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### Serving youth

Delores Reitmeier was raised at St. John's Lutheran Home for Children. See page 37

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER  
Town of Amherst  
Village of Williamsville  
County of Erie  
Amherst Central Schools  
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**\$1.00**

# Board admits Rensch Road rezoning was a mistake

by JESSICA L. FINCH  
Associate Editor

The Amherst Town Board has backed down following a lawsuit filed on May 16 by the University at Buffalo, in which UB claimed the board's March 19 vote to rezone parcels of Rensch Road was illegal.

UB filed the suit, an Article 78 action, to annul the rezoning and the special use permit for the student-housing project proposed by GMH Communities.

Town Attorney Tom Jones said his office was notified of the lawsuit on Wednesday and on Monday the board members voted on the matter, admitting they were wrong.

"The board is admitting it made a mistake," Jones said. "They are willing to back off from any further (court) proceedings and plan to work with UB."

The Town of Amherst was not the only defendant in the case. The developer, GMH Communities, and homeowners on Rensch Road were also named. Jones said the other parties will have to make their own decision in regard to the case.

The lawsuit came almost two months to the day after the controversial vote was taken. In all, 14 parcels on Rensch Road were rezoned from RD-Research Development to MFR-6 Multi Family Residential to make way for the proposed GMH Communities 835-student housing project. The vote was 5-2 with Council Members Bill Kindel and Deborah Bruch Bucki voting no.

During that meeting, Jones told the board it

**“ If someone is going to sue us ... who is going to sue us? ”**

— Council Member William A. O'Loughlin Jr., March 19 meeting

was his opinion that the rezonings would be illegal and should not take place.

"You have a matter before you now ... where the application is not consistent with that adopted master plan, which you are legally bound to follow," he said during that meeting.

The board proceeded, approving the rezonings.

By doing so the Town Board allowed for the selling of the 14 parcels of land to GMH from the residents. Many residents spoke in favor of the project, saying their homes were nonconforming with RD zoning and made it nearly impossible for them to sell. At press time it was unknown if any real estate transactions

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## Suspect arrested for tattooing in basement

by JESSICA L. FINCH  
Associate Editor

A 14-year-old girl said it was a Mother's Day gift but her mom wasn't pleased when her daughter got a tattoo.

The Fairgreen Drive resident called Amherst police on May 14 after she discovered her daughter had a tattoo on one of her arms.

Police learned that sometime after school that day the daughter had a man, named Paul, come to the house, where he reportedly tattooed her in the basement.

"The 14-year-old said she got the tattoo after school as a gift for her for Mother's Day," Assistant Chief John Askey said. "Police observed a fresh tattoo on the upper part of her arm."

Another report of a 17-year-old male also receiving a tattoo from the same suspect was reported on May 13.

Askey said police arrested Paul A. Artenyak, 27, of Milford Street in Tonawanda for allegedly sketching a tattoo on a person younger than 18 and for attempting to give police a false name. He also allegedly

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## Amherst prom

Shamone Chillis, left, Delisse Calhoun and Mollie Lang smile for the camera during the Amherst Central High School senior prom held last Saturday at the Buffalo Niagara Marriott.

More photos on page nine

Photo by Patrick McPartland

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## Memorial Day to be honored in town

Several events will be held in Amherst on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28.

The George F. Lamm Post 622 American Legion in conjunction with the Amherst Town Board will hold the 69th Memorial Day parade in Williamsville as a tribute to the memory of those who gave their lives for the country.

Also, at 11 a.m., there will be a service near the monument in the Williamsville Cemetery,

Main Street and Reist streets.

The parade is at 2 p.m. and will begin at Williamsville South High School and continue west on Main Street to Los Robles Street.

Also scheduled is a ceremony at the monument at Main Street and Bailey Avenue. AMVETS Post 49 will hold a Memorial Day ceremony at 1:15 p.m. Sunday, May 27.

The featured speaker will be Earl Lynch. He

will be joined by chaplain Bill Dengler and Rev. Joseph Porpiglia of St. Benedict Church.

Performing on trumpet will be Bob Boccacio. The color guard, firing squad, and wreath placement squad will take part in honoring of troops.

A.J. Jurek American Legion Post 1672, George F. Lamm American Legion Post, and VFW Post 416 will participate.

**Mohan calls for fresh faces in government — see page five**