to change, will include the following projects:

- Waterline replacements (in various pipe sizes) will take place on Hopkins Road, between North French Road and Dodge Road; Schimwood and Mountbleu; Ransom Oaks Drive, Ginger Court and Oak Hill Court; (Please turn to back page)

D.A.R.E. program eliminated

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

The Williamsville, Sweet Home and Amherst school districts have had the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program removed from their curricula.

Schools across the country have been using the D.A.R.E. program since it was founded in 1983 to educate students on the dangers of drug abuse.

Chief John Moslow of the Amherst Police Department said the program has been removed in response to budget cuts, but the department will continue to have a presence in the schools, educating students on bullying, drugs and Internet dangers.

"Most likely we will present in an assembly format, covering many classes at the same time," Moslow said. "Important topics, such as staying with the message of the dangers of drug abuse, will be (Please turn to back page)



Defense

Amherst Central's Andre Hakeem and Chris Brunetto join forces to tackle Williamsville North's T.J. McDuffie during the Tigers' 28-6 home victory last Thursday. The Tigers' defense caused three turnovers. It was Amherst's third consecutive win.

Photo by Joe Eberle

Ward will run for county executive O'Loughlin to seek endorsements

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

Dan Ward plans to make another run for the Erie County Executive position.

Announced Monday night during a campaign party, Ward said he officially declared his candidacy for the November 2007 election.

"I probably made the decision three and a half years ago," he said about losing the November 2003 election.

He added that the campaign and election results were positive enough that he was encouraged to do it again. Ward, a Democrat, lost to County Executive Joel Giambra, who was the incumbent in

2003, having beaten Dennis Gorski in 1999.

Currently serving as a Town of Amherst Board Member, Ward also served as town supervisor from 1990-94 and as a county legislator from 1975-78.

With the announcement officially being made, Ward said he will continue his requirements as a town board member and also start campaigning in the upcoming months.

He will also be seeking endorsements from the Democratic, Working Families, Independence and Conservative parties — ex-



Dan Ward

pected to be announced following this fall's election and possibly closer to the spring, Ward said.

His main goal would be getting the county in good fiscal standing.

"All of the executive's promises quickly dissipated and was followed by fiscal chaos," Ward said, adding he believes the county fiscal nightmare may finally be coming to a conclusion.

Not following legal operations was one of the major problems for the fiscal difficulties, Ward, a practicing attorney, said.

"I respect the law, it was the theme of my last campaign," he said. "With the mess we are in now, the county needs someone to go back, look at the law, and that will keep (us) out of trouble."

Ward's opposition could be very close to home. Fellow Town Board Member William A. O'Loughlin Jr. has said he will run for county executive if he receives the Erie County Republican Party endorsement, along with either the Conservative and Independence endorsements, or preferably both.

O'Loughlin said his intentions to run started a year ago when then (Please turn to back page)