

Initial estimate (Continued from page one)

25 percent. Work began with 140 debris removal trucks, and an additional 100 trucks arrived on Monday. Mohan estimated the total could reach 300. Two dumping sites, one each in Elma and Lockport, have been designated. Erie Community College's North Campus and the Pepsi Center are serving as interim collection sites.

According to the work contract, three sweeps will be made of the 543 miles of roads in the town.

"The first pass, which is now taking place, will see the removal of all debris currently piled at curbsides," Mohan said, adding that residents with remaining debris can place it at curbside for pickup during the second sweep.

The second pass will begin on Nov. 14 and will also include trimming hazardous trees that are in the public rights of way, including those with a significant loss of canopy, those with split trunks and those leaning more than 30 degrees, Mohan said.

Dec. 3 is the scheduled start date for the third pass for all remaining brush placed at curbside. Mohan said all grounds damaged during debris removal will be leveled and restored during this phase.

According to the contract, the companies have 60 days to complete the work and will be penalized for exceeding the limit.

In addition to the contracted workers, Amherst highway employees are continuing restoration of the town, focusing on the heaviest hit areas of Eggertsville and Snyder, Mohan said.

Director of Emergency Services Jim Zymanek said the town will work along with the contractors, getting the debris off the curbs to make room for more. He also reminded residents to not block fire hydrants with debris. On Sunday, Erie County Executive Joel A. Giambra said county workers would help Amherst with its massive cleanup efforts. He said 40 crews would be sent on Monday to clean town streets.

Almost two weeks into the cleanup plan, the town has already started to show improvement; lights and heat are working, main roads are no longer piled with branches and traffic lights are operating as usual. A representative for National Grid reported on Monday that only 25 houses remained without power.

e-mail: jfinch@beenews.com

Garbage routes on regular schedule

Len Fiegl, senior refuse officer at the Town of Amherst Refuse Office, said after missing the Friday, Oct. 13 garbage pickup, the department has returned to its regular schedule.

Due to extended periods without power, tons of food stored in refrigerators and freezers spoiled. Fiegl said the town has been averaging 275 to 300 tons of waste a day. Prior to the storm the average was 125 tons a day.

Residents must place all materials for waste pick-

up at the edge of their property, separate from tree debris. This includes any materials damaged in flooded basements, such as carpeting and furniture.

"Every day gets a little better. We ask residents for their patience and we'll eventually get everything," he said, adding that residents must ensure all wet, damaged materials are removed from the home to avoid mold growth.

The town has been able to use additional trucks to handle the massive cleanup efforts.

Williams predicts consequences if office's budget is slashed

Ending the annual reassessment program, which assess the town annually at 100 percent, will have drastic effects on the Town of Amherst, Town Assessor Harry Williams said.

He told the town board the following consequences will take place if the department's budget is cut \$250,000 in 2007:

- 1) \$211,000 in state aid will be lost
- 2) The total assessed value of the Town will decrease because inequitable properties will have

to be reduced based on the current level of assessment

3) Decrease in sales tax revenue which was based on full value assessment

4) The bond rating will be lowered

5) Equalization rate will decrease to less than 100 percent

6) Exemption amounts will decrease based on the new equalization rates

7) Tax rates will increase based on the decrease in assessed value

8) The Town's portion of county tax will increase resulting in an increase in county taxes for Amherst tax payers

9) The Town's portion of school tax will increase and taxpayers will be paying more school taxes

10) Increased confusion by property owners regarding the level of assessment

11) The assessment roll will become inequitable resulting in an increased number of law suits.

John Edwards to address WNY Poverty Symposium at UB

Former U.S. senator and vice presidential candidate John Edwards will visit the University at Buffalo on Oct. 30 to deliver the keynote address at the Western New York Poverty Symposium being held in the Center for the Arts on the UB north campus.

Edwards, now alumni distinguished professor and director of the Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Law, will speak at 11:05 a.m. after an introduction by UB President John B. Simpson. A question-and-answer session with members of the audience will follow Edwards' speech.

