

letters

to the Editor

Earth Day

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books and toys. The participating groups include environmental groups, Explorers, high schools, homeowners' groups, League of Women Voters Amherst Unit, Masonic lodges, Rotary groups, Scouts, town committees and a multitude of other volunteers. During the Great American Cleanup, 471 individuals collected 240 bags of garbage. The program increases yearly in popularity as others find out about it and wish to do something for the town. These efforts keep town cleanup costs down, and our membership in the Keep Western New York Beautiful Program supplies us with the items needed for cleanups.

Valerie Moliterno
Education Chair
Solid Waste Committee

Shop at Eastern Hills Mall

Originally from Maryland, I have been a proud resident of Clarence/Williamsville for 13 years. It has been pleasing to watch the local area flourish and grow, including the gorgeous renovations done to the Eastern Hills Mall. The economic viability of this mall has great influence on the Clarence and Williamsville area.

However, I wonder if my fellow neighbors understand the need to patronize the stores that have valiantly taken a risk on this new venture. We boast a more beautiful and intimate local mall than any other suburb. The parking is plentiful and convenient. There is a no-hassle atmosphere with easy access to just about every shop, without the markup pricing of some malls.

While growing up, I was taught the power of money. Anyone who is about to spend a dollar has the power to build or destroy. Should we, the residents, use our power to build a megalopolis at other increasingly busy malls and neglect our very own jewel at Eastern Hills Mall? Should we vote with our dollars to watch a large portion of precious resources in shops, real estate and local ambience turn belly up? Should we allow the entire tract of land on Transit between Main Street and Sheridan Drive to go bankrupt, become vacant, empty into hollow buildings and turn into an

eyesore? Should we drive farther past our mall to spend our hard-earned dollars elsewhere, only to be actively contributing to the devaluing of our own residential property?

Property owner, do not be fooled. The desirability and, consequently, the property value of the area, will not withstand the demise of the Eastern Hills Mall.

I purposefully chose to live in the area. It is truly a blessing in every way. Please, let us consider the future of our beautiful suburb. Make it a priority to consider shopping at Eastern Hills Mall — and enjoy it.

Linda Klippenstein
Red Tail Run
Williamsville

Jack Davis doesn't have the answers

Jack Davis wants to go to Congress and claims he never had a deficit. Did he inherit his home? Just what is this perfect business that he doesn't even interview his employees? He said on the radio that he employs two companies to do that for him.

I have news for Mr. Davis. Most of us have had to work hard for a living and borrow money at a deficit to buy our homes and cars. Further, I am thankful that my boss thought enough of me as an employee to spend time with me in an interview and match my skills to the job I have.

Mr. Davis sounds so arrogant, and I cannot imagine why he doesn't just run for president. He seems to think that he has all of the answers, but when questioned, he avoids the topics. He has not persuaded me at all. I am insulted by his ad, and he won't get votes from anyone until he gets real.

David Pyne
Campbell Boulevard
Amherst

Cassidy meets true definition of coach

There is a coach in the Williamsville school district that has yet to cut an athlete because of the inability to find an open slot

on his team. Oh, he may dismiss someone for consistent lack of performance or for breaking the rules (for example, drinking, smoking, or using illegal drugs). He won't hold a spot on the team for only those that have the best times, or those that may have been in the varsity ranks the year before, or for a child whose older sibling has participated in the sport and whose parents are in the position to "groom" this younger sibling.

This coach, North swim coach Doug Cassidy, will actually let all

who join the team participate. He says that it's his job (along with his assistant coaches) to figure out how to get the 60-plus athletes enough practice time, it's his job to find a way to get everyone to participate in the next school-versus-school competition, and it's his job to figure out how to give each athlete enough attention so that they can reach their full potential. And when he says full potential, he doesn't just mean making sure that his team has the best score at the end of the day, he includes the word

"service" — service to each team member by encouraging teammates, service within his team by teaching each others what will help them to be better athletes, and service to the community by participating in events that will help a greater cause.

No, my child may not receive a varsity letter at the end of four years in high school, but my child will know the true meaning of the word "team" thanks to this coach and his compassion to teach.

A.M. Tunkey
Getzville

New vendors added to Univera Healthcare's 2Smart 2Start Program

Univera Healthcare's 2Smart 2Start youth smoking prevention program will be adding two new vendors to their list of local business who provide discounts to Western New York students who sign their smoke-free pledge: Book Outlet with five locations throughout WNY, and Xtreme Wheels Indoor Skate Park in Buffalo, recently were added.

"Since we both promote healthy habits for kids, it makes sense for Xtreme Wheels to team up with Univera Healthcare's 2Smart 2Start program," Virginia Mazgajewski, owner of Xtreme Wheels Indoor Skate Park, said. "I'm glad Xtreme Wheels will be a participating vendor for the 2006-2007 school year and I'm sure the kids of Western New York will be glad too."

Since the program's inception in March 1999,

more than 118,000 students in WNY have participated in the 2Smart 2Start program and have signed the 2Smart 2Start pledge. Students are given the pledge card after taking part in one of the program elements designed specifically for their grade. The pledge card is also a discount card that can be used at participating vendors and is a reward for those who make this healthy choice.

Xtreme Wheels will be offering savings to students to use their 2Smart 2Start discount card, while the Book Outlet is offering a downloadable coupon for students who access the 2Smart 2Start Web site.

Xtreme Wheels, is located at 356 Hertel Ave. Buffalo and The Book Outlet has locations in Amherst at the Northtown Plaza, 3097 Sheridan Drive and 2379 Maple Road in the Tops Plaza.

Community Briefs

The University at Buffalo's Student Association will be holding its annual Homecoming Carnival on Friday, Oct. 6. The Ellicott Creek Trailway will be closed at 5 p.m. between St. Rita's Lane to John James Audubon.

Claude E. Welch Jr. of Snyder, a University at Buffalo faculty member, has been named the recipient of the first Lifetime Achievement Award presented by TIAA-CREF, the leading provider of

retirement services in the academic, research, medical and cultural fields. Welch received the SUNY-wide award, as well as a \$10,000 grant from the SUNY Research Foundation, at the annual research and scholarship dinner held in Albany.

Suburban Women's Club of Buffalo, will host a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10 at Sean Patrick's, 33480 Millersport Highway.

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