

Bee Editorial

Knowing where to turn in time of need

It had the makings of a big budget, blockbuster movie but the scene at the emergency response command center at Amherst police headquarters was anything but scripted.

The Town of Amherst was in a real state of emergency, and the crews snapped into action, using their years of training to respond to the crippling October storm. The command center was the hub of the action, under the leadership of Jim Zymanek, director of emergency services.

From flooding to live wires and blocked roads to ailing residents, the command center coordinated how crews were going to dig out from the storm and restore the town. The storm's effect touched almost every mile of landscape in Amherst. With the damage so severe, having a place to turn was priceless for those who were frightened and needed help.

Zymanek, with several cell phones at his hip, relayed information to The Amherst Bee on the town's state of emergency, all while questions were being shouted to him from the four corners of the command center. The storm created a web of connections, with several town departments working closely together to resolve the most pertinent issues first.

Televisions, computers, blueprints, telephones, photographs of the damage and detailed schedules of workers coming and going created a buzz in the command center.

Western New York is known for its snow, the town is aware of the flooding issues, life without power has happened before and inclement weather has damaged the trees in the past but the magnitude of this storm had no precedent. It came out of nowhere and left a path of destruction, but instead of staring at the mess unsure of what to do, the town's trained

workers didn't waste a minute before getting crews on the streets and help to residents.

For almost two weeks, employees and volunteers have clocked 20-hour days. Zymanek has worked with department heads, such as Highway Superintendent Bob Anderson and Police Chief John Moslow, to keep a full staff working on cleanup efforts.

The team effort from all town departments, fire companies and volunteers has been amazing. Debris is starting to disappear, schools are reopening and roads no longer resemble the floor of a rain forest. Although the cleanup is a long way from being over, town employees and department heads should be commended.

The command center and Zymanek took the chaos in stride and let residents know that with time everything would be OK. With long days still ahead, we would like to thank them for everything accomplished to date.

Spindle items



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• **WHY DETROIT?** — If you see me wearing a Detroit Tigers baseball cap this week, don't you dare say I am hopping on the bandwagon for the most surprising team in the American League this year, and hosts for the first two games of this

year's World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals.

I have been a Tigers fan since I was 7 years old and that was in 1962, thank you. Most of the reason why revolved around my favorite player, Rocky Colavito, who wore the olde English "D" from 1960-63.

He is best remembered for two stints with the Cleveland Indians and for finishing his career with the New York Yankees, in the city where he was born.

I wanted to copy "The Rock" and wear a uniform just like his, but there was no Internet. So my mother carefully cut out iron-on material to create that trademark "D" that still appears on Detroit's classy home uniforms. That's the first thing I think of whenever I see it.

I sent away for the team's yearbooks in 1962 and 1963, memorizing facts and figures and becoming acquainted with a team that never quite surpassed the success or the prominence of the Yankees during the same era.

At about the same time, the Gillette razor people offered a promotion that no kid could refuse. A paperback book filled with baseball trivia and information was free with the purchase of one of its newest, double-edge models. I was at least a decade away from having any reason to own a razor, but I convinced

my father to buy it for me just so I could have the book.

Doubleheaders were televised each weekend, and we got a good dose of the Yankees from summer into autumn. While I cheered for Mickey Mantle, it was a special day when the Tigers were the opposition.

Our family made two trips to see games at Tiger Stadium (built in 1912) the year it closed (1999). My son and I were honored to be at the first game at new Comerica Park the following spring.

Old Tiger Stadium still stands rusting and silent, and many fans in town last weekend for the first World Series game in Detroit since 1984 surely made the pilgrimage to see it one more time. Tentative plans call for it to be partially demolished next spring.

The term "World Series" still rekindles memories of afternoon games from my youth. The Yankees, Giants and Dodgers were larger than life at a time when we were grateful to have three channels on

our black and white set. Those are things you never forget.

