

# Town policy would monitor mileage reimbursement

by **JESSICA L. FINCH**  
Associate Editor

In an effort to cut costs in the Town of Amherst, Council Member Deborah Bruch Bucki reviewed the number of vehicles used by Town employees, and how they were being used.

"We needed to study the issue to create an applicable policy," Bucki said.

After a 10-month investigation she presented the first of a number of reports that will change the vehicle policy within in town.

The Town Board was scheduled to vote on the policy at its Tuesday meeting. The results will be announced in the Jan. 24 edition of The Amherst Bee.

Bucki said she was hoping for support from the Town Board on the proposed changes, especially the section on reimbursement for Town employees.

This could create a policy for all employees to follow for mileage reimbursement, which is \$0.485 per mile. Within the policy the Comptroller's Office would verify the accuracy of the mileage reported by the employee.

The distance between the place of employment and the recorded

home address would be reviewed.

"We definitely need to improve the reimbursement policy," she said.

Bucki also wants to see all town vehicles identified with the Amherst seal. This would not include undercover vehicles used in police investigations.

Prior to any official adoption of a town policy, Bucki said some department heads have already made adjustments. The Engineering Department has reduced its fleet by seven or eight cars, she said.

The vehicle review process started in March 2006 with a study of all vehicles used by the Town.

"The Motor Vehicle Policy represents only a first step toward regulating the overall size of the town's fleet of motor vehicles — particularly take-home vehicles — and toward ensuring the Town motor vehicles are used for Town purposes," she said.

Should the policy be approved as presented by Bucki it would include:

- Expressly bans the use of any Town vehicle by any Town employee for purposes not related to pro-

viding services to Town residents.

- Requires every Town employee who may use a Town vehicle to have a copy of his or her driver's license on file with the Town.

- Requires the Town Board annually to approve all assignments of take home vehicles to Town

employees.

- Provides criteria by which the Town Board will determine whether to approve take-home vehicle assignments.

"The Motor Vehicle Policy that I propose incorporates ideas presented by Town of Amherst de-

partment heads and employees," she said.

The next Town Board meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5 at town hall, 5583 Main St., Williamsville. For agenda information, visit the Web site at [www.amherst.ny.us](http://www.amherst.ny.us).



**KIDS PROGRAMS** — Shannon Freeman-Striegel, 7, signed up for a children's program sponsored by the Eggertsville-Snyder Library on Tuesday. She

spoke with Branch Manager Sandi Booth about which program she should attend.

Photo by John Rusac

## Volunteers sought in Amherst, Williamsville

by **JILL SCHMELZER**  
Reporter

Taking the time to volunteer can help better the community, as well as brighten another person's day.

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Williamsville is seeking volunteers to fill empty seats on various boards and committees.

There are positions open on the Williamsville Water Mill Committee and the Historic Preservation

Commission.

The mayor instituted the mill committee in 2006 to explore funding, use and preservation of the building, located at 56 E. Spring St. in Williamsville. Two volunteers from HSBC Bank have been transferred to a different branch, thereby leaving two vacancies on the committee.

Members of the Historic Preservation Commission have the power to enact site-plan reviews, as well as apply for grants and for state and national historic registries, and thus, are required to maintain certain standards and expertise.

The Village has more than 100 volunteers assisting the community.

"We have so many committees and so many volunteers that it is a testament to the atmosphere of village life that attracts these quality people," Mayor Mary Lowther said. "Everyone is busy, but seeing so many residents lend their time and expertise is a wonderful thing."

The Village also has a Planning and Architectural Review Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Traffic

and Safety Committee, Environmental Advisory Committee, Historical Society, Glen Park Joint Board, Parks Committee, Tree Board, Youth and Recreation Committee and Senior Citizens Committee.

To inquire about any of the above, call Village Hall at 632-4120.

Hutchinson Hose Fire Chief Jim Zymanek is looking to fill positions in the department and on the Explorer Post.

The Explorer Post is designed to teach young adults about the fire service, allowing them the opportunity to learn about what firefighters do to help the community.

"It is a good program that can lead to many opportunities in life," Zymanek said.

For more information, visit [www.hutchinsonhose.com](http://www.hutchinsonhose.com).

In other opportunities:

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association is recruiting capable stroke survivors and caregivers to serve as volunteer peer-to-peer visitors in the hospital setting.

Participants will be required to

complete a seven-week training and educational series covering the different aspects of life after a stroke. Training will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturdays, starting March 3.

For more information, call 614-1997 or e-mail [Charmaine.rech@heart.org](mailto:Charmaine.rech@heart.org).

The Alzheimer's Association is also seeking volunteers to provide in-home companionship for persons with memory loss.

Volunteers would visit in teams of two, for two hours each visit. Free training is available and the hours are flexible.

For more information, call 626-0600.



### School News

**Williamsville Central School District** fourth grade orchestra students from Maple East and Forest Elementary recently participated in the Erie County Music Educators Association, Elementary All County Solo Festival at Depew High School. Hannah Malof, Mandela Namaste, Riana Ferloin, and Sihyun Ahn all scored an A+ on their solos.

## Mohan's State of the Town address set for Jan. 19

Amherst Town Supervisor Satish Mohan will give his second annual State of the Town address during the Amherst Chamber of Commerce's annual luncheon on Friday, Jan. 19 at Classics V Banquet & Conference Center.

During his address, Mohan is expected to discuss his administration's agenda for the Town of Amherst in the upcoming year.

The Chamber will also swear in its 2007 officers and board of directors as well as present its 2006 Volunteer of the Year Award. The award will be given to the Town of Amherst Budget Review Committee/Finance Committee.

The cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch. Reservations are required.

Registration will take place at 11:30 a.m. Lunch and the program will run from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Classics V Banquet & Conference Center is located at 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst.

To make a reservation, call the Amherst Chamber of Commerce at 632-6905.

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