



Brett McDowell and his son, Jon, hit the slopes at Margaret Louise Park on Hopkins Road for sledding on Monday, as schools were closed because of severe wind chill factors and blowing snow. The weather limited the pair to just a few runs down the hill.

Photo by John Rusac
Purchase photos at www.BeeNews.com

Employee review plan splits board

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

Supervisor Satish Mohan already has a plan in motion to review employee performance, and on Monday, town Council Member Shelly Schratz attempted to add department heads to the mix.

Her resolution to address the issue of department head evaluations was voted down, but Mohan said he already has been addressing the issue with Personnel Director Bob McCarthy.

Prior to the vote, the council members debated the effectiveness of Schratz's plan.

"The reason I am bringing this forward is to understand the type of job they are doing," she said, adding that in the seven years she has served she has never seen an evaluation done.

Schatz noted that the evaluation would not only address the performance of the department heads but allow them to talk about issues they are having with the board and their duties.

"It's an excellent business practice that needs to be put into place," she said. "It makes sure (they are doing their job). They are paid a very good wage, most if not all of them."

“It won't affect their pay; they can't be demoted. There would be no consequences. This (plan) has no teeth.”

— Council member
William A. O'Loughlin Jr.

Daredevils

Edward Rath III to follow in mother's footsteps, run for Erie County Legislature seat

by JILL SCHMELZER
Reporter

Republican Edward Rath III announced his candidacy for the Erie County Legislature on Friday in Williamsville.

Rath is running for the 15th District seat now held by Dr. Barry Weinstein, who is not seeking re-election.

Rath, 39, is the son of Sen. Mary Lou Rath, R-Williamsville, and the late State Supreme Court Justice Edward Rath II.

If elected, Rath said, there would be an advantage to working with his mother because they already have an open line of communication.

"Statewide, it gives us the understanding we need to know to get the state and county working together," he said.

He said it would be a great opportunity to be involved in public service, which he holds on a high pedestal, Rath said.

"My family has a proven track record in Amherst and the community," Rath said of his political background.

Rath's interest in politics began when he was 10 years old and his mother first ran for political office.

"I found it fascinating," he said.

Rath attended Syracuse University and studied political science, focusing on American government.

He said he learned how government is run and the importance of the political branches' ability to work together.

"I was bitten by the bug," Rath said.

He interned in Washington, D.C. with Jack Kemp in 1988, working part time on Capitol Hill and part time with Kemp's presidential campaign.

In 1989, he was an intern again, but this time with then New York State Assembly Republican leader Tom Reynolds. Reynolds is now a U.S. congressman from Amherst.

Since then, Rath has served the private sector for 15 years and is currently a senior energy consultant for NOCO Energy Corp.

He was as a member of the Erie County Charter Revision Commission, where he served as chair of the Scope of Government Committee.

He decided to run for political office after he had been away from the area for a few years.

When he returned, Rath said he kept reading about the fiscal trouble the county was in, and he disagreed with the red and green budgets.

"I am running to help bring fiscal responsibility and accountability back to Erie County government," Rath said. "Just because Erie County has the ability to continue to tax does not mean the hardworking taxpayers of this community have the ability to pay."

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Edward Rath III

Winterfest 2007 to be held in Glen Park

The Village of Williamsville Youth and Recreation Committee will present Winterfest 2007 from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11 in Glen Park in Williamsville.

The day will feature free hay rides and a petting zoo from Kelkenberg Farms, snowshoeing in the park and a snow sculpture contest.

The contest winners will be announced at 3 p.m. Judging will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Hot cocoa and sledding will be offered. People are asked to bring their own sleds. Free cookies will also be donated by Village Desserts.

www.AmherstBee.com



Inside



Dr. Seuss

Dan Licata portrays the Cat in the Hat in this weekend's musical at Amherst Central High School. See page 31

'Once on this Island'

Sweet Home High School presents unusual production. See page 42

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