

## Bee Editorial

# Outside funding sources may be libraries' answer

The problem of finding funding for Erie County libraries is not going away anytime soon.

Amherst has been fortunate to not see the closure of any of its four libraries — unlike neighboring Cheektowaga, which lost two of its four libraries last year. The Town of Amherst and Village of Williamsville took it upon themselves to maintain the Williamsville branch after the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library system ceased all funding for the facility.

But the Town Board has said it is also through funding the branch. At the close of 2007, the town will no longer grant full funding.

Newly named director Roseanne Butler-Smith will have many challenges to face. While the need for additional programming, books and materials increases, the money available seems to be less and less with each

budget year.

If closing any of the four libraries is not an option, then outside funding is the only option left. Butler-Smith has a tough decision to make before it is made for her.

Finding funding sources is a difficult task that many organizations rely on to continue their existence.

Without the help of the Amherst Town Board is the Williamsville library ready for 2008? Residents are called upon in times of crisis and usually answer with authority, but that can't be the procedure every time the funds run low.

Minimal funding is provided by the county due in part to a \$7 million budget cut in 2005. Leaders were left with very few resources to give to towns.

Some good news came during the 2007 county budget process as \$500,000 was made available in additional support to the system.

With its portion of funding, the Egbertsville-Snyder Branch was able to restore an additional four hours, as well as to purchase materials.

Butler-Smith has a lot of experience that she will definitely be using during the upcoming year of budgeting and decision making.

While Amherst's libraries remain among the top in circulation, those free books being checked out don't support the money needed to keep the library up and running.

Throughout Erie County several libraries closed their doors for the final time, devastating residents and generations who spent hours inside the building. If Amherst hopes to avoid that fate, then an alternative funding plan needs to be implemented.

It's hard to believe, as residents pay their 2007 taxes, that the 2008 budget is already being talked about, but that is the reality.

## Spindle items



**JESSICA FINCH**

Associate Editor

• **NOT TODAY** — I can get over the fact that I won't have flowers on my desk today, and I don't mind that my dinner won't be at some candlelit, fancy restaurant. Even though couples and love are in my face all day I can deal with it,

thanks in part to the co-author of this column. We single girls stick together.

But what I do mind is that Valentine's Day is taunting me — knowing that when today comes and goes I will still be facing the annoying world of dating. It's not knowing when love may strike that is frustrating, as well as dealing with all the "Mr. Wrongs." But no one can expect me to fall in love on Valentine's Day because

"Love comes when you least expect it."

Today, I'm off the hook. No one, not my friends, co-workers or family members, are allowed to ask me if I am seeing anyone special. For one day I am not expected to meet Mr. Right.

Feb. 14 is much like New Year's for single people. We look forward to seeing the past single year end and hope that the next year brings true love. We secretly make resolutions that the next Valentine's Day won't be spent "alone."

Hopefully, the whole year won't be spent on seemingly never-ending dates engulfed in awkward silences. Or worse, being told at the end of a date — "I'll never watch a Sabres game with you again." What can I say, I'm a fan.

I have dating stories that could fill a book, possibly a series of books. Some tales are humorous, others just plain boring — just like the date was.

by **JILL SCHMELZER**  
Reporter

• **OH GREAT, IT'S FEB. 14** — Valen-

tine's Day is a day to express how much you love someone. It's a day to celebrate cupid's arrow and every couple that he has brought together. Well, what about the people that haven't been bitten by the love bug?

Normally, it doesn't bother me that I am a part of the singles club. To me, being independent enables me to go out and flirt with a guy I find attractive. I can go to a bar and accept a drink from someone and don't have to worry about the wrath of my boyfriend once he finds out. Being single also gives me the opportunity to just hang out with the girls and not have to worry about what my man is doing with his friends.

Yes, I dream of the days I will once again have a boyfriend to buy me flowers and tell me how much I mean to him, but until then I am content just being me.

This is how I normally feel, but Valentine's Day is difficult for us single people. Every time the front door opens and the delivery person hands another co-worker a bouquet of flowers, I'll be honest, I feel a bit envious.

