

Bee Editorial

High schools should adopt alcohol training for parents

Lake Shore Central Senior High School requires parents to attend mandatory alcohol and drug training before their children are allowed to purchase tickets to dances.

The training covers pressures youth face, legal issues, signs and symptoms of abuse, recognizing drugs and paraphernalia and health risks associated with abuse.

Once a parent attends a 90-minute training session, their teens are eligible to attend school dances for the next four years, including Senior Prom, Junior Ball, fall homecoming dances and the winter semi-formal.

"We're not out to punish kids or keep them from prom," said R. Terrance Redman, principal of Lake Shore. "We're just trying to get parents the information they need to become more effective partners in the effort to keep our students safe. A 90-minute investment of time, once every four years, is really

not that much to ask if you think about it."

We agree with Lake Shore's policy and think other area high schools should implement such a program. Contrary to popular belief, youth listen to their parents.

We realize it is too late to begin the program this year, but superintendents should look into implementing a similar policy before the first dance of the next school year.

Statistics show about 58 percent of 16-year-olds have consumed alcohol to get drunk. One in five of those teenagers drank and drove, according to state statistics.

There is a major underage drinking problem in the state. One way to decrease the amount of youth alcohol abuse is by getting parents involved.

If parents set boundaries and do not support underage drinking, then fewer teens would take that first sip.

Parents need to know what signs to look for if their child comes home under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The mentality parents have that it's "not my kid" is a deadly game to play. Without parental guidance, children do fall victim to the peer pressures that are out there.

Forums such as the one at Lake Shore High School provide advice for parents and reiterate the dangers and pressures that youth face everyday.

The legal drinking age was raised to 21 for a reason. Don't be a facilitator to underage drinking. You are liable for serving alcohol to minors, and your actions set an example for youth today.

We challenge the high schools to implement mandatory drug/alcohol training for parents for one year. Get feedback from parents, then decide if it is worth making it a policy.

Spindle items



DAVID F. SHERMAN

Managing Editor

• **RED HANDED** — Last week's Meet the Candidates night hosted by the Sweet Home Board of Education was not without its comic moments.

Incumbent Doug Galli began his brief presentation by stating how much he enjoys being affiliated

with Sweet Home, then told the audience why. It seems he was driving a few hours earlier on the Thruway, admittedly talking on a cellular telephone without benefit of a hands-free device. That's against the law. Galli was pulled over by a state trooper who asked if he knew why

the stop was made. Galli admitted his error. Then the trooper asked him where he got the baseball-style cap he was wearing, which bore the name of Sweet Home.

Galli explained that he was a member of the Board of Education, as well as the father of two district students.

"The trooper told me that as a Sweet Home graduate, he would have a difficult time writing me that ticket," Galli explained to the audience. "He let me go with a stern warning. So that's why I love this district."

• **I LOVE NY** — Planning your summer vacation? Free copies of the 2007 "I Love New York" travel guide and vacation map are now available at Assemblyman Jim Hayes' (R-Amherst) office, 5555 Main St., at Cayuga Road, Williamsville. The travel guide contains information about activities and attractions and a detailed map of the state. Phone numbers for hotels, restaurants, and attractions also are in-

cluded. To request a copy of the free guide and map, contact Hayes' district office at 634-1895 or e-mail the assemblyman at hayesj@assembly.state.ny.us.

• **POPPIES FOR SALE** — Members of VFW Post 416 will be selling poppies throughout May to benefit disabled and needy veterans, as well as widows and orphans of deceased members. Post members will be selling at Quality Markets, at Main Street and Union Road in Williamsville, and at Wal-Mart at 5033 Transit Road, near Sheridan Drive. Also, on May 24 and 25, poppies will be sold at the Amherst Center for Senior Services, 370 John James Audubon Parkway.

by **JESSICA L. FINCH**
Associate Editor

• **SQUIRREL REPELLENT** — Living on the third floor of a house, I thought I was safe from two things: flooding and rats. Yes, I expected some mice in the

attic, but as for their larger "cousin," I figured I was safe from their attack on my food. But what I forgot about was their "distant cousin," the squirrel. Last week an intruder made its way into our kitchen. My roommate called me at work, saying someone, or something, had broken into the kitchen.

