

Meetings

Junior League offers Community Assistance grants

The Junior League of Buffalo has announced its 2006-07 Community Assistance Small Grants Program's request for proposals. Qualified not-for-profit agencies, specifically 501(c)(3) organizations, throughout Western New York are encouraged to apply for grant funding up to \$1,000. The Junior League of Buffalo applauds organizations and programs that support its current focus area, Families-At-Risk with special emphasis on women's issues. Go to www.jlbuffalo.org to download the application package containing guidelines and required forms. For more information, call 884-8865. All potential applicants must submit applications postmarked by Nov. 17.

Coaching/protege program set at Canisius College

The Canisius College Women's Business Center will offer a one-year business coaching/protege program beginning in November. Program participants will be paired with successful business owners and professionals who will review goals, objectives, business plans and obstacles. Coaches and proteges will meet monthly, one-on-one, at a location they decide is convenient. The cost of the program is \$100. For registration information and program start dates, visit the Web site at www.canisius.edu/wbc or call 888-6650.

Homeowner education classes scheduled

HomeFront Inc., The Home Ownership Center will offer pre-purchase homebuyer orientation classes from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17 and Monday, Oct. 30. The organization will also offer classes from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12 and 19. All classes will be held at the Home Front office, 560 Delaware Ave., at the corner of Allen Street. For more information on these classes or to register, call 856-2952 or e-mail dhjarosch@homefrontbfo.org.

Friends gather at Cabernet's Wine Cafe over glass of wine

by **JESSICA L. FINCH**
Associate Editor

Cabernet's Wine Cafe is the place "Where old friendships blossom, and new friendships bloom."

Opened in May 2006 by Cathy Bloom, the cafe features the feel of home with a choice of approximately 25 wines.

"It's like everyone's living room," she said. "That's why they like it here."

Having owned Village Wine and Spirits for 16 years, Bloom always wanted to own a wine cafe and when the rustic, quaint structure at 9 N. Ellicott St., Williamsville, was available, she knew it was the perfect opportunity.

"I have wanted to do this for six years; its all in the timing. I knew (the location) was the one. It's perfect inside and out," Bloom said. "Its a casual spot where you can come in before or after dinner for a glass of wine."

The wine list has changed almost completely three or four times with some customer favorites always available. Of course, Bloom wine is on hand.

"There are so many varieties out there," Bloom said about choosing her menu, adding that she samples the wines before selecting.

In addition to the glasses of wine and a selection of bottled beers, there are cheese and chocolate plates to accompany a patron's beverage choice.

Bloom said groups looking for a "casual, cozy, comfortable" place gather at Cabernet's Wine Cafe. From bridal showers to co-workers stopping in after work, many have found a tasty glass right in the Village of Williamsville.

In addition to serving wines, Bloom has many future plans for the cafe. She said she is looking into planning wine tours in the Dunkirk and Finger Lakes regions, as well as having tastings at the cafe.

Bloom sees endless potential in the cafe and is considering live music, Italian nights and other special events for her customers' enjoyment. She is also looking to expand her sales to include wine accessories such as glasses and candles.

A Beaujolais Nouveau tasting, wine created by Georges Duboeuf, has been planned. The wine arrives by a plane in a wooden barrel for the tasting that night at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16.

Those who have found this wine cafe have coined the phrase, "Let's meet up at CABs." Bloom (Cathy Ann Bloom) said with cabernet being her favorite variety of wine, which she specializes in, the name fits.

Cabernet's Wine Cafe opens at 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays at 9 N. Ellicott St., Williamsville. For more information, call 631-1044.

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Cathy Bloom, owner of Cabernet's Wine Cafe at 9 N. Ellicott St., welcomes guests to stop in for a glass of wine. She suggests her personal favorite, a cabernet.

Photo by John Rusac

Business development forum to benefit small business owners

by **JILL SCHMELZER**
Reporter

The Williamsville Business Association will host a business development forum from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12 at the Williamsville Meeting House, 5658 Main St., Williamsville.

The night will be a networking event with a formal presentation by Paul Leone and David Mingoia, said WBA board member Jason Krempa.

According to a statement from the WBA, Leone is a business development consultant

under contract with the Amherst, Cheektowaga, Clarence, Concord and Lancaster industrial development agencies.

He has worked at Western New York Savings Bank and Goldome Bank for the Buffalo Enterprise Development Corp. and, until recently, served as director of business development for the Erie County Industrial Development Agency.

Mingoia has been deputy director of the AIDA since October 2005. Much of his attention is focused on business development and redevelopment activities that assist small businesses.

Prior to joining the AIDA, Mingoia served as director of business development for Empire State Development. He has worked on several Buffalo waterfront projects and helped secure the GEICO investment in Amherst, the statement said.

The event is open to all in the Western New York community with an interest in small businesses. Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be provided by winners of the Taste of Williamsville WBA restaurants.

For more information or for reservations, call Dan Fogel at 634-2500 or e-mail info@dbrody.law.com.

Gilman Ciocia marks first year with open house

In celebration of its first year in Western New York, the firm of Gilman Ciocia will host an open house from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12 at the office, 5839 Main St., near the corner of Evans Street, Williamsville.

"We're not only excited to be part of the great community of Williamsville but also grateful for the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the economic base of our hometown," said Anthony Burgio, an income tax and financial consultant and a graduate of the University at Buffalo's School of Management.

He works alongside his cousin,

David Burgio, who in the past decade has been a financial planner and income tax specialist in Clearwater and Tampa Bay, Fla., and now serves as the Williamsville office branch manager.

David, a native of Orchard Park, and a graduate of the University at Buffalo School of Management, made the decision to move his family from Clearwater back to Western New York so his children can be raised with the same values he was.

"Our decision to move back to Buffalo was simple," David said. "Western New York is a town that

cherishes the family, and we wanted our children to grow up with those same guiding principles."

Gilman Ciocia offers a wide array of financial services, specializing in income tax, financial and estate planning for individuals and small businesses.

Gilman Ciocia has more than 30 offices located throughout the United States and has been the exclusively endorsed financial consultant to the New York County Medical Society for nearly 20 years.

Joining the Burgios is Julie Latawiec, a recent graduate of the

University at Buffalo where she received a B.S. from the School of Management.

For more information, call 276-7500.

Business Briefs

BNI Business Makers will conduct its weekly meeting from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 5 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, 6320 Main St., Williamsville. Charlie Totoro of State Farm Insurance will speak. Contact the Chapter President Charlie Totoro, at 688-5700 for further information.