

Town Board amends special district budget, adds funding to fire companies

by **JESSICA L. FINCH**
Associate Editor

In its first action on the tentative 2007 Town of Amherst budget, the Town Board restored \$396,200 to the town's fire districts, which are part of the special district budget.

The vote passed, 6-0, at Friday's special meeting. Council Member William A. O'Loughlin Jr. was unable to attend the session.

Sponsored by Council Member Bill Kindel, the amendment will become official upon the adoption of the final budget — due the beginning of November.

The vote was taken before an audience of 45 town firefighters.

Kindel, who called for the special meeting, wanted to ensure that the fire districts would have the funding needed.

"They submit their budgets, (which) provide the highest, best, more economical service to the residents within our town," Kindel said about the fire departments.

Supervisor Satish Mohan said there was never a problem with funding the fire districts, but he wanted to be aware of their line items. Prior to the special meeting, letters had been sent to the fire departments informing them they would be fully funded in 2007.

Town Attorney Tom Jones said

the action by the Town Board is not the approval of the special district budget for 2007.

He said the Town Board adds to or subtracts from the tentative budget to create the preliminary budget. Following the public hearing (scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16 at Town Hall) additional adjustments can be made prior to the final budget being adopted the beginning of November.

Technically, the vote taken on Friday can be changed if the board were to take such action.

With the vote on record, the funds will be added to the preliminary special district budget.



SCATTERGORIES — Jennifer Lazarz, left, led a game of Scattergories at the Amherst Center for Senior Citizens on Sept. 25. Mary Migliore and Shirley Dell'Amico compete to see who can think the fastest.

Photo by John Rusac

Amherst North Rotary Club welcomes visitors to meetings

by **JESSICA L. FINCH**
Associate Editor

Dedicated to supporting community groups, the Amherst North Rotary Club forges ahead with its mission — but more members for that mission are always needed.

The North Amherst chapter, in existence since February 1980, meets at 6:15 p.m. Tuesdays at the Buffalo Marriott Niagara, 1340 Millersport Highway, Amherst. The club secretary, Jim Coppola, said visitors are always welcome.

"We are a service club for the community," he said.

Coppola, a founding chapter member, said a "pet project" is selected each year,

and fund-raising is done for that purpose. In the past, the Amherst North Rotary Club has helped purchase the Lifeline system for Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, a shelter for the Amherst Historical Museum, a Rotary van to assist residents and a computer system for the town's library branches.

When serving as president, Coppola said he chose to do a drug awareness program for students and purchased books for schools on the topic. As a pharmacist, he thought the program was very beneficial.

Amherst North is one of four Rotary Clubs in the Town of Amherst and is part of a worldwide foundation. In addition to the individual projects, the chapters also donate money to the worldwide Rotary

Club efforts to eradicate polio in third-world countries.

During his years as a member of the Amherst North chapter, Coppola has seen a decrease in membership, with just 17 members on the current roster.

"It's a commitment, but it's about giving back to the community," said Coppola about joining the organization.

For Coppola, joining a Rotary Club chapter was a gratifying way to give something back to a community that was always good to him during his years as the owner of a pharmacy.

Members do not need to live in the chapter's borders to join, and they range in age from young adults to seniors. Coppola said he sees people from all walks of life join.

In addition to fund-raising for community projects, the Amherst North Rotary Club has many social events such as holiday parties and dinners.

The largest fund-raiser of the year, the 10th annual Charity TV Auction, will be held from 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9 through Time Warner Cable. The event will benefit Camp Good Days and Special Times.

More information on the event will be available closer to the date, including a list of items to be auctioned. To make a donation to the auction, call Ted Purvis at 864-2503.

For more information about the Amherst North Rotary Club, visit www.amherst-northrotary.com.



LONG DISTANCE DEDICATION — Dave Putnam of Amherst has Buffalo Bills player London Fletcher sign a baseball cap to send to his brother Mike Putnam who is currently serving with the Air Force in Iraq. Fletcher met with fans on Sept. 27 at the Walden Galleria Mall.

Photo by John Rusac

Walk the Villages wrap-up celebration set

Walk the Villages will come to a close for 2006 with a wrap-up celebration on Saturday, Oct. 14.

State Sen. Mary Lou Rath, R,C,I-Williamsville, sponsors the free, community-based walking program in Clarence, Kenmore and Williamsville.

Since June 1, hundreds of Western New Yorkers have been "walking the villages." The program encourages people to walk their own community and then explore neighboring communities on foot.

The wrap-up celebration will feature prize giveaways, music and refreshments

"Walk the Villages has been such a success," Rath said. "Our upcoming wrap-up celebration will be an opportunity to share our experiences and award our

most dedicated walkers with some terrific prizes from our local business community."

Walk the Villages Coordinator Dick Rich said, "In addition to giving people a fun and interactive way to exercise, Walk the Villages has helped local small businesses that rely heavily on foot traffic for first-time customers."

The Walk the Villages wrap-up celebration will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 at Clarence Town Park in the large pavilion, 10405 Main St., Clarence.

Participants who walked all six villages (Akron, Batavia, Clarence, Kenmore, LeRoy and Williamsville) are eligible to win one of the following grand prizes:

- Two round-trip Amtrak tickets to New York City.
- Overnight package at Asa Ransom House in Clarence.
- Gaming and dining package for eight at Batavia Downs.
- Buffalo weekend, courtesy of the Buffalo Convention & Visitors Bureau.
- Family portrait, courtesy of Eckert/Money Video Photography.
- Toronto weekend, courtesy of Elliott Travel.
- Williamsville weekend, courtesy of Hampton Inn.
- Six Flags Darien Lake package for four.
- One-year Village Glen Tennis & Fitness Club membership
- Village shopping spree, courtesy of the Williamsville Business & Professional Association.

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