She described the bagels and English muffins that had been torn apart and scattered around the kitchen. Some pieces had dropped behind the radiator, which is below the window where a 2-inch hole had been gnawed through the screen. We assumed it was a squirrel and closed the storm window.

Forced to open a window during Monday's warm temperatures, my roommate caught the pest trying to get in again, attacking our already damaged screen. Does anyone have any suggestions for discouraging squirrels? I don't think we can make it through the summer without our windows open. And, no, there was no more food left out, enticing the animal.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago May 11, 1882

Last Thursday, the Rough and Ready Fire Company held its annual election of officers. Chosen were J.D. Long, foreman, and Peter Horey, assistant foreman.

The law of the land is that pedestrians have the right of way at street crossings. The owners of vehicles should remember this, especially in muddy weather.

"An old man with a head as destitute of hair as a watermelon entered a drug store and told the clerk he wanted a bottle of hair restorer. 'What kind of hair restorer do you prefer,' asked the clerk. 'I reckon I'll take a bottle of red hair restorer. That was the color of my hair when I was a boy.'"

"A boy was asked if he ever prayed in church. 'I always say a prayer like the rest do, just before the sermon begins.' The questioner continued, 'And what do you say?' The boy replied, 'Now I lay me down to sleep.'"

100 Years Ago May 9, 1907

Efforts are being made to establish a playground in the village. Mr. John Wooster has devoted his entire piece of property extending from just back of his hotel on Main St. and along the creek, securing an ideal campus.

75 Years Ago May 12, 1932

The Eggertsville Hose Company's new fire hall now stands as a dedicated building. Elaborate ceremonies were gone through Sunday, at which prominent personages were present. The building is ready to begin its functioning. The general contractor, Julius Braun, presented the keys to Charles A. Unger, chairman of the building committee. The program was presented in the banquet hall, where 300 partook of a delicious chicken dinner, a credit to Fritz Renner, chef of the fire company.

Burglars some time Monday night entered Snyder School No. 18 in Harlem Road and were successful in securing upwards of \$42.00 in cash. Every desk and filing cabinet in the principal's office was ransacked.

The annual mother-daughter banquet held at the Christian Church on Tuesday evening was enjoyed by about thirty guests. The musical portion of the program featured solos by Mrs. Alvin H. Baker and daughter Dorothy and piano selections by Miss Hazel Miller.

Friends will hear with sorrow of the passing of Frank Spancake, a former proprietor of the old Eagle House in Williamsville.

For Sale: "Pedigreed chinchilla rabbits at 50 cents per month and up. Fine breeding stock. Transit Rabbitry at Swormville, Leonard Bainbridge."

50 Years Ago May 9, 1957

Two new library buildings to serve the Town of Amherst were recommended by the Amherst Junior Chamber of Commerce to the Amherst Town Board on Monday evening. The cost of the venture, which would replace the present Williamsville-Amherst Free Library and the Eggertsville-Snyder Library, would be about \$125,000 for each library.

Two 14-year-old boys were caught by the Amherst Police on Monday evening in the basement of an apartment building on Brant Road in Eggertsville. Police said the boys were looking for pop bottles they could convert to money.

Tobias Shank, one of Williamsville's oldest residents, will celebrate his 89th birthday Sunday.

25 Years Ago May 5, 1982

Three outstanding sports citizens will be inducted, one posthumously, into the Amherst Chamber of Commerce's Avenue of Athletes on May 18. They are Robert P. Barczak, Henry A. Schoelles and the late James E. Peele.

Mrs. Martin Trossman will be installed by her mother-in-law, Mrs. Cyrus Trossman, at the installation and Mother's Day luncheon of the Sisterhood of Temple Beth El.