

Bee Editorial

Votes should not be taken at close of public hearings

The Amherst Town Board made a smart decision Monday to table the housing complex proposed for Rensch Road.

It's about time members of municipal boards chose to delay their votes, instead of taking action minutes after a public hearing. Many questions came to the minds of each board member following the public hearing. How can they understand the benefits and ramifications of the project at that point? They can't.

How much would the rent be? Has there been any other interest in the land use? Can the property be rezoned to help existing residents should the town decide against the project? These are questions that couldn't be answered immediately after two hours — yes, two hours — of public comments.

Board members can now do some of the grunt work and get answers themselves, instead of agreeing with what is spoon fed to

them. Kudos to those members of the board who agreed to tour the site to understand what is being proposed, how it would fit into the area and most importantly, if it's the best proposal of land use for the town.

Those who spoke during the public hearing came armed with statistics, facts and real life experiences. We believe both sides did a reputable job demonstrating why they are for or against the project.

Some speakers chose not to take a side but instead encouraged the Town Board to speak with those affected, including University at Buffalo students. It was refreshing to hear the Town Board agree to do so.

Supervisor Satish Mohan, who has stated he is in favor of the project, said he plans to meet with the developer to hammer out any concerns he may still be having with the project. Had a vote been taken that night, those con-

cerns might have never been addressed.

The bottom line is a housing project of this size is a massive development. It could affect the future of 11 families — who feel they are stuck living on RD-Research and Development-zoned property.

According to UB representatives, the project could impact their campus. Police Chief John Moslow said a project of this nature could affect patrol routes. Neighbors are concerned about how the project will affect them as well.

Because of the impact of the project on so many lives, it would not have been right for the Town Board to act hastily.

At the minimum, the Town Board has a month before taking a vote — the March 19 meeting. We encourage members to review the public hearing tape and speak with those residents and organizations whose lifestyles are at stake with the outcome of this vote.

Spindle items



JILL SCHMELZER

Amherst Reporter

• **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**— Although I usually hit the delete key whenever I get chain letters via e-mail, something told me to read one my aunt sent to me, slugged “tequila and salt.”

Maybe it's because I had been out the night before

and thought she had some psychic power enabling her to know I had a self-inflicted headache. Well, when I opened the mail and began to read it, it actually didn't have anything to do with alcohol. It stated the following:

1. There are at least two people in this

world that you would die for.

2. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way.

3. The only reason anyone would ever hate you is because they want to be just like you.

4. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.

5. Every night, someone thinks about you before they go to sleep.

6. You mean the world to someone.

7. You are special and unique.

8. Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.

9. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good comes from it.

10. When you think the world has turned its back on you take another look.

11. Always remember the compliments you received. Forget about the rude remarks.

I mention these ideas to you, dear readers, because I think people should

remember life isn't as bad as it sometimes seems. Yes, there are times that nothing seems to be going right, but once you get through it and survive it, you can get through anything.

I ask you to stop and reread these statements. I'll bet most, if not all, apply to each of you in some way, and if you think your world is falling apart around you, remember life is only as bad as you make it. “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.”

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

• **UNKNOWN HERO** — Last week I wrote about acts of kindness in ordinary situations, and a reader recently shared a story with me that falls in the same category. The woman said she was walking on Sheridan Drive around 5 a.m. Feb. 19, with her husband several steps behind her. Because of the frigid temperatures she was jogging along, trying to get

home. She noticed a man in a truck pull into a nearby lot to keep an eye on her in case she was being followed by someone she didn't know. The woman wanted to express her thanks to that driver for his act of concern and kindness. She said had the situation been as it appeared, his actions could have averted a tragedy.

• **JOB WELL DONE** — Eight students from the Williamsville Central School District have been named finalists in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Competition. They are Emily Cogsdill, Michael Metzger, Ioannis Mountziaris, Cathy Sun, and Jacqueline Wong, all from East High School, and James Albaugh, Philip Constantinou, and Caroline Narby, from North High School. These students were named semifinalists last September. They are among approximately 15,000 finalists, representing less than 1 percent of high school students nationwide. The National Merit winners will be announced in May.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago March 2, 1882

Bee commentary: “A woman was arrested in New York City recently, charged with the terrible crime of wearing male attire. For over fifteen months, she had been a waiter in a restaurant at nine dollars a week. She was next employed at a dry goods store at a higher salary and later received a still better salary. The unfortunate girl will now be compelled to don petticoats and accept starvation wages. There was no complaint that she did not do her work well, but she was earning a man's wages and this law steps in and says, ‘go back to your low wages, you are only a woman.’ This is a most significant commentary on the injustice with which women are treated.”

The farmers are anxious to obtain the help of those earn their bread by the sweat of their brow. Wages are good and chances are plenty.

A special teachers examination will be held at Clarence on Friday afternoon of this week. No teacher should commence school without first obtaining a certificate to do so.

100 Years Ago Feb. 28, 1907

Beginning March 4, a late car will be run every evening except Saturdays from Williamsville to Buffalo at 11 p.m.

Milton J. Hoffman, Henry S. Metz, John Schwartz, Henry Hinkley and George L. Helfter were nominated as candidates for village trustee.

75 Years Ago March 3, 1932

Dance hall ordinances replacing those which have been in effect since July 1927 were adopted by the Village Board on Tuesday. Dancing in public places must cease at midnight, and Sunday dancing, which the village was unsuccessful in eliminating last year, is permissible between the hours of 3-5 p.m. and 9-11 p.m.

Last week Wednesday evening, Merkle's grocery at Main and Grove streets was entered by burglars through a rear trap door and considerable merchandise taken, including cigars, cigarettes, candy, etc. Several persons are under suspicion, and Amherst police expect to make arrests soon.

George “Sonny” Martens of Eggertsville is a contender for catching honors on the University of Pennsylvania baseball team.

Severine C. Gangloff succumbed Wednesday evening, Feb. 24, 1932. For twenty years, Mr. Gangloff has lived in the northern section of Amherst, successfully operating a farm on Rensch Road. People relied on his word, and their confidence was not misplaced.

For Sale: “Silo in good condition. Act quickly. Eichel, Route 1, Sweet Home Road between canal and creek.”

50 Years Ago Feb. 28, 1957

A daring holdup of the Nu-Way Supermarket on Main Street just east of Harlem Road last Thursday evening netted the robber only \$70.

The announcement that no freshmen will be enrolled at Neumann Catholic High School next September means that an additional burden will be placed on the already overcrowded facilities of the Williamsville junior high department. The primary reason is the growing size of the elementary school enrollment at Neumann.

Returning today from the 41st annual conference of the National Association of Secondary School Principals will be Mr. Philip Schweickhard, Mr. John Scheller and Mrs. Edwin Mustard of the Amherst Junior and Senior High Schools.

25 Years Ago Feb. 24, 1982

“Rapid transit made Toronto, and it made Washington, D.C. You can bet your bottom dollar that it will make Buffalo, too,” said Buffalo Mayor Jimmy Griffin at the Amherst Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting held yesterday morning.

The Getzville Fire Co. Exempt Association and Ladies Auxiliary recently paid tribute to Auxiliary member Mrs. Christine J. Werkley, who observed her 100th birthday on Feb. 13.