

Meetings

Tax seminar with professional to be held

Certified Public Accountants is hosting a free educational seminar from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday Oct. 19 at the Buffalo/Niagara Marriott, with a cocktail reception to follow. The seminar will cover topics that include succession planning, recent tax law changes and tax incentives. There is no cost to attend the seminar, and the group will offer one credit hour of continuing professional education. To register, call Maria Gambacorta at 856-3300 or mgambacorta@lumsdencpa.com.

Real Estate workshop set in Williamsville

A real estate program for experienced and future investors will be held from 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Thursday Oct. 12 in the board room of Mainstream Funding Network 5586 Main St., in Williamsville. Mary Nowak a veteran real estate asset manager at Mary Jane Zak, M.J. Zak Real Estate, will give a presentation on property purchasing and property management skills. For more information, call 633-0959.

Feng shui seminars slated in October

Feng Shui Your World is offering two seminars this fall on feng shui, the ancient Chinese art of science and placement. All sessions will be presented by Linda Ellison, a certified feng shui consultant and president of Feng Shui Your World. The first workshop, titled "Empower Yourself with Feng Shui," will be held from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12 at the Date Association Center for Lifelong Learning at 33 Ontario St., Lockport. To register, call 433-1866. "Clutter Cleaning with Feng Shui" will take place from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2 at Natural Harmony Holistic Health Center at 1408 Sweet Home Road, Suite 5, in Amherst. To register for these classes, call 863-8562.

Getting children started on the right foot

by **JESSICA L. FINCH**
Associate Editor

Preparing a child for kindergarten — with some fun mixed in — is the focus at World of Discovery Preschool.

Kathy Honsberger, owner and director of the preschool, has started her first school year in those positions and has already seen growth among the students.

"To get the students really ready for kindergarten, the changes happen now," she said. "We get the kids comfortable ... so I have no second thoughts about sending them off to schools."

World of Discovery Preschool has three programs: a 3-year-old morning group that meets twice a week; a 4-year-old morning group that meets three times a week; and a 5-year-old day group that is available five times a week.

The day program is funded by the Williamsville School District and is a universal prekindergarten site.

Honsberger said the school has been one of the "best kept secrets" in town for many years.

In addition to Honsberger, the staff includes two certified teachers. Among them the staff has early childhood education degrees, a master's degree in educa-

tion and a reading specialist degree.

Barb Waterman, a preschool teacher for 13 years, said that communicating with the parents on their children's development is very important.

World of Discovery Preschool invites parents to be as involved as they can, from volunteering in classroom activities to meeting with the school's staff at least twice a year.

Through parent interaction and teaching children independence, the school has found a balance to making sure all developmental needs of a student are met.

Students attend their sessions

for two and a half hours, taking part in circle time, crafts, music and free time. The staff also helps the students create a journal throughout the school year. In addition to everyday lessons, the class goes on field trips.

The goal of the staff is traditional preschool lessons — teaching children to use their words to express their feelings, to be independent in their tasks and to accept the other children in the classroom.

For more information about World of Discovery Preschool, located at 151 Youngs Road, call 634-7525.

ATA Black Belt Academy; Karate for Kids reaches anniversary

The ATA Black Belt Academy and Karate for Kids, at 1836 Maple Road, is celebrating its second anniversary.

The two school owners and instructors, Anthony VanMaele and Patrick Rae, said they continue to update and improve their instructional abilities by attending international seminars and leadership camps offered by the American Taekwondo Association's Masters Council and Grand Master.

They added that their training is to ensure that the students are receiving the best quality instruction that the martial arts industry has to offer.

The Amherst school, an affiliate of the American Taekwondo Association in Little Rock, Ark., is one of 45 schools in Region 117, which includes schools in New York,

Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

The ATA and its affiliated organizations have registered more than 950,000 members worldwide, including 53,000 black belts and more than 3,500 certified instructors.

Since the first class was taught, the focus has remained the same: "To provide students the highest quality martial arts instruction available in a safe and positive learning environment that people of all ages can enjoy."

ATA Black Belt Academy and Karate for Kids has developed several programs to choose from: Jump Start Tiny Tigers (3-year-olds), Tiny Tigers (4-, 5- and 6-year-olds), Karate Kids (7- 13-year-olds) and adults.

