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Student leader

Kelly Roberts is a non-voting member of the Sweet Home School Board. See page two

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Community leaders make plans for 2007. See page 24

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Bee office: 632-4700
E-mail:
newstips@beeneews.com
Web: www.BeeNews.com
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Storm, town government top stories of 2006

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

In 2006, The Amherst Bee reported the news that was important to our readers. Here is a review of articles from the past year:

Jan. 4 — “Mohan sworn into office, says residents will no longer be powerless — Lifelong struggles find fulfillment as Bucki takes oath” topped the front page of the first edition of 2006 as Supervisor Satish Mohan was sworn into office after defeating Susan Grelick two months before in the November election. Deborah Bruch Bucki also joined the Town Board and was named deputy supervisor. Incumbents Shelly Schratz and Daniel Ward were both re-elected to their seats.

Jan. 11 — “Bank robberies rise — Amherst police investigate five incidents within 16 days” kept the Amherst police busy during the first month of the year. There had been five robberies at area banks since Dec. 22, 2005. Banks were not the only target of thieves, as 14 businesses on Main Street had been hit by burglaries since April 27.

Jan. 18 — “Drawing the line — Town says ‘get lost’ to Wal-Mart” reported yet another debate in the proposed development of Wal-Mart on a Millersport Highway parcel. The sides would continue to debate throughout the year, but in this case, the Town Board unanimously agreed to start rezoning procedures on a 67.4-acre parcel on Millersport Highway in an effort to foil attempts by Wal-Mart to build a 217,572-square-foot supercenter at the location.

Jan. 25 — “Town pays vendors late — Officials concerned about penalties,” was the start of

Mohan’s being scrutinized for conducting town business. Council Member Bill Kindel had reported that 46 bills were late, including a \$678,320 payment to Independent Health, \$16,619 to DBA Metropolitan Telecommunications and \$215,760 to National Grid.

Feb. 1 — “Amherst police investigate first murder of 2006 — Den-

tist found stabbed in Kim Circle home” reported the story of Amherst police’s investigation of the stabbing death of Dr. Joseph D. Matteliano, 64. Amherst Police Chief John Moslow said this was Amherst’s first murder of the year. The Police Department received a 911 call at about 2:33 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2.

Feb. 8 — “Vandalism, drugs cause problems in parks” followed the story of vulgar words being scrawled on the construction equipment being used to repair the Glen Avenue Bridge in the Village of Williamsville. Another case was found by residents and volunteers who discovered drug

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Tournament

Williamsville South boys basketball coach Al Monaco relays instructions from the sidelines during last week’s Rotary Club of Williamsville basketball tournament. Williamsville North’s Alex Barth, right, splits the Fredonia defense for a layup. The Spartans defeated the Billies 53-47 Friday night in the title game to capture the tournament for the third consecutive year.

See story on page 15
Photos by John Rusac



Mohan names Weinstein deputy supervisor

County legislator will not seek re-election

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

Supervisor Satish Mohan has chosen his right-hand man — and he’s not a member of the Amherst Town Board.

Erie County Legislator Dr. Barry Weinstein will serve Amherst as deputy supervisor in 2007, an appointment made solely by the supervisor.

“He had come to me and said he wanted to come back to town politics,” Mohan said. “He has been working in the county and has a long history of public service.”

In deciding who was to be named deputy supervisor, Mohan said he was looking for someone who was professional.

Weinstein, a Republican, said he doesn’t see any issues with maintaining his position as county legislator for District 15 — Amherst and Williamsville — while accepting the appointment.

“I am pleased to participate in town govern-

ment and work with the Town Board, and I will do it without compensation,” Weinstein said.

The position offers a \$3,000 stipend, which Weinstein will not accept.

“It is Dr. Mohan’s decision to go outside the board. It may be unpopular, but I hope it will work out in the future,” Weinstein said about not being a member of the Town Board.

In regard to future political plans, Weinstein said he will be making an announcement this week but he said he will not be seeking re-election to the Erie County Legislature after 10 years of service.

This past year Board Member Deborah Bruch Bucki held the deputy supervisor position. Mohan said he did not reappoint her



Dr. Barry Weinstein

because they had been disagreeing and had different platforms.

“I am grateful for the opportunity Dr. Mohan gave me this past year. It was a wonderful experience,” Bucki said. “I know it took a great deal of political courage for him, a Republican, to appoint a Democrat as his deputy.”

Bucki said Mohan e-mailed her last week that he had been under a lot of pressure from several sources to change the deputy supervisor.

“I am glad for at least one year during the Mohan administration the supervisor and deputy supervisor positions could be bipartisan,” she said.

“The deputy supervisor and I should have

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