



The Amherst Gaelic League members (from left to right) Mike McGuire, Tom Loughlin, Mike Dolan and Mike Flynn, gear up for the 35th annual Irish American Cocktail Party being held on March 15.

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

Irish American Cocktail Party to be held March 16

The Amherst Gaelic League will host the 35th annual Irish American Cocktail Party, to benefit the Belfast Summer Relief Program, from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. Friday, March 16 at the Hearthstone Manor, 333 Dick Road, Depew.

The event is the largest St. Patrick's Day party in Western New York, Mike Dolan of the AGL, said.

The party will honor the AGL's Irishman of the Year, Mike Flynn. A co-founder and past president of the AGL, Flynn has held leadership positions with numerous other local Irish cultural organizations, including the Blackthorn Club, the WNY Famine Committee, the United Irish American Association, Tom Carroll Division No. 1 Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Equity, Court 5.

Flynn was honored as the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Irishman of Year in 2001.

The AGL has contributed to the Belfast Summer Relief Program for more than 10 years and has been the largest financial provider in bringing more than 1,200 children from Northern Ireland for a six-week trip to WNY.

Tickets are \$25 presale and \$35 at the door and includes open bar, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by the Celtic band, "Penny Whiskey," the Rince na Tiarna Irish dancers, and traditional bagpipers.

For information or tickets call, 834-9510 or 835-7638.

South High to address the dangers of bullying

Williamsville South High School is hosting a parent program as an extension of the Rachel's Challenge student assembly program from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 15 in the auditorium, 5950 Main St.

For information on this program, visit Rachel's Challenge at www.rachelschallenge.org.

South Principal Elvin Simmons said the school is, "hoping that the program will go a long way in teaching tolerance, forgiveness and compassion that needs to be reinforced with our adolescents. In addition, we remain hopeful that it will inspire our students to exemplify their leadership skills even more to model positive characteristic traits for those who show a lack of tolerance for the beliefs and values of others."

Rachel's Challenge ties the

tragedy of Columbine High School to having children view everyone as valuable and worthy of dignity and respect.

South Principal Elvin Simmons said the school is, "hoping that the program will go a long way in teaching tolerance, forgiveness and compassion that needs to be reinforced with our adolescents. In addition, we remain hopeful that it will inspire our students to exemplify their leadership skills even more to model positive characteristic traits for those who show a lack of tolerance for the beliefs and values of others."

Amherst Museum's lecture series begins March 21

The first speaker in the Amherst Museum's 2007 lecture series will be Robert Corneck of New York State Designer Blacksmiths, who will present the lecture, "What Really is Wrought Iron?"

He will present information on and examples of the ancient craft of blacksmithing and the art that can be created in iron. The seminar will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 21 at the Museum, 3755 Tonawanda Creek Road.

NYS Designer Blacksmiths are associates of the Artist Blacksmiths of North America. Its goal is to preserve and share all that comprises the art and way of the artist-blacksmith. The NYS Designer Blacksmiths frequently demonstrate at Amherst Museum events and host a three-week blacksmithing school each summer.

Lecture admission is \$3, Museum Members are free. For information, visit www.amherstmuseum.org.

St. Benedict's expands with new preschool program

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

While many area schools are faced with closures, St. Benedict's School looks forward to expanding its programming.

The 2007-08 school year will include the launch of the new full-day and half-day pre-kindergarten programs for 4- and 5-year-olds.

"Parents wanted a full-time program. They asked for it so we decided to give it a try," Principal Pat Boyd said.

Benefiting not only the St. Benedict's community, the pre-k program is reaching out to those Catholic schools that will close at the end of the year.

Boyd said letters have been sent to families affected by the school closings, informing them of the new program at St. Benedict's.

"This is an exciting time. We are doing something new to reach out to the community," she said.

The program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for the half-day program.

It follows the diocesan-approved curriculum and

includes developmentally appropriate activities through music, physical education, art and reading.

"Children learn through play at this age," Boyd said about the goal of the program.

Patricia A. Recchio, a certified pre-k teacher, will be the program's instructor. She has two years experience as director of Infant of Prague School's pre-k program.

"My goal is to become a facilitator of learning so that children may develop the desire to think, explore and discover on their own, thereby creating in them a lifelong love of learning," Recchio said.

The program requires a \$125 registration fee, and the full-day program is \$2,875 and the half-day, \$1,725. An extended-day program is available until 6 p.m. for an additional cost.

For information on registration and the program, call 835-2518.

"We are very excited about this new pre-k," Boyd said. "We believe that it offers a unique program that was designed to meet the spiritual and educational needs of young families."

Community News

Kim Goodman of Amherst, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Western New York Land Conservancy at their recent annual meeting at the Amherst Museum. Six years ago Goodman started the Friends of Nature

View Park to preserve the park for future generations to enjoy. She is also the chairperson of the Town of Amherst Nature View Park Committee, a member of the Land Conservancy's Nature View Park monitoring committee and

she was a team captain for the Land Conservancy's 2006 new membership campaign drive.

Also elected to serve as Directors of the Land Conservancy are John Daleo, Timothy Bigham, Linda Hardie and Greg Coniglio.

Blood Testing at Your Convenience

- Prompt, caring service
- Open early
- Appointments encouraged and walk-ins welcome
- Trusted by physicians

Amherst
3140 Sheridan Drive
P 716.837.9509

350 Alberta Drive
P 716.836.1343

3950 East Robinson
P 716.691.1744

6000 North Bailey Avenue
P 716.835.2453

Dent Tower
3980 Sheridan Drive
P 716.839.0351

To make an appointment
visit www.questdiagnostics.com/psc
or call 1.888.277.8772

Getzville
2390 North Forest Road
P 716.636.0676

North Tonawanda
1089 Kinkead Avenue
P 716.694.9558

Tonawanda
Delaware Center
4041 Delaware Avenue
P 716.877.5040

Williamsville
Meadowlands Professional
Office Park
1000 Youngs Road
P 716.636.1764

1150 Youngs Road
P 716.688.7149

18 Limestone Drive
P 716.631.0273

