



LIVING SINGING CHRISTMAS TREE — Members of "The Living Singing Christmas Tree" sang holiday songs during their performance this past weekend at The Chapel at Crosspoint, 500 Crosspoint Parkway in Getzville.

Photo by Joe Eberle

Village sets public hearing on proposed water rate hike

by **JILL SCHMELZER**
Reporter

The Erie County Water Authority has proposed a rate increase, prompting the Village of Williamsville to schedule a public hearing for Monday, Dec. 18.

According to the Water Authority's public affairs officer, Daniel NeMoyer, the hike was triggered because of a five-year capital improvement plan.

The proposal would increase the rate from \$2.70 to \$2.81 per 1,000 gallons.

Williamsville uses its own water system and board members are reviewing the rate hike. Further discussion will be made about the increase during the meeting.

The Erie County water rate increase was triggered because the authority has been implementing \$15 million in improvements each year, but the plan is moving into a more aggressive stage, and more financial support is needed.

"We will be doing system upgrades," NeMoyer said. "Part of this funding will be for large scale water line replacements."

He noted that Amherst is included in the project.

The plan also calls for improvements to pumping stations at the water treatment plants and water quality facilities, as well as, additional backup power generators.

Part of the cost needed for the project will be taken from the reserve fund, NeMoyer said.

The public hearing is scheduled for 7:40 p.m. at Village Hall, 5565 Main St., Williamsville.

Lou Gehrig Lasers seek sponsors

The 2007 Lou Gehrig travel softball teams are seeking sponsorships for their upcoming season.

These teams are designed to be a fun learning experience for all participants and the league places a lot of emphasis on teaching the fundamentals of the game, as well as good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and reverence so that they may be finer, stronger and happier youths.

Lou Gehrig travel softball has 100 girls on eight teams, competing at varying age levels. They are developing advertising banners for each team to display at all of their games, both home and away. Travel teams will play approximately 35 games, including four tournaments. At this time, the league is offering four different

levels of sponsorship: Platinum — placement of the company name on all eight team banners, exposure at approximately 280 games, and company recognition for each game in one of the four tournaments; gold — placement of the company name on six team banners and exposure at approximately 210 games; silver — placement of the company name on three team banners and exposure at approximately 105 games; and bronze — placement of company name on one team banner and exposure at approximately 35 games.

Advertisers will also have their name on the Lou Gehrig Web site, www.lgybs.com.

For more sponsorship and pricing information, call Ken Verhage at 689-0713.

District announces superintendent vacancy

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**
Reporter

According to the Amherst Central Schools' Web Site, the application deadline to apply for superintendent is Dec. 20.

The Web site said Dr. Vincent J. Coppola, search consultant for the Western New York Educational Service Council, is assisting the Amherst Board in the selection process and will carry out the task of screening applicants and recommending to the board a group of final candidates.

The board will make all decisions concerning the selection process, evaluation of candidates and final appointment, the site said.

First interviews with the board are tentatively planned for Jan. 29-31. Second interviews will be held Feb. 6-8. The new candidate would begin employment July 1, 2007.

The site also listed the most desirable characteristics that the board and focus groups identified for the new superintendent. They

include unquestioned integrity, the ability to clearly identify problems and develop effective solutions, a strong commitment to improve student achievement/success, a strong presence in the schools and community and outstanding written and oral communication.

Other traits include sharing credit for successes and accepting responsibility for failures, reflective thinking, a strong background in instruction and student achievement, and being capable of developing communication plans that build support for the district's mission and goals.

The candidate must also possess or be eligible for a New York State School District Administrator's Certificate.

The board plans to offer a three-year contract with a salary range of \$145,000-\$165,000 depending upon the preparation, qualifications, experiences and record of the successful candidate, the site stated.

Candidates with superintendent experience are preferred but those candidates with central office administrative experience are also encouraged to apply.

The district's acting superintendent is Paul Wietig. Superintendent Dennis Ford, who will retire June 30, 2007, has been out since the beginning of the school year attending to a family emergency.

For more information, visit www.amherstschools.org.

e-mail: pnagy@beenews.com



Community News

The Beechwood/Blocher Foundation has received a \$25,000 grant from the East Hill Foundation. The grant will be used for Beechwood's "Welcome Home" program, a new resident-directed care initiative that will redefine how care is delivered to our skilled nursing residents. The East Hill Foundation's gift will help build a "resident household" which will be called "Buffalo House."



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