

 Meetings

Volunteer fair offered for nonprofits

Volunteers are critical to the success of Western New York's social services, arts and cultural organizations. The Volunteer Fair, to be held on Saturday, March 31 at WNED Studios, Horizons Plaza, in downtown Buffalo, offers the opportunity for area nonprofits to showcase their work in the community and to highlight their volunteer needs. Now in its third year, the Volunteer Fair provides "one-stop shopping" for the public to meet face to face with representatives from a wide variety of nonprofit organizations and to donate their time for everything from answering phones to giving tours to gardening to special events. Nonprofit organizations interested in participating in the Volunteer Fair should contact Lisa Napier at 845-7025 for applications and more information. Space is limited, and applications will be processed in the order received.

Urban League planning annual gala

This fall, the Urban League of Buffalo will hold its annual gala in honor of eight decades of work on behalf of people who encounter racism, bigotry and substandard living and working conditions. The league is inviting public nominations for its four major awards, the winners of which will be chosen in March by the league's board of directors. Nominations are due no later than March 16. There is a one-page form to fill out online, which is available at <http://buffalourbanleague.org/pdf/2007GalaNominationForm.pdf>.

Everywoman nominations are sought

The Everywoman Opportunity center of Buffalo is looking for nominations for its annual awards dinner slated for Thursday, May 3. Nominations are intended for those women who have gone above and beyond in their work in the community. For more information, call 847-1120 or visit online at www.everywoman.org.

Palladino's

Out of the office, into the kitchen

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

The days of sitting in a cubicle lasted 12 years for Darren Palaszewski before he decided it was time for a career change.

Employed in the marketing department of Ingram Micro, Palaszewski met Illya Lasting, a six-year employee, and together they developed a plan to go into business together.

"Just to work for ourselves. I always wanted to own a business," Palaszewski said about changing careers.

They chose to buy Palladino's Pizzeria at the corner of Sheridan Drive and Harlem Road. Operating under the same name, the new business opened in September.

"Nick's closed, and we thought there was a void for a pizzeria in the area," Palaszewski said. "It was time for a change. The opportunity came up, so we gave it a shot."

Palladino's was for sale after being owned by the family for 16 years. Taking the familiar name, Lasting and Palaszewski added their own spice to the pizzeria, creating a New York-style pizza and homemade NYC-style Italian ice.

They also make tacos, calzones, subs, salads, wings and chicken fingers. Pizzas can also be made with soy cheese and whole wheat dough.

Lasting said he had worked in the restaurant business for almost 15 years before joining Ingram Micro.

"There is no possibility (of success) without risk," Lasting said about the career change and owning a restaurant.

They both agreed their time in the corporate world was a pleasant



Palladino's Pizzeria owners Claudia and Illya Lasting, and Darren Palaszewski serve the busy lunch crowd at 4950 Harlem Road at Sheridan Drive. The group took over ownership after years of working in an office.

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

one but looking into their futures they needed a change of pace.

"We have adapted well ... the biggest change was being on your feet all day after being in a cube for 12 years," Palaszewski said. "We have no regrets at all; it's been a great experience."

The new owners have found success in their first six months. The lunch crowd has grown about 200 percent, according to Palaszewski.

Catering and delivery are now available. The duo said they can accommodate most orders in the

area.

A char-B-Q pit was added, increasing the menu for barbecue wings and other items. This summer the owners plan to build a serving window for the outdoor patio.

Palaszewski said Palladino's is currently trying to send pizza and wings to soldiers from the Niagara Falls Reserve Base serving in Kuwait. After being contacted by the troop via e-mail, the pizzeria is figuring out the final details to get the food to the soldiers.

With experience in marketing,

Lasting and Palaszewski canvassed the town, getting their name and food out to businesses, hotels and schools.

Palladino's Pizzeria is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 4 to 10 p.m. Sunday at 4950 Harlem Road, in the Sheridan/Harlem Plaza. All major credit cards are accepted.

Call 839-0777 or go online to www.freewebs.com/palladinos for more information.

e-mail: jfinch@beenews.com

New dental device detects cancer

Buffalo Dental Group, a cosmetic and family dental practice in Williamsville, has incorporated the VELscope System into its dental practice.

The VELscope System, recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, was developed by the British Columbia Cancer Agency and Vancouver-based LED Dental Inc. It is a revolutionary, hand-held device that provides the dentists and hygienists with a new tool to aid in the early detection of oral cancer.

The VELscope examination is a noninvasive, painless procedure that takes only a few minutes. The dentist shines a blue light into the mouth to cause it to fluoresce. This fluorescence helps the dentist visualize abnormal tissue, which may be or

may lead to oral cancer.

More than 30,000 people are diagnosed with oral cancer annually in the United States. With a mortality rate of more than 50 percent at five years, one person every hour of every day dies of oral cancer in America. If detected early, however, oral cancer is 90 percent survivable.

Buffalo Dental Group will be offering this service at its Williamsville location, 5845 Main St.

For more information regarding the VELscope System, visit www.velscope.com or call Buffalo Dental Group at 634-1234, with questions or to schedule an appointment. They can also be reached by e-mail at BuffaloDentalGroup@adelphia.net.

Beechwood hosts free seminar, health fair

Dr. Robert S. Stall, geriatrician, will present a free seminar and health fair entitled "Stay In Control of Your Health" from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22 at the Beechwood Homes, 2235 Miller-sport Highway.

A continental breakfast will be served. Sign-in and breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m. The program is aimed at older adults, baby-boomers, family members,

caregivers and health professionals or anyone else interested in learning about important senior health issues and how to improve your quality of life and sense of well-being.

Topics include "The Key Principles of Geriatric Health," "How to Keep Yourself Healthy," "Helping Your Doctor Help You," and "Becoming an Apprentice Geriatrician."

All attendees will get copies of Dr. Stall's "Key Principles of Geriatric Health," "Older Patient Interview Form," and a 20+ page "Older Adult Self-Assessment Booklet."

Program sponsors will provide additional information and health screening opportunities.

Space is limited — register early by calling Dr. Stall's office at 636-7531.

 Business News

BNI Business Makers will conduct its weekly meeting from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 22 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, 6320 Main St. in Williamsville. Harry J. Forest, a partner with Gross, Shuman, Brzidle & Gilfillan, PC will speak about the NYS No-Fault Law. Call 688-5700 for information.

The Buffalo Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants will present "Establishing a Business Relationship in China," lead by William M. McGowen, CPA and CFO of AccumED Technologies, at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 15 at the Sonoma Grille, 5010 Main St. The meeting cost is \$20. For information, contact Joe LaLonde at 332-6133 or jalonde@fin-edge.com.

The Women's Business Center at Canisius College is offering a "Basics for Business Success" course for current or potential small business owners from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays from Feb. 26 through March 21 at the center, 2365 Main St. To register call 888-6650 or visit www.canisius.edu/wbc.