



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS — Arthur Glick, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, and Rabbi Moshe Gurary light the first candle on the giant community menorah on Dec. 15 at 811 Maple Road for the beginning of Hanukkah. The menorah is one of the tallest in the country and sponsored by Chabad House of Buffalo.

Photo by Joe Eberle

Village Board passes 13 cent water rate increase

by JILL SCHMELZER
Reporter

The Williamsville Village Board passed a 13-cent water rate hike for 2007 during its meeting on Monday.

The Erie County Water Authority had passed an 11-cent increase due to future capital projects, including water line updates and generator improvements.

For approximately the past eight years, the Village Board has passed the water rate increases as the Water Authority presented them. However, this year, because Williamsville is on its own water system, a few obstacles prompted the board to raise the rate another 2 cents on top of the county increase.

“It’s something I wish we didn’t have to do, but unfortunately we have to go with the Water Authority.”

— Trustee Brian Geary

“It’s something I wish we didn’t have to do, but unfortunately we have to go with the Water Authority,” Trustee Brian Geary said.

This year, village officials were informed they could no longer gain profit from Lehn Springs District No. 8, losing \$5,000 net they had obtained in the past, because the system is owned and maintained by the county.

The village also has contractual obligations such as payroll that needs to be compensated for.

The rates will be \$4.23 per 1,000 gallons inside the village and \$5.93 per 1,000 outside the village. The minimum bill a household will pay is \$16.92 per 0 to 4,000 gallons, and Williamsville Central School District will pay \$5.29 per 1,000 gallons.

“Erie County is it,” Geary said, noting there aren’t other options for water like there are for electric and gas utilities.

Geary said he would like to explore an idea Trustee Richard Sweeney had suggested in the past about looking into buying water from a town that has its own waste water treatment plant — Tonawanda, for example.

“What’s stopping us from buying our water from them?” Geary asked, noting that the Erie County Water Authority is getting larger and larger and has the potential to continue raising the water rate.

“They are sitting on a large surplus,” Geary said. “I would hate to see another water rate increase come through to us, and their surplus to get bigger.”

e-mail: JSchmelzer@beenews.com

DRC contract comes to a close Town will bid out remaining work

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

Town Highway Superintendent Robert Anderson said the contract with DRC Emergency Services for storm cleanup concluded on Tuesday.

By law, Amherst must open the bidding process for the remaining work. DRC is allowed to re-bid if it chooses.

“There are three major jobs left — tree cutting and removal, stump grinding and tree trimming,” Anderson said at Monday’s Town Board meeting.

FEMA does not cover the cost of stump grinding.

Anderson said he would be submitting a public notice for bids. He was not available for comment on what will be done before a contractor is chosen.

Two seminars on assessing tree damage are scheduled: the next is at the Amherst Museum, 3755 Tonawanda Creek Road, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20; the last is at the Community Center, 4255 Harlem Road, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10.

All seminars are free of charge and presented by the Town of Amherst Highway Department Forestry Division.

For more information, call Anderson at 631-5990, ext. 24.

Information on inspecting storm-damaged trees is available on the town’s Web site, www.amherst.ny.us.

The town paid its first installment to DRC on Dec. 14. A check for \$8 million was given to Paul Bryant, regional manager for DRC. The estimated total for the cleanup in town is \$16-18 million.

More than 65,000 trees were handled on the rights-of-way. Complaints of damage to lawns by Bobcats was addressed by Bryant. He said grass seed and soil would be supplied to homeowners. No other information on the timeline for that project was available during the check presentation.



THE TRUE MEANING — Cameron Thom, clockwise around table, Blair Loeffler, James Scott and Ben Boron, ninth graders at Christian Central Academy create wreaths centerpieces during Studio Art to help spread Christmas beauty at the Buffalo City Mission. The fresh pine boughs were donated by Adam’s Nurseries and candles, and bows were added. The pieces will decorate the tables at the mission and at Cornerstone Manor.

Man attacked in apartment

Amherst police are searching for two black males suspected of beating a Village of Williamsville man with firearms.

Police were called to an upper apartment at 5733 Main St., at 11:25 a.m. on Friday, when a 36-year-old man returned home to find his inside door locked.

The door was opened from the inside by the two suspects, and he was pulled in and beaten on the head and body by a semi-automatic handgun and revolver, As-

sistant Chief John Askey said. The victim fought back striking one of the suspects.

The men left with more than \$3,000 in cash, possibly in a four-door burgundy Ford vehicle. No other descriptions were reported by the victim or witnesses.

The man was transported to Erie County Medical Center by Twin City Ambulance. Hutchinson Hose Company firefighters also assisted.

PSAT SAT

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM KAPLAN!

Prep smarter, score higher—and save up to \$150!



Before the year ends, make the commitment to raise your score. Enroll in a Kaplan Classroom course by December 31st and save \$100 or enroll in Private Tutoring and save an additional \$50!

Call today to speak with an educational advisor!

Higher test scores guaranteed or your money back.

1-800-KAP-TEST | kaptest.com/college



Holiday Sale

30% OFF

All Framed Artwork Through Dec. 30th



Gallery & Frame Shop Hours
Tue - Fri 1:30 - 8 pm, Sat 10 am - 4 pm
7108 Transit Road, Williamsville, NY 14221 • 912-4415
(across from T.J. Maxx & TransTown Plaza)

ADEMA

Heating & Air Conditioning.
SINCE 1873

AUTOMATIC HOME STANDBY GENERATORS

834-7611

www.ademaheating.com

WANTED: NEW DENTAL PATIENTS

Williamsville Family Dentistry P.C. requests NEW PATIENTS to take advantage of:



- Same day or next day appointments
- Extended hours: early morning, evening & Saturday appointments
- Emergencies of “walk-ins” welcome
- State-of-the-art techniques in adult and pediatric dentistry
- Convenient office location on Maple Road in Williamsville

WE LOVE NEW PATIENTS!



Kevin Clauser, D.D.S.
716.568.CARE (2273)

1630 Maple Road • Williamsville, NY 14221

www.WilliamsvilleFamilyDentistry.com