

Bee Editorial

Aged buildings in need of upgrades

Amherst Central High School, the oldest public school building still in use in the town, would benefit greatly from the district's proposed capital project.

District officials announced last week that the \$16.5 million project is being considered as a separate item on the May ballot.

Earmarked to receive \$5.6 million of the \$16.5 million, the high school would be bettered with an upgraded auditorium and a new roof.

The high school was built more than 75 years ago but remains sound. Any building that old requires repairs and modernization if it is to remain in constant use. Also, the middle school would receive a \$2.4 million kitchen and cafeteria, and Smallwood Elementary would gain an auditorium upgrade.

All the buildings face a lot of wear and tear, playing host to a variety of events throughout

the school year.

When the district is asking for residents' support for a new roof, programming upgrades and parking accommodations we hope they would respond by voting yes to the capital project in May.

The Amherst Central district faced difficult choices two years ago but wisely closed the old Eggert Road and Harlem Road elementary schools. Repairs to those buildings, in light of declining enrollment, would have been wasteful. The right decisions were made, and both former schools survive with alternative uses that still benefit the community.

This is not the case in the Amherst District's four buildings. The compact territory it serves benefits from two elementary schools close to Main Street and the two higher level buildings being within sight of each other. Transportation is efficiently handled throughout the

school year.

The destinations themselves are now the items that need attention.

The capital improvement plan was actually set in motion more than two years ago. School Board members, district administrators, the district's architect and a bond adviser have met regularly to hone the project into one that we believe can be embraced by the community.

The proposed tax levy hike of just 1 percent would be made possible by wisely applying a retiring bond to the financial plan.

From the early morning hours to late into the evening the schools are open for students to take part in music programs, athletics and academic clubs. By maintaining up-to-date, enhanced school buildings, the district would avoid extensive repairs and emergency measures in the overall system. It is time to take that step in the Amherst Central district.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **FLIMSY AND LAZY** — During one snowy morning I learned the path between me and a cup of coffee is an annoying one. I enjoy a cup of coffee every morning before work. Normally I brew a cup at home in a travel mug. But unfortunately, I learned

worse, allowing small amounts of grounds to run through, and my finding them in the final gulp. (Remember, it's a travel mug, so I didn't see the bottom of the cup.) During a recent hectic morning in which snow had fallen throughout the night, I started my coffee maker and got ready for work. Going back to retrieve my brew, I realized the machine was clogged and my coffee was stuck in the filter. Out of time, I left for work.

I arrived at the Bee Newspapers office on Main Street in Williamsville, checked my messages and then bundled up to head down to Village Desserts for the coffee I was deprived of at home. As I approached Rock Street, I noticed none of the businesses between The Bee and Village Desserts had been shoveled.

I cautiously stepped into footprints left before me, trying to keep my balance. On the way back, with coffee in hand, I did the same, noticing businesses down the other side of Main Street also had not shoveled. So there are two lessons to be

learned here, don't try to save money on generic coffee filters and be sure to shovel the sidewalks outside of your storefronts.

• **VISTA?** — For the past month, I checked for sales on laptops because when my roommate moved out so did her desktop. Each week I waited to buy one, and this past Saturday I feared I had waited too long as many models were sold out. Signs were everywhere announcing availability on Jan. 30. You may already know where this is going, but I was still clueless. It wasn't until I stopped at Best Buy on Niagara Falls Boulevard that I learned the computers would be sold on Tuesday with the new Vista software. I was sent to the Best Buy in Hamburg where they had "old" systems available. A very helpful associate walked me through the process since I am technologically clueless. In the end I got a deal I was comfortable with and a voucher for a free Vista CD. But I will

admit I was completely in the dark for awhile there, wondering where all the laptops had gone.

