

## letters



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## Center receives generous donation

The Eggertsville Youth and Community Center Fund Drive would like to say thank you to Bing's Restaurant and the Joseph Lang Foundation for the wonderful St. Joseph's Day Table event they coordinated on Sunday, March 11 at the Independent Health Youth and Family Center. The turnout at the event was great.

The centerpiece of the event however, was the Lang family, without hesitation or trepidation dedicating \$25,000 to benefit the Eggertsville Youth and Community Center in the renovations of the gymnasium. The graciousness of the Lang family is something to be admired.

A community event scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 2 at the Eggertsville Youth and Community Center parking lot at 4110 Bailey Ave.,  
(Please turn to page six)



## Corrections

The phone number listed for Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital is incorrect in the 2007 Amherst Community Guide. The number should be 568-3600.

EXCLUSIVE

# Bee Poll

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Click to vote on this Bee Poll TODAY!

## Do you feel safe on the Amherst bike paths?

ONLINE POLL RESULTS  
VOTE

Log onto  
www.AmherstBee.com  
today, to cast your vote  
for next week's online poll!

Last week's question:

**When did/do you file your taxes?**

You said:

**5% January**

**31% February**

**46% March**

**19% April or later**

## How to reach The Bee

The Amherst Bee publishes community news free of charge. Mail items to The Amherst Bee, P.O. Box 150, Buffalo, NY, 14231-0150. Our telephone number is 632-4700. Our fax number is 633-8601. Our Web sites are www.BeeNews.com and www.AmherstBee.com. Amherst Managing Editor David Sherman's e-mail address is dsherman@BeeNews.com. Amherst Associate Editor Jessica Finch's e-mail address is jfinch@BeeNews.com. Senders should state on their contributions whether their e-mail address can be published.

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and are limited to a maximum of 300 words. Names will not be withheld unless the author demonstrates a clear reason for anonymity. No unsigned letters will be printed. You must supply your name, address and telephone number for verification. Authors are limited to one letter every four weeks. Letters are subject to editing.

Our deadline is 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. For engagement and wedding announcements, The Bee offers a form to list names and details. Call for a copy. There is no charge to publish engagements, weddings or anniversaries.

# Amherst Bee

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# Conservatives back Spitzer plans in latest surprise from Albany

There was a moment a few weeks ago — actually there have been lots of moments this month — that harkens back to the good old days of Albany's annual budget assault.

At one in another mindless string of bill signing ceremonies held recently, Gov. Eliot Spitzer was ready to introduce the man who has quickly become his archenemy, Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno. "Did I hear somebody say profligate," Spitzer asked.

On another recent occasion, the newly elected state CEO had this to say about the GOP's own Bruno-backed spending blueprint. "To say it's Enron accounting is to be unfair to Enron."

March madness takes on its own definition in Albany, when the tortuous budget process makes it appear everyone is just a clock-tick away from taking his ball and going home. This year, though, Eliot's effrontery is sharper, quicker, wittier and more focused than Bruno's, which when you think it over is pretty much the case about everything when you compare the two.

So while everything appears to be the same on the surface, the undercurrents are flowing in a decidedly different direction this spring, and not just because the governor's office is swinging its voter popularity sickle every chance it gets.

For one, the state's influential Conservative party has lined up squarely behind Spitzer, a rather stunning development for party leader Michael Long, who during last year's election labeled him as someone who would "have little enthusiasm for protecting taxpayers." In abandoning Bruno and the GOP, and not to be outdone by the gov's flair for the dramatic, he turned to William Shakespeare, an appropriate choice because his party's allegiance switch is potentially more than just a tempest in a teapot.

"Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows, and in 2007, I find myself in the exact same position," Long wrote in a letter to Spitzer.

Not that Joe Bruno was ever about good government, mind you, but his reckless budget ideas underscore the increasingly dangerous struggle — dangerous to taxpayers that is — in keeping the sliver of standing they have left in Albany. In this budget, it's all about snagging as

much support as it can steal, the state's mounting and knee-buckling debt be damned.

