

# Larger AAA building improves headquarters

by JILL SCHMELZER  
Reporter

One year after the groundbreaking at 100 International Drive in Amherst, the AAA Travel and Insurance Center has opened and will serve as the organization's headquarters for Western and Central New York.

"Amherst is a good place for our associates to work," said AAA Vice President Wallace D. Smith.

The 22,000-square-foot building is part of an expansion project of the headquarter's campus and a state-of-the-art retail travel center for its members.

The facility ushers in a new look and method of taking care of the organization's 870,000 members in Upstate New York, as well as the travelers that use the company's services.

The facility offers flat-screen plasma television sets, an Internet cafe and travel viewing room.

Floor to ceiling windows surround the entire building, a distinct design meant to convey a more futuristic look.

The club offers a driving academy for novice drivers and driver-education programs in high schools around WNY.

The driving improvement program allows AAA customers to brush up on defensive driving skills and receive a 10 percent insurance discount plus a point reduction on their New York State driving record. Members also receive a 15 percent discount on class tuition.

Also, beginning Dec. 15, AAA will offer traditional property and casualty personal insurance products, including, automobile, homeowners and umbrella liability.

AAA is located in all 50 states, and many of them offer insurance options, but until now New York had regulations restricting its offices from supplying such bene-

fits. The restrictions have recently been lifted, allowing for members to have the insurance option.

The travel facility allows customers to work directly with the travel agent. People can also seek assistance by visiting www.AAA.com or calling the travel center at 1-800-836-2582. The agents will provide TripTik routings, which are personalized trip maps showing the best routes and construction information.

Members save 10 to 50 percent through exclusive discounts and offers including hotel reservations. The travel agent will make airplane, hotel and cruise ship arrangements for the customer, making planning a trip less stressful.

The grand opening celebration will continue through November with two special events.

The center will hold an appreciation day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, Nov. 11 and 18 with



The AAA Travel and Insurance Center located at 100 International Drive recently completed an expansion project.

the themes family vacations and winter getaways.

Since its inception in 1900, AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. AAA clubs can be visit-

ed at www.AAA.com.

The company also offers roadside assistance to help stranded motorists.

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## Business Briefs

**BNI Business Makers** will meet from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 9 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, 6320 Main St. in Williamsville. Lynn Zastrow of Impressive Imprints will speak. A meeting will also be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16 at the Unitarian Universalist Church. "Web sites Basics: What to know and watch for when shopping for a Web site" will be presented by Christopher M. Mancini of Innovative Computing Solutions. For information call Charlie Totoro at 688-5700.

**Buffalo-Amherst Business and Professional Women** will hold a panel and

group discussion with the League of Women Voters and freelance writer Juliette Terzieff on asking the question "Do we really understand the commitment to hold onto our liberty?" The event will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9 at Fairdale Banquet Center, 672 Wehrle Drive, Amherst. The dinner and program is \$25. Call 832-9327 or visit www.buffaloamherstbpw.com for information.

**Vito Taverna**, of Taverna Productions, recently co-directed "Living Culture, Living Voices," a production through Native American Museum of Art, WNEC, and ThinkBright. He is a videographer and pro-

ducer from Williamsville.

**The Greater Buffalo Alumnae Panhellenic Association** recently elected its officers: president Marion Benner, Alpha Xi Delta; vice president Katie Smigelski, Alpha Phi; secretary Jessica Roach, Chi Omega; and treasurer Jane Turner, Alpha Gamma.

**Deborah Davignon** of Williamsville was recently honored for her fifth anniversary as a physical therapist for out-patients at the McGuire Rehabilitation Center located in Autumn View Health Care Facility. She is a graduate of Daemen College and holds a degree in physical therapy.

**KVS Information Systems, Inc.** locat-

ed in Williamsville was awarded a state contract with the Pennsylvania Department of General Services. For the second year in a row, municipalities and other public agencies throughout Pennsylvania will be able to purchase the company's government software. For more information visit www.kvsinfo.com.

**Veterans LifeOps**, a nonprofit organization serving homeless and disabled veterans, recently named the board of directors for 2006-2007, including: Jon Zucarelli of East Amherst; Arthur Lauer of East Amherst, and Terence McGuire of Williamsville.

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**CANCER FACTS**

Cancer results from the development and uncontrolled dividing of abnormal cells. The abnormal cells accumulate into a mass, or tumor, which interferes with normal body functions by destroying healthy tissues. Cancer cells can also spread, or metastasize, to other parts of the body. A person's genetic code determines how his or her cells grow. Abnormalities or alterations in genes can lead to the development of cancer. These abnormalities can be inherited or caused by the environment, diet, tobacco, radiation, certain viruses, benzene, asbestos, hormones, or other chemicals. Sometimes, the cause of cancer cannot be determined. The American Cancer society estimates that half of all men and one-third of all women in the country will develop cancer at some point.

The three most common types of cancer treatment are surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Treatment is aimed at removing the cancer cells or destroying them in the body with medicines or other agents. Another kind of treatment is biological therapy. This treatment uses proteins to trigger the body's immune system to produce more white blood cells (or lymphocytes). For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call WNY MEDICAL. Please visit us at our three convenient locations: 4979 Harlem Road, Amherst (716-923-4380), Main St., Clarence (716-759-8363), and 154 Cazenovia St., S. Buffalo (716-822-2028).

P.S. Cancer survival rates are increasing; more than 66% of cancer patients live at least five years after diagnosis.

**Please call (716) 923-4380**