



SPARTAN SPOTS

Williamsville North High School



Jonathon Adler



Erin Conway

North seniors honored for leadership, spirit

by LAUREN HALL
Student

Williamsville North Student Council is pleased to continue its tradition of proudly recognizing the outstanding academic, leadership, and athletic achievements of two members of its senior class each month.

Students featured in this column are selected by faculty recommendation. The Senior Spartan Spots for November are Erin Conway and Jonathon Adler.

Conway, daughter of Jack and Lynn Conway, is Student Council President as well as an active member of the Senior Class Steering Committee, National Honor Society and Math Honor Society. In addition, Conway was recently voted 2006 homecoming queen by her senior class. She also was awarded the Clarkson University Leadership Scholarship.

Outside of school, Conway is extremely involved at Spezio's Dance Dynamics, where she studies and performs with the award-winning competition team as well as assistant teaches classes for younger students. Conway is employed by Asbury Pointe Retirement Home and Family Medical Pharmacy.

Next year, Conway hopes to study Pharmacy at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

Adler, son of Marc and Patti Adler, captains North's varsity cross country team, for which he has been named second team ECIC, Runner of the Week, and qualified for New York State Championships during his four-year career.

At school, Adler serves as National Honor Society vice president and Math Honor Society treasurer. Adler has also made his mark in North's business department. He is a valuable member of DECA, for which he has qualified for the New York State Competition each year. Last year, he placed in the top five in his category and traveled to the National Competition in Dallas. He is also a recipient of the Williams College Book Award.

Adler interns with the Buffalo Bisons and the Buffalo Bills through their Student Leader program. He also volunteers his time to the Buffalo Zoo and the JCC Youth Basketball League.

Next year, Adler would like to study Business Management at the University of North Carolina.

Lauren Hall is vice president of public relations for Williamsville North Student Council.

Williamsville welcomes Behan Planning Associates for future vision of village

by JILL SCHMELZER
Reporter

The Village of Williamsville hired Behan Planning Associates, LLC to take over as the consulting firm for the Community Plan Committee.

Peter J. Smith company was originally hired for the task but quit in June.

Behan is a professional planning firm serving all levels of government, nonprofit organizations and the private sector.

The practice emphasizes a humanistic and comprehensive approach to resolving community development issues and advancing community development projects, according to the company's Web site.

Owner John Behan said he has previously developed proposals for the Erie County Waterfront Plan and is familiar with the area.

"I've always thought Williamsville was a gem of a village," Behan said. "So when we got a chance to work here, we jumped on it."

One of the major focuses of the project will deal with the problems on Main Street, Behan said.

"We want to make it a great street. Right now, it's almost a great street," he added.

Currently, the firm's main goal is getting everyone on the Community Plan Committee and the village as a whole moving in the same direction.

Behan said he wants to establish a vision of the future of Williamsville by mapping out years of projects. He was referring to Main Street, private investments and what future development should look like.

"We're pretty good listeners," Behan said, noting that when he and project manager Lawrence Bice discuss areas of the village that could potentially be sites for change, they want feedback from the committee members.

"I see this plan as not being a Behan Planning

Associates plan but as a Williamsville plan," Behan said.

The firm has outlined a schedule for the next nine months, which is the projected scope of work to be completed.

"It's hard work to identify change in a place where you have such history and a strong community," Behan said.

He noted that he does not expect 100 percent agreement on the final draft, but he will present a plan that most people agree should be the future appearance of the village.

The committee will meet with David Versel of Devonomics to discuss the business community at the next meeting, which will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28 in Village Hall, 5565 Main St.

Versel is an economic development specialist who will work with business owners to move into the future, at the same time keeping the area a pleasant place to live.

During future meetings, Steve Ferranti of SRF Associates will meet with committee members to discuss the traffic analysis the firm is conducting.

Also working with Behan Planning Associates is Environmental Design and Research P.C., which concentrates on landscape and building design.

Behan Planning Associates will act as head consulting firm and focus on land use, which will be a common theme at every meeting.

"We want to have this plan become known as the community's plan, and we want to see it adopted and implemented," Behan said. "A lot of good projects can come from a good plan."

He added that great things can come out of a comprehensive plan.

"I am very positive for the future of this village," Behan said, noting that thus far he enjoys working with the committee members.

All aboard for Santa's North Pole Limited

by LISA A. JOHNSON
Lancaster/Depew Editor

Children young and old will have another opportunity to take a train ride with Santa and see the scenes of Western New York from the rails.

The 5th annual North Pole Limited will carry passengers from the Amtrak train station in Niagara Falls along the shores of the Niagara River and into Depew. Along the way, Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves will hand out candy canes and presents and sit and chat with the children.

The Western New York Railway Historical Society will sponsor the ride on Amtrak train number 286 on two consecutive Sundays, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. Those attending will meet at the Depew Amtrak Station at 1:15 p.m. to check in and board buses to Niagara Falls. In the Falls, passengers

will meet Santa and board his train for the ride back to Depew, which will take about an hour.

Society member and Santa trip coordinator Bob Snyder said the ride offers great views of Western New York, from Grand Island to the Barge Canal to the Buffalo skyline and Dunn Tire Park.

"There's even a small tunnel we go through; it's very exciting for the children," he said.

Tickets, which include the bus

and train fares and time with Santa and Mrs. Claus, are \$24 for adults, \$22 for seniors and \$16 for children ages 3 to 15. Children 2 and younger are free. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 662-7002.

Proceeds from the trip will go toward the society's plans to restore the Orchard Park and Williamsville depots.



DECORATIONS COMMITTEE — Riley Jordon, 3, and Philip Wiggle help the Amherst Senior Center prepare for its Holiday Happening scheduled from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6 at the center, 370 J.J. Audubon Parkway. The family event will feature Glenn Colton, the Amherst Community Band and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus with their elves. Admission is \$2, children 2 and younger are free. Call 636-3050 for more information.

Photo by John Rusac



St. Gregory the Great Holiday Craft Show

Friday, November 24 • 10AM - 4PM
Saturday, November 25 • 10AM - 3PM

Over 140 crafters • Unique handmade gifts
Holiday decor • Teacher gifts
\$2 admission (kids 12 and under FREE)
Free Beverage with each Admission

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Williamsville**
(next to Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital)