VanMaele and Rae said the programs offer children a strong foundation in essential character qualities such as courtesy, respect, and discipline. In addition, the program is designed to improve children's motor skills and enhance their ability to pay attention and follow directions.

In April 2006, after months of training, VanMaele was tested by ATA Grand Master Soon Ho Lee and was promoted to the rank of fifth-degree black belt. During the 2005-06 tournament season, Rae earned the title of New York State champion and became the third-degree black belt state champion in weapons forms.

For more information on classes, call 688-4254 or visit www.ataonline.com to find out more about the American Taekwondo Association.

Business Briefs

The Amherst Chamber of Commerce will hold a Business After Hours Purchasing Managers Meet and Greet from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17 at Dave and Buster's Sports Cafe, located at the Eastern Hills Mall, 4545 Transit Road. To make a reservation or

for more information, call 632-6905.

The Professional Nurses Association of Western New York-District 1 will host a seminar to discuss healthcare issues with State Legislative candidates from 7:15 to 9 p.m. Wednesday,

Oct. 18 at Protocol Restaurant, 6776 Transit Road, Williamsville. To register, call 839-4075. Cost is \$5 to reserve a place. Complimentary hor d'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar will be available.

Carr Marketing Communications has been accepted as a member of Pinnacle Worldwide, an international corporation of independently owned public relations firms. Carr Marketing is one of three firms in New York State that has been granted membership and the only one from Upstate NY. For more information, visit www.carrmarketing.com.

The Canisius College Center for Professional Development will offer an advanced credit analysis course from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and from 2 to 5 p.m. Fridays from Oct. 23 to Nov. 3 at the college's Center at Amherst, 300 Corporate Park-

way. The course is intended for bank loan officers, senior financial analysts, senior marketing personnel and others interested in negotiating bank loans. Participants should have an understanding of basic financial and managerial accounting. Cost is \$799. For more information, or to register, call 862-4600 or visit the Web site at www.canisius.edu/amherst/form.

Dean Gottesman, president of Royalite Lighting, and Lighting for Less in Amherst, was honored with a Pillar of the Industry Award at the 2006 American Lighting Association Annual Conference held Sept. 12 in Las Vegas. He was recognized for, "Extraordinary service in advancing the lighting industry as well as the association, its programs and mission, during the past 12 to 18 months."

Event Media returns to its roots

Two Williamsville South graduates are bringing their business back to Western New York. Event Media LLC, a video production company formerly based in Orlando, Fla., offers services to Fortune 1,000 companies and individual consumers alike.

Relocating the business from Orlando to Buffalo was an easier move than expected, according to the company's owners.

"Life in Buffalo is much more family focused, and it is easier to both live and work here," said Mike Lynch, president of Event Media LLC. "The people are friendly and actually care about each other. I consider the weather an even trade, Buffalo has great summers, and Orlando has great winters. Orlando summers are too hot."

Lynch and Vice President and co-owner Drew Steinhilber both reside in Amherst.

Event Media produces video for large companies as well as individuals for weddings, memorials,



Lynch



Steinhilber

anniversaries, sports action, and birthdays.

Each summer, Event Media sends crews to several theme park locations throughout the country to produce video yearbooks for employees.

"We love traveling and telling everyone that we are from Buffalo. Based on our client's reaction, Buffalo is well thought of around the country" said Steinhilber, referring to the company's national tour this past summer.

For more information, visit www.EventMediaVideo.com or call 1-888-417-0831.

Chamber awards announced

The Amherst Chamber of Commerce has announced the 2006 Business of the Year awards.

The winners will be honored during the annual 2006 Business of the Year dinner being held at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23 at Samuel's Grande Manor. Cost is \$55 per person or \$600 per corporate table of ten.

The 2006 winners are: 2006 Business of the Year — Uniland Development Company; and Commitment to Excellence Award Recipients — MJW Corporation, technology; Service Office Supply, family owned business; NOCO Express Shops, community revitalization; Buffalo Medical Campus, entrepreneurship; Amherst Pizza & Alehouse, hospitality; People Inc., human resources; and LasterTron, retail.