



Police force finally reaches 154

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

Approximately two years and one lawsuit later the Amherst Police Department has its force of 154 officers.

Chief John Moslow said four of five new hires started the academy on Monday. The fifth is not required to attend because he transferred from the Erie County Sheriff's Department.

"I hope this is behind the Police Department," he said about Supervisor Satish Mohan's resistance to hiring the officers.

Moslow added he wants the debate resolved so he can continue to put forth highly qualified candidates to fill future vacancies without conflict.

Hired were Jordan R. Grabar, a former Erie County Sheriff; David B. Schneider, an Amherst police dispatcher; Daniel R. Buscher, a corrections officer; Dean L. Swoger, a University at Buffalo officer; and Samantha Humbert, who will be Amherst's 10th female officer.

The Amherst Town Board voted 7-0 on Monday to appoint the five officers but only after a heated debate that involved the opinion of three attorneys and rewording of the resolution.

Council Member Bill Kindel and Mohan both asked private attorneys to attend the meeting. They, along with attorneys from the town, went into recess to reword the resolution.

Attorney Richard Lippes, who was asked to attend by Kindel, commented on approving



Moslow
Additional officers.

Stating that he would not sign paperwork to hire the officers, Mohan stalled the process for most of 2006. The Amherst Police Club filed a

the hirings, saying, "Let's do what seven people on this board want to do."

Mohan, who had been opposed to the appointments, sponsored the resolution.

The debate started in 2005 after the Town Board voted in 2004 to budget for an additional three officers. Then, with two vacancies remaining unfilled, the department needed two additional officers.

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Fire and ice

Ellicott Creek, North Bailey and Brighton firefighters responded to a \$28,000 blaze Jan. 17 at 91 Amberwood Drive, Amherst. Officials said a passerby noticed smoke coming from an upstairs window shortly before 9 a.m. and alerted two children who were home alone. The Red Cross was called to care for the family of four.

Photo by David F. Sherman
Purchase photos at www.BeeNews.com

Closed Catholic schools in Amherst survive cuts

by JILL SCHMELZER
Reporter

Bishop Edward U. Kmiec of the Diocese of Buffalo announced the closing of 14 Catholic elementary schools Saturday morning during a press conference held at The Catholic Center.

(See editorial on page four)

None of the schools are in Amherst.

The schools are Infant of Prague, St. Josaphat, Kolbe Catholic Regional, Resurrection and St. Aloysius Gonzaga in Cheektowaga; St. Barnabas in Depew; Blessed Sacrament in Kenmore; St. Edmund in Tonawanda; St. Agnes, St. Bernard and St. Rose of Lima in Buffalo; Most Precious Blood in Angola; Genesee-Wyoming Catholic Central in Attica; and St. Hyacinth School in Dunkirk.

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Change in town's assessment program will increase school taxes

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

Administrators from the three school districts in Amherst have serious concerns about the change in assessment program for the town — but it appears those concerns have fallen on deaf ears.

A representative from Williamsville Central School District reported that Supervisor Satish Mohan has not responded to letters sent from the schools, including one in November, warning the town to maintain its current program of 100 percent assessment.

The most recent letter, dated Jan. 16, was sent to the supervisor as well as to council members. It was not addressed at the Town Board's work session and spe-

“Residents are going to most likely be paying a larger share due to the fact the state is considering the total assessments in the town to be less than 100 percent value.”

— Thomas Maturski, assistant superintendent of finance and management, Williamsville Central Schools

cial meeting on Monday.

The letter, signed by the superintendents of all three districts, said reducing the equalization rate below 100 percent will adversely affect their budgets and result in an added cost to Amherst residents.

Mohan cut funding for the program in the town's 2007 budget that would have continued

the New York State Office of Real Property Services 100 percent assessment program. The rate has been 100 percent for the past seven years.

"The cessation of the Town of Amherst's full value (market value) assessment program will result in the New York State Office of Real

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Community Outlook

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