

Major development (Continued from page one)

dwellings are considered nonconforming in RD zoning.

According to the residents, financial institutions do not grant loans for such a purchase, and furthermore, residents stated that should their homes burn or be damaged they could not be rebuilt.

Daniel Hull, who has been living on Rensch Road for 11 years, said he has seen the area change with the development of commercial property.

"I just learned under the present rezoning that I can't rebuild if my house is destroyed by fire ... that doesn't seem reasonable," he said. "This is a chance for 11 homeowners to recoup and possibly realize a return on their investment."

Frustration was expressed by many, with some stating that for almost 20 years they have attempted to sell their homes but have been unable to do so.

While many saw the proposal as a way to sell their properties, others who would be remaining were concerned about what would replace their single-family neighbors. Noise and student activity topped the list of concerns. With 858 possible tenants nearby, residents were concerned about their quality of life being affected.

Several comments on public safety prompted Police Chief John Moslow to speak, stating that these types of housing developments have proven to produce many calls. In one year, a student housing complex on Sweet Home Road recorded more than 300 calls involving burglary, larceny and sex crimes.

Moslow said changing those parcels for a housing complex could cause the Police Department to redraft its patrol borders to attend to the increased population.

According to GMH Communities, the company would hire off-duty officers or private security guards to monitor activity.

Supervisor Satish Mohan said he is in favor of the project — as long as four areas are addressed. He wants a pedestrian bridge over Sweet Home Road, 6-foot-wide sidewalks around the complex, brick siding of the entire structure and one large retention lake to replace the proposed small ponds.

"I don't see any reason for not building the project. We have no use for that land except for this purpose," he said following Monday's meeting. "This is an opportunity to develop and expand."

He said he anticipates that the project would create a viable walking community.

Mohan also addressed the public safety issue, stating that the education of students who would be living in the facility must be done by the manager of the property.

Dennis Black, vice president of student affairs for the University at Buffalo, was one of three representatives from UB to attend the public hearing.

The university has stated it is against the development because the town and UB have been working on a plan for development.

UB also does not support off-campus residences because statistics show more school involvement and higher graduation

rates for on-campus students.

Black also said UB is concerned about what a mass of 2,200 students living in a half-mile radius around the campus would do to town resources — including drainage and the Police Department.

"This would have an impact on all the neighbors," he said.

UB was also under fire for not moving forward with its plans to develop and provide adequate housing for the growing student population. In response Black said, "We have an intent to build and a proven track record."

Mohan said he expects UB to come around to the idea of off-campus student housing. Many residents stated that an 800-person housing complex is of no threat to UB's housing and expansion plans.

According to the federal Fair Housing Act the facility cannot discriminate against a possible tenant that is not a student. But currently GMH's campus facilities are 100 percent students, Hopkins said.

The motion was tabled without a set return date. Mohan said he expected the earliest the proposal would be voted on would be in a month.

Town Board members asked that the item be tabled to allow them additional time to review the proposal and the statements made by the more than 35 people who spoke during the two-hour public hearing.

Should the project be approved, GMH is anticipating an August 2008 completion date. Carmina and Wood P.C. in Buffalo is the architect for the project.



Herbert A. Hauptman, Ph.D., right, celebrates his 90th birthday at the Jewish Community Center's Benderson family building with friends Alex and Roza Shnayder, and Ida Schaer on Feb. 16. His actual birthday is Valentine's Day.

Photo by John Rusac
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Nobel Prize winner remains active at 90

Herbert A. Hauptman, Ph.D., Nobel laureate and professor at University at Buffalo, turned 90 on Feb. 14.

He has been swimming at the Jewish Community Center's Benderson family building in Getzville at least three-five times a week for more than 14 years. He frequents the pool with his wife, Edith.

Hauptman takes an interest in keeping both his body and his mind fit and plans to keep working as long as possible with no thoughts of retirement.