I can remember many of those World Series games because they were still being played when I got home from school. Today, thousands of kids grow up without ever seeing one because they are played at night to satisfy the financial interests of television networks.

So last Saturday evening, with the temperature at about 50 degrees, I saw my first World Series game in person, and it was in the very city that once seemed so far away. It was a great experience and despite the fact the Tigers lost, they rallied to win game two on Sunday. It just might be a seven-game series.

Plenty of Western New York fans can say they have seen a World Series game, possibly in Toronto, Pittsburgh, Cleveland or even New York. For many, it was probably a trip back in time to when players' uniform numbers were more important than their bank accounts. At least they were to me.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago Oct. 27, 1881

Candidates for members of the Assembly in this district, Mr. A.B. Williams, of Tonawanda, Republican nominee, and Mr. Timothy Jackson, of Newstead, Democratic nominee, are both popular gentlemen and an exciting race can be looked for.

Miss Ida Blocher has gone to Lockport to work at dressmaking.

The trains on the Peanut Railroad can of late to be depended on to be late, especially in the morning, when they can be expected anytime between 8:30 A.M. and noon. It is pleasant waiting a couple of hours especially when a fellow is in a hurry, and has to rush all the time he is in Buffalo to transact any business.

The Klicker family has a new roof over their heads.

Jacob Hummel and his son-in-law, Mr. George Hiller, have gone to Michigan to prospect the land market.

"An old woman kept a private bottle from which she refreshed herself from time to time although none of the family knew it. One evening her daughter, in rummaging through the pantry, spied the bottle and had the curiosity to draw the cork and apply her nose to the opening. At that moment, the woman appeared and angrily demanded, 'Well, what do you suppose that is?' 'I don't know, madam,' replied the maiden, 'but it smells just like uncle Charlie's moustache.'

100 Years Ago Oct. 25, 1906

The bold theft of a horse and rig took place here last Sunday evening about 8:00 o'clock when the bay horse and rubber tire runabout belonging to John Oehman of Cheektowaga was stolen from the sheds at M. Quinn's hotel.

75 Years Ago Oct. 29, 1931

Amherst Bank failed to open for business Friday of last week. An official notice on the door told the public this story: "Pursuant to Section 57 of the Banking Law of the State of New York, I have this day taken possession of the business and property of Amherst Bank. (signed) Joseph A. Broderick, superintendent of banks." The closing of the bank came as a shock to the community. People were unprepared for the announcement, causing considerable congestion in the business part of the village. To the credit of the citizens, no scenes which would bring any dishonor upon the town took place.

Literacy tests will be given next week at the Williamsville High School for prospective voters.

Amherst Central High School pupils entered a poster contest in conjunction with the Better Homes and Building Exposition and were successful in winning recognition. Eleanor Loomis, 16

years old, a junior, won the first prize of \$5.

Danahy-Faxon foodmarkets advertisement: "Guard your health with a safe toilet tissue. Fort Orange tissue, 4 rolls for 25 cents."

50 Years Ago Oct. 25, 1956

Although a serious fire occurred about 10:50 o'clock Monday morning in the kitchen of the Howard Johnson restaurant, Main and Kensington, the business was open for business as usual at 5:00 p.m. that same evening.

Two large baskets of white gladioli and chrysanthemums, palms and candelabra decorated the altar of Randall Memorial Baptist Church for the wedding of Janet Lee Banzhof and Glenn A. Childs at 3 o'clock, Saturday afternoon, Oct. 20, 1956.

25 Years Ago Oct. 28, 1981

James A. Amo, 56, building contractor and former Williamsville village trustee, died Oct. 22, 1981 in the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Three Amherst fire companies were on standby yesterday morning as flames destroyed the Twin Fair store at 3360 Eggert Road, Tonawanda.

Amherst hockey team jackets may be ordered on Nov. 7-8 at the Clearfield Recreation Center. The cost is \$31 for boys sizes and \$33 for men's.