The event will be free and open to the public.

Edwards, who served six years in the U.S. Senate representing North Carolina, was the Democratic candidate for vice president in the 2004 presidential election. He is the first director of the Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity, a non-partisan initiative to bring together UNC-Chapel Hill faculty and other national public policy experts to examine innovative and practical ideas for moving more Americans out of poverty and into the middle class.

The Western New York Poverty Symposium

will open at 8:30 a.m. with registration and continental breakfast. Kathryn Foster, director of UB's Institute for Local Governance and Regional Growth, will begin at 9 a.m. with remarks entitled "Framing the Problem: A Look at Western New York Poverty."

A panel discussion, "Innovative Ways of Addressing Poverty in Western New York," will take place at 9:15 a.m. It will feature UB faculty members and members of state and local organizations.

For more information, contact the UB Office of Government and Community Affairs at 645-7730.

Correction

The Someone You Should Know article in the Oct. 18 edition of the Amherst Bee should have credited Jennifer Gurske de Perio as being chosen for Who's Who Among American Colleges.

Community News

Heritage Heights Elementary School, Amherst, has been awarded a \$244 grant through McDonald's grant program MAC Grants (Make Activities Count). The funding will be used for the school's Music of Africa project.

The Erie County SPCA accepted a donation from the Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, Audubon Restaurant of \$1,646 that was raised during a recent Doggie Happy Hour event. Call 636-7500 for future Doggie Happy Hour events or visit SP-CAEC.com.

Dr. Margaret W. Paroski will be honored with the Humanitarian Award from the Hope for Tomorrow Foundation at the annual Charity Benefit being held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens, 6461 Transit Road. She is being recognized for her work in the medical field through Kaleida Health. For more information, call 204-0941.

People Inc.'s Museum of ABILITY has received a Go! Grant of \$500 which will be used to send staff member Elizabeth Marotta to the Museum Institute at Sagamore for a week-long training program by Upstate History Alliance and the Museum Association of New York.

Business Briefs

Audax Business Solutions, provider of human resources and payroll management services, has re-located its offices to 6724 Main St., Williamsville. The move follows an announcement in July that Audax and the Stahlka Insurance Agency, who have been working together since the early 2000s, had formalized their partnership and would be sharing the location in order to streamline delivery of services. For more information, visit: www.audaxsolutions.com.

I opened my heart to the SPCA... because love is a four-legged word.



Marv Levy and his SPCA friend, Booger.
Photography courtesy Mike Groll/mikegroll.com

Visit www.yourspca.org



STORM DAMAGE

Did the recent storm leave your HOME or BASEMENT with the smell of mold, mildew or furniture damage caused by water? We can HELP... ..

- Eliminate Odors
- Kill Mold & Mildew
- Kill Airborne Bacteria
- Take the smell out of Walls, Carpeting, Wood, Furniture, etc.

Rent/Own a FRESH AIR by Ecoquest
Rentals available by the day or the week!

"My Fresh Air unit showed amazing results in my basement. All smells were eliminated and I was able to save my furniture and carpeting. It even took the moldy smell out of my basement cabinets! Thanks Joe!"
- Cynthia, Depew, NY

Call Today Joe Del Monte
Independent Distributor



685-2503
JoJoDelMonte@maximumsuccess.com



Autumn Adorned

Shop Ten Thousand Villages — your fair trade source for jewelry handcrafted in the colors and textures of fall — and invest in the lives of skilled artisans around the world.

Autumn Adorned collection, handcrafted in India and Indonesia.
\$20-\$120



Trading fairly for 60 years. Learn more about us. Shop online. tenthousandvillages.com

5596 Main St., Williamsville
Mon.-Sat. 10-6; Thurs. 10-8
Sun. 12-4
(716) 839-9274

SHOP FAIR TRADE. INVEST IN YOUR WORLD.™