

Bee Editorial

Rensch Road decision made in haste

With Monday, prior to the Town Board meeting, being the deadline for submissions for the April 19 Planning Board meeting, there was no reason the Town Board needed to act so hastily on the rezonings of 14 Rensch Road parcels.

The item should have remained tabled until the legalities were reviewed — as suggested by council members Deborah Bruch Bucki and Bill Kindel.

While the Town Board is becoming infamous for its “illegal” actions, this one took the cake. It went so far as a council member stating that no one would sue the Town Board because those affected were in favor of the vote.

It's not often that you see Town Attorney Tom Jones reach the level of frustration that he did Monday as the Town Board ignored the master plan and moved forward with the rezoning.

The Planning Board making a statement that

it recommended the rezoning and views it as consistent with the master plan is not enough. In this case the Planning Board is only an advisory board. Just because it recommended the rezoning doesn't mean it was right or ready for approval on Monday.

Why waste time during a work session discussing a procedure for amendments to the master plan if four hours later you are just going to move ahead instead?

The majority of the Town Board didn't stop to think and made a bad decision, one that is going to open a can of worms for developers to choose any land they want — no matter what the master plan says. We'd like to see them talk their way out of the next proposal that is inconsistent with the master plan.

On an even larger scale, the rezoning flies in the face of efforts by the University at Buffalo to work in harmony with the town when it

comes to development around the Amherst Campus. UB officials have publicly expressed their interest in working together on changes to the neighborhood surrounding the Amherst Campus, the South Campus and downtown Buffalo.

University leaders are concerned about the effects of a second, massive off-campus housing project and its intrusion on an existing neighborhood. Monday's action by the Town Board seems to have short-circuited any chances to come up with a plan upon which both sides could agree.

Potential legal action aside, this hasty action casts a dark cloud over future cooperative efforts between the bulging little community within Amherst — the university — and the Town Board. We hope that there will still be room for dialogue and compromise if and when the Rensch Road project is built.

Spindle items



JILL SCHMELZER

Amherst Reporter

• **GOING SOUTH FOR SPRING** — As some of you already know, I am headed to the Southtowns for six weeks starting Friday. I will become the East Aurora Bee editor while Terri Medina is on maternity leave.

Although I will miss Amherst, I am excited to gain this experience and cover some new territory.

Taking my place in Amherst will be reporter Elizabeth Taufa. Some of you may remember seeing her byline, as it has appeared in The Bee before. She is a

talented writer and easy to work with, so the transition should be a smooth one. Any feature ideas, campus announcements or event listings should be directed to Elizabeth for approximately six weeks beginning March 23. E-mail her at etaufa@beenews.com or call 204-4929. I am sure Elizabeth will enjoy covering the Williamsville Village Board and writing the articles for the Lifestyles section as much as I do.

If you find you are missing me terribly, you can always pick up a copy of The East Aurora Bee at our office at 5564 Main St., Williamsville. However, I want to remind everyone that this isn't goodbye, rather it's write for you later.

• **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** — Autistic Services, Inc., was founded upon one woman's dream of a humane and effective program that would not only educate and meet the needs of people with autism spectrum disorders but would also guide society's awareness of the disorder. You,

too, can help with this effort. Volunteers are needed to assist in the setup of the organization's 29th annual spaghetti dinner, to be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 26 at Ellicott Creek Fire Hall, 45 S. Ellicott Creek Road. Servers will be needed from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Monday, April 23 and starting at 11 a.m. on the day of the event. People are needed to assist with setup for the raffle tables, food preparation and dinner service. Volunteers for cleanup duty are also needed from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, call 631-5777 or visit www.autisticservices.org.

• **WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM** — Edy's is dishing out its third annual Edy's Slow-Churned Neighborhood Salute. The national contest awards 1,500 neighborhoods across the United States with free, old-fashioned ice cream socials. Ice cream fans can visit www.icecream.com for a chance to scoop up enough ice cream and fixings to

host a block party for up to 100 neighbors this summer.