Most of my friends are at stages in their relationships where wedding bells will soon be chiming and the pitter patter of little feet is just around the corner. When I look at my coupled friends it's evident that they don't need a special day to say "I love you." They express it all the time. Those days, I only want to gag a little.

But on Valentine's Day, it feels as though the coupled people are taunting us single folk. Tonight I want to be one of those people that will be enjoying lobster and love notes. But instead, I am going to curl up with a good book and celebrate that I am single and fabulous — to quote an episode of my favorite HBO syndication that has since gone off the air. For all of us out there who are single, thank goodness today lasts just 24 hours.



**JILL SCHMELZER**

Amherst Reporter

## Out of the Past

### 125 Years Ago Feb. 16, 1882

Yesterday afternoon, as Mr. John Hoffman was driving up Washington Street in Buffalo with a load of stoves, on his way home, the board on which he was sitting slipped, and he was thrown violently to the pavement, badly bruising his right shoulder and head. Upon inquiring this morning, we learn the injuries are not serious, but quite painful.

Mr. Joseph Wetzel won the horse recently raffled at N. Bitterman's.

This morning, Mr. J.D. Long's large hay scales withstood a severe test in weighing a horse that balanced the beam at 145 pounds.

Mr. William C. Hipner has sold his farm to Mr. John Daniels. The price paid we understand was \$103 per acre.

"The key that winds up many a man's business is whiskey."

"It may be right occasionally to take a bull by the horns, but it is always well to keep in mind that the horns belong to the bull."

### 100 Years Ago Feb. 14, 1907

Miss Eugenie W. Snyder entertained the Mejah Pedro Club at its last meeting of the season.

The temperature on Feb. 10 reached 4 degrees below zero, the coldest day of the winter.

### 75 Years Ago Feb. 18, 1932

Stopping Mrs. John P. Wooster as she was walking on Mill Street Tuesday evening, a thief snatched her purse and made a safe getaway. Her loss amounted to \$125.

William Messersmith, whose birthplace was on a farm about two miles north of Williamsville, died Sunday afternoon, Feb. 14, 1932. The end came unexpectedly at the Plymouth Methodist Church while he was in attendance at a service. Rising to sing, he was stricken with a heart attack, death following almost immediately.

The Amherst Central High School announces a course to be given in photography. It will be open to the more advanced students and include the developing and enlargement of pictures.

The blue and white of Williamsville High School had little trouble with the Alden High cagers on Friday night, defeating them decisively 49-14.

Rehearsals for "Drury Ranch," the forthcoming production of the Monroe Players, are being held regularly. The play will be given Friday evening, March 4, in the Williamsville High School.

While fumigating a bedroom in the home of Henry Hahn at the corner of Pfohl Place and Scott Drive Wednesday afternoon, the mattress of a bed was ignited. The Williamsville firemen quickly extinguished the blaze.

### 50 Years Ago Feb. 14, 1957

The most dastardly crime to be committed in Amherst in years took place last Saturday when a man viciously struck on the head a woman who was helplessly confined to a wheel chair. The crime took place at the gift shop she operates at 4610 Main Street, Snyder.

A co-educational high school to serve area parishes will be built by the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo on an eight-acre site on Park Club Lane.

On Tuesday night, Feb. 5th, Karl Pautler, aided and abetted by Leonard Menedue, landed a sixteen-pound lake trout in ninety feet of water off Gull Rock at Lake Simcoe, Ontario.

### 25 Years Ago Feb. 10, 1982

Several "serious developers" are interested in leasing or purchasing the Sweet Home School District's decommissioned elementary school at Sheridan and Sweet Home, sources say.

Rita Auerbach is presenting a one-woman show of watercolors through Feb. 28 at AM&A's Gallery East Cafe at the Eastern Hills Mall.

Mrs. Deanna A. Banaszak of Williamsville, an art teacher in the Clarence school system, died Tuesday, Feb. 2, 1982. She was named 1977 Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Clarence Jaycees.