

Bee Editorial

Regional IDAs can't offer the same attention

The reason for local newspapers, governments, industrial developmental agencies and other entities is to represent the best interests of a town or village.

In the hands of a larger agency or organization, the "little" people and their concerns are lost. There is no room for small school announcements in a large daily paper; state or federal government officials can't meet with residents about their neighbor's garage, and a countywide industrial agency won't offer the same attention as one on a town level.

By taking away the Amherst IDA's purpose, the town could potentially be hurt.

Currently, businesses and community members from the Main Street and Eggert Road region are working toward revitalizing the area and have met in the AIDA office. One massive ECIDA won't offer that same attention to or interest in a project that right now is trying to

find its legs. The end result could mean major changes for the region, with new businesses, apartments and restaurants, all aesthetically connected, but it will be thanks to the people who were there from the start, offering advice and guidance.

Does the town want Erie County making its business deals? Offering attractive incentives and collecting the benefits from businesses that choose to develop in Amherst?

Smart business growth supports towns, and Amherst can't afford hasty decisions, especially as it continues its efforts for responsible development and land preservation as described in the recently adopted comprehensive plan.

The ECIDA won't care what agenda Amherst has developed when working out a business deal. But the AIDA would, and it would continue to be in "big business" with compa-

nies such as Geico and HSBC Bank.

If the Town Board is as concerned with the AIDA's effort level and decision making, as members have stated, then what do they expect from the ECIDA? What is it that the ECIDA is willing to do for Amherst that the AIDA hasn't?

With talks of a merger on the forefront following Monday's ECIDA meeting, we hope the Town Board knows what it has been pursuing. Only four members supported the request for the merger in August. The three other members strongly opposed it.

It's a proposal that could mean major changes in regionalism and business development in Western New York. Is Amherst willing to lose projects to other towns if the ECIDA pegs them for new projects? The AIDA is focused on one thing only — bringing business (and thus tax revenue) to the town.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **UPSIDE-DOWN LIGHT** — St. Patrick's Day is obviously a big holiday for many Western New Yorkers, but having spent a lot of time in Syracuse I learned that city is equally as celebratory.

In fact, Syracuse has proved how proud its

Irish population is. On Tipperary Hill hangs the only upside-down traffic signal — the lights, from top to bottom, are green, yellow, red.

As the story goes, in the 1820s, when the Erie Canal was built from Albany to Buffalo, the Irish were the chief laborers.

When the canal was finished, many of the Irish settled west of Syracuse on a hill overlooking the canal. This area became known as Tipperary Hill.

When the city began installing traffic signal lights in the 1920s it put one at a major intersection on Tipperary Hill. Some Irish youths, incensed that anyone would dare to put the "British" red above the "Irish" green, broke the light. The city replaced it, but the Irish broke the replacement. After a few rounds of this the city decided that if there was going to be a light at that intersection, workers had better invert it, and so they did.

• **BETTER NOW THAN MY BIRTHDAY** — For the past three years, my birthday, April 2, has fallen on daylight saving weekend — thus I would lose an hour of partying. I often felt slighted, and tired, the following morning. But with "springing ahead" taking place this past Sunday I won't lose an hour on my birthday weekend. While telling this sto-

ry this past Saturday I found the second person who can understand my situation, as his birthday is also April 2. The last time that happened was on Halloween, when we gained an hour, and I met another girl who shares my birthday, born just hours after me.

• **ST. PAT'S PARTY** — 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 AGL's Irishman of the Year, Mike Flynn, will be honored. 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 Western New York. Tickets cost \$25 presale and \$35 at the door and include open bar, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by the Celtic band, "Penny

Whiskey," the Rince na Tiarna Irish dancers, and traditional bagpipers. For tickets call 834-9510 or 835-7638.

by TREY MEASER
Publisher

• **100 YEARS AND COUNTING** — As our newspaper company soon starts its 128th year, I look back at my 40 years at The Bee as a keeper of family and community publishing.

My family will be celebrating 100 years of ownership of The Amherst Bee this week. My grandfather bought the newspaper on March 18, 1907, and my grandmother, uncle, father, sister and son have each contributed to its proud tradition of publishing the Bee newspapers. As said by previous publishers, "The Bee is the keeper of the community news. We thank our readers, customers and staff for our 100-plus years of success."

Read about our history in this week's newspaper.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago March 16, 1882

In the State of New York there are 900 volunteer fire companies with an active membership of 30,000.

Last Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Michael Windnagle, aged 57 years, 5 months and 9 days, passed quietly from this earth, after a long and painful illness with dropsy, combined with an affliction of the heart.

The public schools will commence on Monday next. Instead of a two-week vacation as was reported, but one will be had.

Mr. Chas. Summers is ready to drill wells by steam, and perform the work promptly and satisfactorily.

Engineer John A. Ditto of Buffalo and an assistant were in town yesterday to ascertain particulars regarding the new stone bridge to be built here.

Roads are in such a bad condition that there is talking of turning them upside down.

"The truth always pays in the end" is an old saying, and that is the reason why there is so little of it told at the beginning of any business transaction."

100 Years Ago March 14, 1907

Fred Wooster, a U.S. Army veteran, after spending 30 years in the service, has returned home.

The entire Citizens Party ticket was elected at the annual Williamsville village election.

75 Years Ago March 17, 1932

The Village of Williamsville's governing board will have no change in personnel. Warren D. Miller, Citizens Party, and George E. Metcalf, Taxpayers Party, were re-elected as trustees.

The children's story hour at the Amherst-Williamsville Free Library was cancelled last Saturday. Unless there is an unexpected increase in the number of scarlet fever cases, the children will again be able to enjoy the story hour next Saturday.

Nineteen Williamsville High School seniors are about to have their fondest dream of the year realized. That, of course, is the annual Washington trip on which they will leave next week.

Three young ladies from Swormville were wonderfully surprised Monday morning when each received a package in the morning mail post marked St. Michael's, Alaska. They were amazed to find that each package contained a beautiful golden fox fur that measured 1 yard and 14 inches in length. The sender was an old-time friend, Mr. William Anderson, who formerly ran the old Lapp Hotel in Swormville.

Henry S. Hughes, who for 45 years had sailed the Great Lakes, died March 14, 1932 at his home in Eggertsville.

50 Years Ago March 14, 1957

Two Canadian youths have learned it does not pay to battle in the Amherst Police Station. The fisticuffs occurred after the youths had been arrested following a wild goose chase Sunday evening. After they forced a car off the road, State Police nabbed the offenders at Sheridan and Millerport. One started swinging at officers while being booked at the station.

Movies of the 1956 World Series between the Yankees and Dodgers will be shown at the meeting of the Little League Umpires School to be held Thursday evening at Smallwood Drive School.

25 Years Ago March 10, 1982

The Amherst Central School District has taken issue with a report from the Legislative Commission of Expenditure Review in which it and three others from Erie County were cited for failing to increase district revenue by investing in high-interest certificates.

Judith Huber and Eleanor Hoch are winners of the Williamsville East PTA Council's 1982 American Education Awards.

Harold J. Beck, founder of Beck's Creamery Inc. of Buffalo, died March 8, 1982 in his Amherst home. He moved from Pittsburgh to Buffalo in 1933.