• **RED BLAZER VARIETIES** — Remember those tunes that played over and over in your head when you were growing up — “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” and “It's Only a Paper Moon,” to name a few?

Well, the Amherst Male Glee Club will present The Red Blazer Varieties at 7:30 p.m. March 22, 23 and 24 at Amherst Central Theatre Auditorium, 4301 Main St., Snyder. The Broadway-style musical revue will feature special guest performers, The Bar-Room Buzzards and the main event — 50 singing, dancing men of the Amherst Male Glee Club. Special scenes and songs will include “Stout-hearted Men,” a Beatles medley, “Dry Bones,” “I Left My Heart in San Francisco,” “What I Did For Love,” “Moonglow” and a parody of “My Favorite Things.” The show is directed by Walter Reitz. For reserved seating, call 839-1106.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago March 23, 1882

To show how perfectly the telephone transmits even faint sounds for long distances, it may be of interest to mention that when the Bee office has a connection with Tony Schmidt's restaurant in Buffalo, a sharp-hearing man can hear the beer gurgle as it passes down an imbibers' throat.

A woman from Williamsville fell into the Commercial Slip in Buffalo last evening while intoxicated. She was rescued from drowning and this morning was fined \$5.

It is with sorrow that we announce the death of Mrs. George Bies, who died this morning at half-past one o'clock of malarial typhoid fever. Mrs. Bies was 26 years of age.

Mr. David Martin has purchased a windmill of Mr. Henry Long of Williamsville. They are said to be the best on the market.

100 Years Ago March 21, 1907

Announcement is made in this issue by Mrs. Adam L. Rinewalt and Allan B. Rinewalt of the sale of The Amherst Bee to George J. Measer and Frank A. Measer, his brother. Mr. George Measer has held the position of foreman of the newspaper for two years and previous to that time was with the paper for five years.

The Sechrist estate at Swormville, consisting of 15 acres, is being offered for sale.

75 Years Ago March 24, 1932

Teachers in the Williamsville High School District for the next school year will not only forego the increment due them according to an established schedule, but will also take a 4 percent decrease in their salaries.

An auction sale of the stock of Rupert L. Huck's hardware store is planned beginning Saturday evening, April 2. Mr. Huck will devote his entire time to plumbing and heating.

Within less than three and a half months, the City of Buffalo will be holding its 100th birthday party. The centennial will be inaugurated on July 1 with the dedication of the new \$7,000,000, 32-story City Hall on the Civic Center.

50 Years Ago March 21, 1957

Additional space is sorely needed by the Williamsville-Amherst Free Library, and an urgent plea has been made to both the Amherst Town Board and the Williamsville Board of Trustees.

Jan L. Wittlinger has been named summer recreational director of Amherst by the Town Board. A mathematics instructor at the Amherst Central

Junior High School, he will receive \$325 for his preliminary work and \$15 per day during the summer period.

The North East YMCA is now taking reservations for its first program to be offered in the new building on Main Street. Mrs. J. Raymond Barrett, a noted expert on the Goren Method of contact bridge, will conduct two, 10-week courses.

A young girl from this community who makes the dean's list as a junior at Buffalo State Teachers College has been named one of the top 10 check-out girls in the nation's supermarkets by the Super Market Institute. Carol I. Snyder of Getzville works part-time as a checker in the Bells Sav-Cash Market at 3232 Sheridan Drive.

25 Years Ago March 17, 1982

Service Office Supply Corp., of which Howard E.R. Hutton Sr. and Howard E.R. Hutton Jr. are president and executive vice president, respectively, will receive the Amherst Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Business Award.

Michael Kibby and V. James Saia were elected yesterday to the Williamsville Village Board.

Debbie Major will be installed as president of the League of Amherst Democrats this Friday.

Joan E. Shatkin has been named winner of the Hannah G. Soloman Woman of the Year award by the Buffalo Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women.