He is a world renowned mathematician who pioneered and developed a mathematical method that has changed the whole field of chemistry and opened a new era in research in determination of molecular structures of crystallized materials.

Today, Hauptman's direct methods, which he has continued to improve and refine, are routinely used to solve complicated structures. It was the application of this mathematical method to a wide variety of chemical structures that led the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences to name Hauptman recipient of the 1985 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

In addition to the Nobel Prize, he has received many other honors throughout the years. Hauptman has also authored more than 170 publications, including journal articles, research papers, chapters and books. In 1970, he joined the crystallographic group of the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute (formerly the Medical Foundation of Buffalo) of which he became research director in 1972.

He currently serves as president of the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute as well as research professor in the Department of Biophysical Sciences and adjunct professor in the Department of Computer Science at UB.



Business News

Buffalo/Amherst Business and Professional Women will celebrate Women's History Month with a dinner meeting at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 8 at the Fairdale Restaurant, 672 Wehrle Drive. Susan Banks, who recently launched her own business called "Susan Banks, Image Consulting" will be the guest speaker. For reservations call 832-9327 or visit www.buffaloamherstbwpw.com. The cost is \$25.

DMG World launches new angle to Buffalo Home Show

by JILL SCHMELZER
Reporter

Bob Degenhart of DMG World in Williamsville started his new position as manager of the Buffalo Home and Garden Show this past summer.

This year's upcoming venue will feature a contemporary Victorian home, with a modern interior.

"The theme on the outside is classic Victorian architecture," Degenhart said. "But the inside will be the opposite with contemporary design."

He noted that many of the homes in Buffalo, including Amherst, were built in the late 1800s, early 1900s.

"Consumers that own (the homes) want to update the interior to today's society," Degenhart added. "It's beautiful on the outside, modern living on the in-

side."

Members of the Interior Design Association, VanGalio & Fierle Design, envisioned the model home to be used at this year's show, which will be held Saturday, March 3 through 11 at the Buffalo Convention Center, located on the corner of Franklin and Court streets in Buffalo.

According to a statement issued by Home Show officials, the living room will showcase soft tones of linen and natural elements including water features.

The bedroom will include a rotating fireplace, flat screen television, fine bedding and acoustical wall treatments.

French doors will open to the patio, designed by Frank's Artistic Landscaping and Paolini Enterprises. The Victorian garden will include waterfall flowing from the back corner of the land-

scape through the flower bed.

Many of the vendors at the Home & Garden Show use the event as its only form of marketing and advertising, Degenhart said about the financial impact it has on local businesses.

Seminars will be featured each day with demonstrations and family-friendly education and entertainment.

Tickets can be purchased online at a discount at www.buffalohomeshow.com.

Business News

Independent Insurance Agents Association of Western New York will host a panel about "Real Time Comparative Rating" and new updates. The event will be held from 7:45 to 9:45 a.m. Thursday, March 8 at Fanny's Restaurant, 3500 Sheridan Drive. Reservations are due March 2, call Barbara Duke at 634-1212 ext. 217. Cost is \$15 per person.

Apartment Council Western New York, located in Williamsville, will conduct the Certified Apartment Manager Program, known as CAM, from 5:45 to 9:45 p.m. during 12 consecu-

utive Wednesdays beginning March 7 at in the Gardenvillage Apartments' community room, 70 Gardenvillage Drive, Cheektowaga. To register or for information, call 633-0959.

BNI Business Makers will conduct its weekly meeting from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Thursday, March 8 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst, 6320 Main St. in Williamsville. David Snell of Carstar Collision of Amherst and Eastern Hills will speak. Contact the Chapter President Charlie Toro, at 688-5700 for information.

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Left to Right: David H. Desmond, CFP®, Senior Vice President, Wealth Management Advisor; Tracey L. Cervi, Senior Registered Client Associate; Peter A. Biltekoff, Vice President, Wealth Management Advisor



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