

Meetings

St. Bonaventure sets open house in Hamburg

St. Bonaventure University School of Graduate Studies open houses are scheduled between 3 and 5 p.m. Saturday, March 24 and Saturday, April 28 at Bogel Hall, located on the Hilbert College campus at 5200 South Park Ave., Hamburg. Prospective graduate students will meet with graduate faculty, program directors, and financial aid and admission counselors. RSVP online at the Web site www.grad.sbu.edu or call 375-2021. For more information, contact the Office of Graduate Admissions by calling 1-800-462-5050 or e-mail gradsch@sbu.edu.

IAAP speaker to discuss workplace stress

Judi Spear of the Spear Group will speak at the March meeting of the Buffalo Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals on "Personality and Workplace Stress — Your Hot Buttons and What You Can Do About Them." The meeting will be held at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 7 at the Sonoma Grille, 5010 Main St., in Snyder. For more information, call 836-5397.

Villa Nights set for prospective students

Villa Maria College will hold the first of two Spring Visit Villa Nights at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27. Students interested in classes for the upcoming fall semester are encouraged to attend. Registration will take place in the foyer of the main building on the second floor from 5 to 5:15 p.m. A program-specific meet-and-greet session with faculty will follow general tours, and in addition, campus visitors will be given a chance to check out the college's new student center where financial aid presentations will take place. Refreshments will be served. Reservations are required. Contact the Villa Maria Admissions Department at 961-1805 for more information or make a reservation online at www.villa.edu.

Amherst Chamber of Commerce unveils 2007 legislative agenda

The Amherst Chamber of Commerce recently unveiled its 2007 legislative agenda highlighting the organization's local, state and federal priorities.

The local agenda focuses on Sustainable Amherst — a community initiative spearheaded by the Chamber that is studying the implementation of various recommendations outlined in the town's 2005 Comprehensive Master Plan, which was officially adopted by the town board in 2007.

The state agenda, "Unshackle Upstate," is a collaboration with various business groups and organizations that is urging for policy changes to improve the economic competitiveness in Upstate. Also, the state agenda focuses on brownfield redevelopment and hydropower allocation.

The federal focus is supporting the Town of Amherst in advocating for funding for water and sewer infrastructure upgrades and enhancements to improve efficiencies and mitigate flooding in problem areas of the town.

"If there is one thing that stands out in our agenda, it is the simple fact that all these initiatives are part of a collaborate effort with other community groups and or-

ganizations and most importantly as it pertains to our local agenda, the taxpayers of the Town of Amherst," said, Dennis Elsenbeck, Amherst Chamber chairman and vice president of business services at National Grid. "We look forward to working with our elected officials at all levels of government to achieve as many of these initiatives as possible."

Sustainable Amherst will be comprised of three councils — land use, economic development and national resources/environment — with representatives respectively from the public sector, civic/community and business. Each council will develop recommendations to town government for implementing various public policy initiatives outlined in the town's Comprehensive Master Plan.

"Sustainable Amherst will be critically important in developing consensus recommendations in order to find the correct balance between high quality, sustainable economic development while, at the same time, addressing quality of life issues, such as flooding and sinking homes," David Flynn, the Chamber's Advocacy Council chairman and a partner at Phillips Lytle LLP, said.

The key components from Un-

shackle Upstate include advocating for reform of workers' compensation, lowering the threshold of when the W.I.C.K.S. Law would kick in on construction projects, the Scaffold Law regarding fault when injuries occur at a workplace construction site, the Taylor Law (municipal and public employee contracts) and Medicaid reforms.

"What is unique about our agenda is the fact the price tag for these various initiatives is minimal, especially compared to other organization's financial requests to the federal and state delegations," Colleen DiPirro, Amherst Chamber president and CEO, said. "To the contrary, if we are successful in fulfilling the objectives outlined in Sustainable Amherst as well as success with the Unshackle Upstate agenda, we will be improving the business

climate, which will create new jobs and new investment for our community, as well as support our high quality of life."

As the Chamber looks forward to 2007 it will do so with a new chairman. Elsenbeck has been a chamber member since 2003 and a 20-year employee with National Grid. He has served on several chamber committees in preparation for this position, he said.

He said the chamber will stick with its agenda and try to build momentum to achieve its goals.

"The Amherst Chamber is historically one of the more creative business groups in the area," Elsenbeck said.

One of his plans is to create an atmosphere where ideas are welcome, adding that even though everyone doesn't agree on every idea it starts a dialogue.



Dennis Elsenbeck



CREATING GOOD HABITS — Trish Graziano and Christine Miner, hygienists from Pediatric Dental Care, visited Childtime Learning Center on Essjay Road on Feb. 13 as part of National Children's Dental Health Care Month to educate children on proper care of their teeth. The center's students Cole Roberts, 4, Maiya Lee, 4, and Joanna Fiorella, 4, learned through hands-on techniques about healthy foods and proper teeth cleaning.

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

Business News

BNI Business Makers will hold its weekly meeting from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Thursday, March 1 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, 6320 Main St. "Three Common Financial Planning 'Holes' and How to Fill Them" will be presented by Bryan S. Castro, CFP. Call 688-5700 for information.

The Schwartz Group, based in Amherst, a provider of specialized teleservices to the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries, recently hired Lissa Nakhwa to the newly created po-

sition of manager of client services to its management team. She has been developing and executing marketing programs in the healthcare and technology sectors for the past eight years.

Wilson Farms Inc. recently appointed Sue Durfee as category manager and Joshua Gregory as public relations/communications coordinator. Durfee brings more than 25 years of experience in category management to Wilson Farms. Gregory of Amherst has 10 years' experience in local media and public relations.

RealtyUSA employee named Realtor of the Year 2007

Hugh Hartzberg has been named the REALTOR of the Year 2007 by the Buffalo Niagara Association of REALTORS.

The award honors a REALTOR member who has shown outstanding service and participation in the local, state and national associations.

Hartzberg, a Williamsville resident, began his real estate career in 1967 and has attained the following designations — certified residential broker, certified residential specialist and graduate REALTOR institute. He has spent the last 20 years as both a broker-owner and most recently, as the manager of the RealtyUSA Williamsville office.

He has served as a BNAR director and held the position of president in 1993. He has served as a member of more than 40 BNAR committees, is a two-time director of the New York State Association of REALTORS and has also served as a national director for the National Association of REALTORS.

Hartzberg has been a director and past president of a local Federal Credit Union and has been an active member for than 30 years. He has been a Mason in New York State for 37 years.

He has also been active with the Alzheimer's Association WNY "memory walks," the Kevin Guest House, United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, Gilda's Club WNY, JDRE, United Jewish Fund, American Cancer Society, and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. He is a member of Nichols School Alumni Foundation, the Cornell University Alumni Foundation and Zeta Beta Tau Foundation at Cornell University.



Hartzberg

Village seeks garden sponsorships

Williamsville trustee and liaison to the Beautification Committee, Brian Geary, is seeking garden sponsors.

Those looking to donate to one of the following gardens can contact Geary at 812-1167.

Village gardens are located at the Triangle at Main and Evans streets; the Village Meeting House, 5658 Main St.; Memorial Garden in Garrison Park; and at

Lehigh Memory Trail, located on South Long Street at the Lehigh Depot.

Sponsors will receive a certificate of appreciation and have their names engraved on a plaque at the garden they have chosen to support.

Those interested in maintaining or volunteering with the Beautification Committee can also contact Geary at the above number.