To be fair, it's not as if the first thing Spitzer did after taking his oath was throw the emergency brake on state spending. But in comparison to the GOP's wild fiscal fantasies, he's so far to the right that Rush Limbaugh would blush.

Spitzer's \$120.6 billion blueprint actually increases spending somewhere around 7 or 8 percent, depending on who you believe, but unarguably twice the average rate of inflation, including an unprecedented influx of an additional \$1.4 billion in education aid — almost the same amount he's proposed trimming in Medicaid spending in hospitals and nursing homes.

Bruno all but whips out a skirt and pompoms in leading the cheers for the health care unions. His "plan" would add an additional \$3 billion or so on top of the governor's current proposed largesse. Exactly who's the Republican here?

It's unlikely Spitzer will resort to dropping napalm in an effort to get everything he wants in this latest power prance, although his predecessor, George Pataki, did it shortly into his new administration in 1995, shutting down state government when a budget didn't pass on schedule. Another nearby Democratic governor, New Jersey's Jon Corzine, successfully pulled that ploy just last year.

But while the rhetoric has been more entertaining than usual, no side has gone so far as to draw a definitive line in the sand — yet — which means a deal will probably get done, maybe not in time to have an actual legislative vote by April 1, but in principle by then.

That gives everyone enough wiggle room to insist that only a technicality prevented an on-time budget.

Which means that for those among us who always enjoy what the budget show brings will temporarily be denied some of that fun. According to widely published reports, Bruno recently complained to Spitzer that he was "embarrassing me in the papers." To which the governor so elegantly and aptly replied, "No, Joe, you're doing that to yourself."

(Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)



**BRIAN ACKLEY**

Political Columnist

## Citizens urged to run for Town Board, highway post

Every two years the Amherst voters elect three members of the Amherst Town Board for a four-year term. This coming November you, the people, will exercise your vote to elect three Town Board members and one highway superintendent.

Your next four years of town government will be as good as your efforts now to volunteer and nominate Town Board members who you think will carry on your agenda for the town.

"Government by the people" charges the people with the responsibility to identify and nominate those who will represent their values.

To those who are thinking to jump into the public service arena but are scared, I want to assure them that life in politics is tough but very satisfying.

I am reminded of a quote from Winston Churchill, who said, "You make a living with what you get; you make a life with what you give." I really, really feel that way in my job as your town supervisor.

I request you to caucus with your neighbors and friends and develop a slate of volunteers to serve as Town Board members and a highway superintendent for the next four years.

Albert Einstein said, "The significant problems that we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." For the town to run like an efficient business, we need successful businessmen and businesswomen; we need an accountant; and we need a social scientist on the Town Board.

Our agenda stays the same: smaller and efficient town government; smarter development,

with no vacant buildings; adequate drainage facilities; fair and easy property assessment; retention of our youth and the educated; and integrity and a sense of economy in the functioning of the town government.

Your selected candidates should be professionals who have earned their living outside the government payroll.

Our Declaration of Independence states: "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." This, however, is not happening in our town.

Once elected, the Town Board members pursue their own personal or partisan agenda. We must elect those who stay focused on the people's agenda.

The highway superintendent manages a budget of \$25.5 million to provide the following services: traffic control, highway and residential lighting, parks, golf courses, shade trees, debris pickup and brush and weed removal, road repairs and improvement, snow removal, storm drainage, and insect control. We need a proven manager/engineer for the highway superintendent's job.

Complaining, finding faults, and blaming others are not substitutes for action. In a democracy, you, the people, have the ultimate power, and now is the time and the opportunity to exercise your power.

I invite you, appeal to you, and challenge you to run for the positions of Town Board member or highway superintendent this coming November and serve the people.

My fellow Amherstonians, good things do not happen; they are made to happen.



**SATISH MOHAN**

Amherst Supervisor