• **GIVE KIDS A SMILE DAY** — Approximately 800 children and their parents are scheduled for dental clinics in the School of Dental Medicine at the University at Buffalo and the Pediatric Dental Clinic at Women's and Children's Hospital of Buffalo on Feb. 2 to take part in the fifth annual Give Kids a Smile Day. Children from across Western New York who do not have access to dental care will receive free dental treatment on that day as part of UB dental school's community outreach initiative. More than 200 volunteers, including UB dental school faculty, staff and students; Women's and Children's Hospital dentist and staff; private dentists and their staff; and students and faculty from UB's Equal Opportunity Center's Dental Assisting Program and Erie Community College's Hygiene Program will help.

there is one product I will never again buy generically — coffee filters. My machine brews either one or two cups at a time so I use the smaller, cone-shaped filters. The filters tend to split, clogging the hole for the water to come through with grounds, stopping the whole process. Or even

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago Feb. 2, 1882

This morning the Amherst Town Board met for the purpose of forming a Board of Health in compliance with the new law which says that the Board shall consist of the Town Board and a citizen of the town to be appointed by the Board. This position was filled by the selection of Mr. J.D. Long. The Board also appointed Dr. H.P. Trull as health physician.

A very pleasing time was had at the residence of Mr. Jacob Wenner last Saturday upon the occasion of his sixty-sixth birthday. Mr. Samuel Hummel presented him with a large rocking-chair, accompanied by a neat little speech.

The horse disease known as "pink-eye" has at last reached Buffalo and is causing the street railroad company a great deal of inconvenience. None has been reported in this village or vicinity.

They are playing base-ball in New Orleans, Havana and San Francisco.

"When a woman and a mouse meet, which is the most frightened?"

100 Years Ago Jan. 31, 1907

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Witnauer of East Amherst celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on January 22.

John Rebstock of Williamsville was in Jamaica at the time of the earthquake and has safely returned to New York.

75 Years Ago Feb. 4, 1932

The lunch and refreshment stand operated by Archie Reese at the corner of Cleveland Drive and Harlem Road was entirely destroyed by fire early last Friday morning. It was presumed that the place was robbed and then burned. The building was owned by Edwin G. Greiner.

This open winter is doing much to cut down on the cost of snow removal on the highways, and gives promise of leaving a couple thousand dollars unused in the snow and miscellaneous fund of the highway department.

Celebrating a birthday anniversary with a house sounds unconventional, except when that house is part of one's very being, as in the case of Henry W. Hershey. He is delighting in the fact that he is observing the 96th anniversary of his natal day simultaneously with his homestead reaching the century mark. The Hershey homestead stands on Main Street opposite the Village Hall. (*Editor's note: This lot at 5570 Main St. later became the site of the Williamsville fire hall and is now the offices of Hunt Real Estate.*)

Amherst Police have received complaints from Bert Allenbach, living on the Chestnut Ridge Road, that someone has been stealing his firewood.

50 Years Ago Jan. 31, 1957

Senior, Bissell and Bronkie, consulting engineers, have moved to 5757 Main St., Williamsville. The firm is one of the oldest engineering firms in this district and it is fitting that their new offices are in a building which is 106 years old.

A well-known Eggertsville resident and attorney for 40 years, Mrs. Celia Allespach Mueller, 70, died Saturday, Jan. 26, 1957. She is believed to be the first woman to receive the doctor of jurisprudence degree from the University of New York.

25 Years Ago Jan. 27, 1982

State Assemblyman John B. Sheffer II voiced his "strongest opposition" to proposals by Gov. Hugh Carey to increase the state tax on gasoline and the state fee for vehicle registrations.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 21 in SS. Peter and Paul Church for Mrs. Caroline Deazley, 94, who formerly lived with her parents in the old Evans House where Gen. Winfield Scott had his headquarters during the War of 1812.

Jeremy Voyer scored the first goal Friday night for the Amherst Minor Pee Wees in a 4-1 victory over Hamilton in the Kiwanis Invitational Tourney.

From the Blotter: "Forest Stream Road caller reports persons removing wood from field."