

Eggertsville community seeks reconstruction advice from East Aurora mayor

by **TERRI MEDINA**
East Aurora Editor

A business owner in Amherst is sought for his expertise as a leader and improving his community.

East Aurora Village Mayor David DiPietro has learned plenty from working on the Main Street reconstruction project.

Most specifically, he's learned how to work with the New York State Department of Transportation.

The Village of East Aurora has worked closely with the department for the past five years hammering out the details of the project.

"Historically, people have found it to be next to impossible to work with them," said DiPietro. "Not because of anything bad, but because they are their own entity. If you don't give them your opinions before a project gets started, the DOT will do it their way."

The mayor credits his great working relationship with the department as the reason why he was recently asked by the Town of Amherst to work on the Eggertsville Community Organization's streetscape improvements project at the corner of Main Street and Eggert Road in Amherst, where DiPietro owns and operates a dry cleaning business.

"I was flattered when I was asked to be

a part of the project," said DiPietro. "It's a tribute to my whole administration in East Aurora, and it shows that the work we have done here is paying off. We are the ideal on how to work with the state DOT."

DiPietro said he was approached by the organization to help work with the state department.

"People have seen the way we've dealt with the DOT since I've been in office, and they are impressed," he said. "I've found that the DOT is much more willing to work with a community that has a plan, and that was the case in East Aurora."

He said in the past he has even received calls from communities around the coun-

try who want to learn how to work with their states on such projects.

"I told Amherst the same thing I've told others — if you want something special, you have to let the DOT know," he said. "Otherwise, they may not do it to your liking, and then you have a problem."

For the time being, DiPietro will continue to aid the Amherst community in its streetscape plan at one of the biggest intersections in that town.

"I told them who to contact in New York State to make sure they had the right players present," he said. "Now they are getting what they need at that location."

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First Amendment essay contest offers \$10,000 college scholarship

The New York Press Association Foundation is sponsoring a First Amendment essay contest for 11th and 12th grade students in New York State.

Designed to foster knowledge and understanding of the First Amendment, the statewide competition offers entrants the chance to win a first-place \$10,000 college scholarship.

Entrants must submit an essay (maximum 500 words) to their local NYPA-member weekly newspaper. First-place winners at the regional level will have their essays printed in their local newspaper and will automatically be entered into the statewide competition, where NYPA Foundation board members and staff will select the scholarship winner.

A \$250 second-place and \$100 third-place prize will also be awarded at the state level.

Students will be asked to interpret the First Amendment in their essays and discuss the role it plays in American life. Discussions can, for example, include the First Amendment's importance with regard to school newspapers, local communities, or state and federal government.

Contest details, entry forms and a list of participating newspapers are available on the What's New pages at the NYPA Web site www.nynewspapers.com. Completed entry forms must accompany the student essays and be e-mailed to their local participating newspaper no later than Feb. 15, 2007.

Statewide winners will be notified in early March and will be invited to attend NYPA's annual spring convention in Saratoga Springs to receive their awards.



SHOP WITH A COP — Amherst Police Lt. John Olesko recently took a shopping trip to Toys "R" Us on Sheridan Drive with Joey and Lynsey Turos as part of the annual Shop With a Cop program. The event is sponsored by the Police Captains' and Lieutenants' Association of Erie County. Toys "R" Us also helped the cause by discounting many of the toys.

Community News

Brownie Troop 905 of the Hopkins Maple Unit recently visited residents at Brothers of Mercy Nursing Home with homemade crafts. Taking part in the activity were Carly Riter, Kelsey Milks, Stephanie Wetzel, Victoria Bauda, Maxine Riter, Casey Mallon, Simone Riter and Kaitlin Milks.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association of Buffalo will received part of a \$50,000 donation from ACOSTA Sales and Marketing Company. The money was raised during the 2006 annual Upstate NY Golf Classic.

Scholarships available through AAA

AAA will hold its fifth annual AAA Travel High School Challenge through Tuesday, Jan. 16. The travel-oriented contest awards \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes to high school students while promoting geography, culture and careers in the travel and tourism industry.

Students can participate in the challenge by enrolling at

www.AAA.com/TravelChallenge. Once enrolled, a 15-minute online quiz is given. State semifinalists continue to the state finals, March 6-8, for written proctored tests at AAA offices.

The national finals feature each state champion and will be held from May 19 to 22 at Universal Studios in Orlando. Students compete in a single-elimination

bee for a grand prize \$20,000 scholarship.

Second- and third-place prizes will be awarded at \$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively. In addition, the top five scorers in each state who express interest in travel-related careers will have an opportunity to submit an essay to compete for \$56,000 in travel-specific scholarships.

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Search the Scriptures
for Absolute Truth

Question: Another year gone. How many more do you have?
Answer: "LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am" (Psalm 39:4).

Comment: The scriptures, our only source of truth in this present life, contain a multitude of warnings concerning our time. The verse above calls us to examine the limited time that we have left and what our end will be. Sadly for the great majority of people this end will result in eternal damnation. "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14). Are you busy with the affairs of present day life and making your own plans for the future? Without warning you could be struck down unprepared! "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast" (Luke 12:20). We need to realize that no matter how wonderful our life seems to be, in God's eyes it is vanity and brief (Ecclesiastes 1:2, Psalm 90:5-6). Not only do we need to be mindful of our end individually but we must also consider the worldwide end. The return of Christ means the destruction of this universe and judgment day (John 6:40; 12:48, Mat. 24:30-31).

Do not be deceived by a church doctrine that teaches ongoing time or some thousand years before judgment. The scripture presents signs that believers in Christ recognize showing that the end is near. Two dramatic signs: the earthly church has a "falling away" and the "man of sin," the anti-Christ, is revealed. In addition God sends a "strong delusion" so that those in the earthly congregations "believe a lie" and "be damned" (1 Thessalonians 1:1-12). These signs are clearly evident now and warn that the end is fast approaching! However, for God's chosen, the future is bright. God's elect are confident that their lives will never end. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life (John 6:47). They know that they will live with Christ whether their body of flesh has died or they are present when He returns. They are secure in Christ. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day (John 6:39). Yes indeed, our time is short and we need to consider our position before eternal God. Has Christ paid for your sins? God commands us to make our "calling and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10). Are you sure?

Sovereign Grace Ministry www.DistinctlyandRightly.com

Eggertsville receives tree grant

The Town of Amherst has received a state grant for \$6,000 to plant 40 trees in Eggertsville Community Park.

The grant is part of the 2006 Urban and Community Forestry Grant Awards, which is donating \$300,000 statewide for a total of 32 projects.

The Amherst Greening Initiative will be planting the trees.

"New York is committed to enhancing urban areas and conserving valuable natural resources statewide," former governor George E. Pataki said. "These grants will build on our strong record of preserving the environment and have a lasting impact on urban areas by creating cleaner, healthier communities for future generations to enjoy."

Recipients were chosen based on criteria that included the future contribution the tree planting project will have on increasing tree canopy cover over streets, parking lots, buildings and other built infrastructure.

Applications for 130 projects were submitted.