

# Sweet Home candidates stress community involvement

by DAVID F. SHERMAN  
Managing Editor

The four candidates seeking election to the Sweet Home School Board each gave concise, personal statements during the annual Meet the Candidates night held May 1 at the Norman C. Vergils Community Center.

Marianne Jasen spoke first, stressing her track record of attendance at nearly every Board of Education meeting during the past two years.

Many times, she said, she has been the only community member in attendance. Jasen also cited her involvement with parents organizations and other school activities.

Incumbent Douglas Galli highlighted his business experience and how it has helped him serve the district better.

He said that when he and his family moved to the area 11 years ago, "We couldn't have landed in a better district for our kids."

Debbie Adams spoke of how she has been active in Sweet Home schools for 10 of the 15 years she

has been a resident of the district.

"My goal has been to make parents feel more welcome at the middle school," she said. Increasing parental involvement through volunteer activities has given her the confidence to run for a seat on the board, she added.

Scott Johnson, who was appointed to the board last summer when former board member Heidi Dizer moved out of the district, pointed out that he was selected for the seat from a field of more than a dozen candidates.

"This board is very open to new ideas from the outside, something I realized even as just a parent," he said. "I am excited about the direction in which the district is moving."

The two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected to the five-year terms. The third-place candidate will complete the final year of the unexpired term.

Galli, an incumbent, is seeking re-election to a full five-year term.

The annual district vote will take place from noon to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 15 at Sweet Home High School, 1901 Sweet Home Road.



**Nathan Senick Albanese**, in the science room at Kadimah School at Buffalo was named the Middle School Inventor of the Year for his three-way laundry chute (not shown) at the WNY Invention Convention. He said he has always enjoyed science and building things.

## Inventor of the Year expands on laundry chute idea

by JESSICA L. FINCH  
Associate Editor

Ten-year-old Nathan Senick Albanese is not just an award-winning inventor, but one with a good heart.

The fifth-grade student at the Kadimah School of Buffalo was named Middle School Inventor of the Year at the 2007 Western New York Invention Convention held on April 28 at the Buffalo Convention Center.

"It was my first year in the competition," he said. "I didn't think I would win ... I thought I might maybe win a prize."

In honoring a Jewish tradition, Nathan was unable to attend the judging at the convention center but received an extremely excited phone call from his science teacher, Anna Martinick.

"She called us and she was extremely happy. She said (Kadimah) took five places, and Nathan was the inventor of the year" Darlene Senick, Nathan's mother, said.

If not for Nathan's teacher, it would have been a title he never would have achieved.

"At first I didn't want to participate," he said, but the project was required by Martinick. "It was my first year (in the contest), and I didn't have any ideas."

But Nathan came up with an award-winning idea — a three-way laundry chute.

"I really couldn't believe it," Nathan said about being Inventor of the Year. "I asked (Martinick) 'Are you joking?' I was really shocked."

This year's theme was to focus on an invention to solve a common problem that would help others.

Nathan said he came up with

the idea after watching his mom try to sort all the family's laundry that was on the floor. His three-way chute holds three different loads of laundry so the colors don't become mixed. When someone is ready to do a load, they open the door on the bottom of one of the chutes and the laundry, already sorted, falls into a basket.

For the competition, Nathan created a prototype out of transparencies, the sheets of plastic used in overhead projectors, and cardboard. After trying other materials, he determined those were the most lightweight and efficient to demonstrate his idea.

Senick said she wasn't surprised by her son's idea because he has always been a good person and thoughtful of others.

The judges also recognized the efficiency of the invention, making the following comments: "Very practical, could see it has obvious application in a home. The model shows how it would work."

Although only two students are named Inventors of the Years — one elementary student and one middle school student — 25 were named winners.

Also recognized from Kadimah were sixth-grader Joshua Fitt, whose idea was pads on a ladder to protect one's feet; sixth-grader Phillie Appleton, who created a backpack for snowboards; fifth-grader Anna Pressman, whose idea was a spoon with a thermometer to avoid burning one's mouth; and fifth-grader Jacob Dubin, who created an all-in-one toothbrush and "flosser."

The winners are invited to represent WNY at the New York State Invention Convention to be held in Schenectady in June.

## YMCA considers new facility in Northtowns

A study is being conducted by YMCA Buffalo Niagara on the potential for replacing its Northeast Family Branch, 4433 Main St., Snyder, with a new state-of-the-art family facility.

"The current facility was constructed in 1962 and has very limited facilities from which to serve its surrounding communities," said John Murray, president and CEO of YMCA Buffalo Niagara.

Included in the study is a conditional purchase agreement between the YMCA and Randall Memorial Baptist Church for the YMCA to buy approximately 13 acres from the church, 6301 Main St., Williamsville.

The YMCA is also researching

future plans for the current Main Street building.

"The success of the YMCA's Southtowns Family Branch on Southwestern Boulevard in West Seneca will serve as a model to develop a concept for a new

family facility in the Northtowns," he said.

The Southtown's location is 68,000 square feet with two gymnasiums, an Olympic-size pool, indoor track, and fitness center.

### School News

**St. Mary's School Swornville** recently held a T-shirt drive for the Nicaraguan Mission. The students set a goal of 400 shirts. Classrooms competed to collect the most shirts for the "Jeans Day and Saggy Baggy T-shirt Pass." The total count of T-shirts to be sent to the Nicaragua Mission was 2,356. The fifth-grade class took first place with a collection total of 582 T-shirts.

**Summit Educational Resources** received a \$168,219 grant from Rep. Thomas Reynolds, R-Amherst, to expand its physical education program. The school is located at 150 Stahl Road, Getzville.



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