

Democratic leadership prioritizes agenda

As we start 2007 in the Erie County Legislature, I have been given the honor and responsibility of leading this Legislature as we address reform and financial efficiencies in our elected service to the people of Erie County, better ways to conduct the business of the people and other avenues of action.

The committee structure will again provide much of the direction the Legislature takes this year through its meetings, where department heads and elected officials will discuss their proposals and present information the legislators need to make their decisions in a bipartisan fashion. These are the committees' major agenda items for 2007:

Community Enrichment: Chaired by Legislator Michele M. Iannello; Erie Community College budget, Convention and Visitors' Bureau dedication and funding, library systems and cultural funding.

Economic Development: Chaired by Legislator Timothy Kennedy; Waterfront development, Buffalo Bills lease review, Erie County Industrial Development Agency and Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority review, Department of Public Works Four-Year Plan and roads.

Energy & Environment: Chaired by Legislator Thomas Loughran; Parks management, Water Authority, Huntley progress, sewer district merger.

Finance & Management: Chaired by Legislator Robert B. Reynolds Jr.; Sales tax, capital budget, New York State mandates on budget, Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority efficiency grants, surplus review, charter impacts (performance-based budget) and grant funding approaches, midyear budget hearings.

Government Affairs: Chaired by Legislator George A. Holt Jr.; Board of Elections/Help Americans Vote Act changes, Framework for Growth, Clerk Four-Year Plan.

Health: Chaired by Legislator Cynthia Locklear; ECMCC/Kaleida merger from New York State hospital commission, Four-Year Plan.

Human Services: Chaired by Legislator Thomas Mazur; Blueprint for Change with Social Services,

New York State Medicaid cap and impacts.

Personnel Ad Hoc: Chaired by Legislator Kathy Konst; Ethics filings and whistle-blower policy reviews, assess vacancy control, pensions, managed attrition, collective bargaining, Personnel Four-Year Plan.

Public Safety: Chaired by Legislator Daniel M. Kozub; Charter changes: Central Police Services and Emergency Medical Services, state mandates/jail sheriff's road patrol discussions, assess probation.

Regardless of which committee we consider, there are issues affecting finances, personnel, delivery of services, efficiency, working with other governmental agencies and working for the immediate future and years down the road. Following the revisions to the Erie County Charter that the voters of Erie County overwhelmingly approved in November, I instituted a charter implementation working group to see that the county implements the revisions approved.



LYNN MARINELLI
Legislature Chairperson

Letters

to the Editor

Rev. Bagley's

(Continued from page five)

our way through to the answers we were seeking. Sometimes these questions were the seeds, and they took time, hard work, and lots of rain and sun before we would get to the answer, but that was what made the answers so meaningful.

Head of School Barbara Ochterski announced that Sacred Heart Academy will forever remember Rev. Bagley's message of planting seeds by creating a memorial garden with a tree that can grow in his memory.

The memorial service concluded with the school's Chamber Singers singing "For Good," the song from the musical "Wicked" that tells about how "I have been changed for the better since I

knew you."

Staff and students
Sacred Heart Academy

Legislator helped those he served

It was with genuine sadness that I read of Dr. Barry Weinstein's retirement from the Erie County Legislature. Dr. Barry has been a great representative and advocate for Amherst. As a senior citizen, I have been helped with several issues through his office. I have always found Dr. Barry's staff to be the most responsive in government. I know many seniors who feel he has been very helpful to us and concerned about our future. He was a rock during the budget crisis.

I want to thank Legislator Weinstein and his staff for his excep-

tional public service and commitment to excellence in government. Your shoes will be hard to fill.

Fran Daigler
Garrison Road
Williamsville

Tournament spirit engulfs community

I want to thank all those involved in the third annual Williamsville Rotary Holiday Basketball Tournament held Dec. 28-29 at Williamsville South High School. The tournament was a tremendous success.

The feedback from the coaches and schools participating is that it is a classy event run in a first-rate manner. The event featured both junior varsity and varsity boys' basketball and halftime games

played by members of the Amherst Youth basketball league, as well as a raffle for iPods.

Attendance was tremendous, and the games were exciting. The funds raised will go toward student scholarships and other charitable purposes in the Amherst community.

The Williamsville South Basketball Booster Club, Williamsville South coach Al Monaco, the Williamsville South staff and the Williamsville School District all played key roles in the tournament, and I appreciate their help.

We also had many local businesses that supported us by purchasing ads in our program. I want to thank you and let you know that your ads were part of a very professional program distributed free to all attendees at the tournament.

The tournament, after only three years, has now become a holiday tradition that the whole community will look forward to. The gym was full on Friday night, and the fans were treated to a great basketball game. I saw many people from the community who were there not because they had a child participating but because it was an entertaining evening and a chance to meet with friends.

The Williamsville Rotary is a service organization committed to serving our community through volunteerism and fund-raising. It is our privilege to be part of this event, and I hope this will be an event that the community looks forward to each year.

Jerry Sheldon
Tournament Chairman
Williamsville

Bee

Heard

call: 632-0390

(Editor's note: Call The Bee at 632-0390 and record a one-minute comment on our Bee Heard line. It gives readers an opportunity to comment quickly and candidly on items of local or regional interest. Callers do not have to identify themselves and no callers' names will be used. In the interest of fairness and good taste, The Bee will not publish derogatory or insulting comments. All comments are by our readers and are subject to editing.)

Regarding The Bee editorial of Jan. 10 on the process of choosing a deputy supervisor, the number of times he changed his mind should come as no surprise to anyone who has followed his antics for the past year. Also, no surprise is his

continued practice of making assurances to people and renegeing. These behaviors have sadly become characteristic.

Kudos to The Bee for its editorial on Supervisor Mohan's antics with regard to the deputy supervisor position. If it is such an insignificant position, as the supervisor says, he has certainly spent a lot of time and energy making a mockery of it.

It is Jan. 10 today, and the brush and cut branches are still lying around on almost every street in the Snyder area. There is no snow and no roads to be salted. What is the highway department doing? Let's do the work, guys!

I was wondering if the

overnight parking ban has been discontinued due to the lack of snow in the East Amherst area of Hopkins, Brenridge, Shellridge and Beachwood Drive. It seems there are vehicles parking every night, overnight, since November.

I attended the town meeting on Jan. 10 about tree damage from the storm, and I want to thank Mr. Anderson and Mr. Stedman for a very excellent, clear, professional presentation. I also want to commend them for the way they handled the meeting when the audience became quite unruly at times. They did an excellent job.

I live on Brantwood near Main, and every day after garbage pick-up day (Wednesday) I cannot believe the tons of garbage that flies onto my property from my neighbors. They don't pack their garbage properly, and it flies all over the place.

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Business News

The Women's Board of Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital will honor its new slate of officers for 2007 at its annual Installation Luncheon on Jan. 25 at the Park Country Club of Buffalo. The elected officers are: President Marsi Rohde of East Amherst, Vice President Alice Russ of Amherst, Recording Secretary Joyce Zobel of East Amherst, Corresponding Secretary Dorothy Schaus of Williamsville and Co-Treasurers Florence Kirk of Clarence and Dee Michaels of Williamsville.