

letters

to the Editor

dsherman@beenews.com
www.beenews.com

More than meets the eye on Mill

The Williamsville School Dis-

trict budget of \$145,255,205 and the three proposed propositions were passed on May 15. As a (Please turn to page six)

Corrections

Two separate events were grouped together in the BeeHealthy column in the May 23-24 editions of Bee Group Newspapers. Vascular Interventional Associates will offer free peripheral arterial disease screening from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 30 at Buffalo General Hospital, 100 High St., Buffalo. For information, call 859-2138.

In addition, Dr. Julio Alvarez, Dr. Daniel Patterson and Dr. Jeffrey Steinig of Southtowns Surgical Associates will host free varicose vein screenings from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 5 at Sterling Medical Park, 310 Sterling Drive, Suite 105, Orchard Park, and from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 7 at 1000 Youngs Road, Suite 105, Amherst. For information, call 675-7730.

In last week's Queen City U-12 soccer article, one of their opponents' names in a tournament they placed second in was incomplete. Queen City played the Buffalo United U-11 Premier team and won 6-0.

Weather museum would add to region's cultural institutions

Mark me down as the latest to join a growing list of supporters for the idea of creating a weather museum in the city of Buffalo.

The creation of a weather museum that would be based downtown would help to serve as a valuable addition to the cultural institutions we already have here in Western New York.

The potential to increase tourism to our region would only help further enhance the long-range thinking some of our elected officials have about establishing Western New York's reputation as a tourism destination.

The support for such a facility is widespread, with local governmental bodies across the area unanimously passing legislation that supports the idea, which will hopefully now gain support from federal and state officials and even representatives from the National Weather Service.

Need further proof as to why the museum should be built here? Forget about the Blizzard of '77 and last October's "surprise storm." It turns out the founder of the National Weather Service was Gen. Albert James Mayer, who was a surgeon and founder of the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Where did Mayer live? Where else? Buffalo.

Whenever terms such as "Nixonesque" and "shady" are being thrown around, it should cause your eyes and ears to tingle just a bit, especially when it comes to how business gets done when it involves taxpayers' money.

But when those phrases are followed with direct references to the Giambra administration, it's time to sigh, roll your eyes and mutter, "here we go again."

King Joel and his cronies engaged in another knock-down, drag-out fight with the Erie County Fiscal Stability Authority earlier this month, with Giambra's financial experts spending nearly three hours arguing with control board members about how to proceed with what is estimated to be about \$80 million in uncollected taxes.

Without regurgitating the ugly exchanges that took place between members of the control board and Giambra's financial gurus, let's just sum it all up as the latest chapter in the rocky

relationship between the control board and the Giambra administration.

Anthony Baynes, Sheila Kee, Stan Keysa and the rest of the control board don't trust Giambra and his fiscal wizards. Can't say I blame them.

But when will enough be enough when it comes to the constant bickering about virtually every action item involving the county's finances?

Acrimonious? Rancorous? Resentful? Distrust? Those are all good descriptions of the true feelings both sides hold for each other.

But I'd like to counter those with exhausted, drained, fatigued and plain old sick and tired as phrases that best sum up what the general public is thinking about the snippy and argumentative relationship of the control board and Giambra's administration.

So as we begin a new month this week, let's view it as a sense of accom-

plishment knowing that in less than seven months, Giambra's lengthy run as the county's top elected official and his disgraceful posturing and shoddy treatment of his constituency and virtually all who come in contact with him are that much closer to coming to an end.

From the "where-are-they-now?" file comes the recent re-emergence of former Chautauqua County Executive Mark Thomas.

Thomas, who ruled Chautauqua from 1998 to 2005, was appointed earlier this month to the top regional job for the state's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, a position held for the past 12 years by Ed Rutkowski, the former Erie County executive.

Insert your own "political patronage post" joke here.

(Daniel Meyer is a columnist for the Weekly Independent Newspapers of Western New York. WIN is a consortium of 19 community-based weekly newspapers in Erie and Niagara counties with a combined paid circulation of 75,000 homes, providing collaborative advertising and editorial support for member publications. To provide feedback on this column, visit www.wnynewspapers.com. Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)



DAN MEYER

Political Columnist

EXCLUSIVE
Online Bee Poll
www.AmherstBee.com
Click to vote on this Bee Poll TODAY!

Does construction change your shopping destinations?

ONLINE POLL RESULTS
VOTE

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

Last week's question:
Did you vote in a school district election last week?

You said:
46% YES 54% NO

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

Founded 1879

- Trey Measer, Publisher/President, e-mail: tmeaser@BeeNews.com
- John J. Evans, Executive Vice President, e-mail: jevans@BeeNews.com
- David F. Sherman, Managing Editor, e-mail: dsherman@BeeNews.com
- Jessica Finch, Associate Editor, e-mail: jfinch@BeeNews.com
- Michael A. Measer, Circulation Manager, e-mail: mmeaser@BeeNews.com
- Dean T. Hutter, Advertising Manager, e-mail: dhutter@BeeNews.com
- Karl Scheitner, Production Manager, e-mail: karls@BeeNews.com
- Mary Anne Cappon, Special Sections Manager, e-mail: macappon@BeeNews.com

Web sites: www.BeeNews.com & www.AmherstBee.com

Subscription rates:

	One Year	Two years	Three years
	\$39.00	\$72.00	\$98.00
Sr. Citizen	\$36.00	\$66.00	\$89.00
Out of county	\$55.00	\$91.00	

Adam L. Rinewalt, Publisher/Founder 1879-1907

George J. Measer Sr., Publisher 1907-1965

George J. Measer, Publisher 1965-1994 (USPS 024-300)

5564 Main Street, P.O. Box 150, Buffalo, NY 14231-0150

(716) 632-4700 ▲ FAX 633-8601

Circulation: 632-1791 ▲ Classified: 632-4712

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Amherst Bee, P.O. Box 150, Buffalo, NY 14231-0150

Published every Wednesday by Bee Publications Inc. Periodical postage paid at Buffalo, NY 14240

©Copyright Bee Publications Inc. 2007. All rights reserved. All advertising, news and editorial copy, including text, drawings and photographs published, are the property of Bee Publications Inc. and cannot be used without our written consent.

The American soldier serves for all of us

As Western New Yorkers enjoy the long-awaited unofficial start to summer this Memorial Day week, with its annual traditions of picnics, barbecues and parades, we also pause to remember and honor those who fought and died for our freedom.

At the forefront of our hearts this year are also those, many from Western New York, who are fighting and standing guard today in Afghanistan and Iraq. This week and in the months ahead, the debate about the importance and the management of the war in Iraq will continue at our dinner tables, on our television screens and in the halls of Congress, and it should.

But I can report from our nation's capital that while the debate about how we best fight the war on terror goes on, there is no debate and no dispute about the valor of the American soldier.

It seems Americans are always being told they are divided. We are separated into red and blue states and then told we are too different to agree.

Yet Memorial Day reminds us of who Americans are and what they can be. The American soldier does not serve for red states or blue states or for Republicans or Democrats, but serves for all of us and sacrifices everything for our collective ideals and shared hopes.

This holiday, we all come together to humbly say "thank you" for that service and the example these men and women from all parts of the country and from all walks of life have given us. They have shown us what it means to serve a cause greater than self and to dedicate a life to

making a country and a people stronger.

In honoring them, we rise above our divisions and speak as one, as Americans.

To let the troops who serve today hear all of our support and to honor their brethren who have fallen in service, there are many simple and meaningful ways Western New Yorkers can reach out and say "thank you."

The U.S. military has set up a one-stop Web site where you can send a care package to a soldier, donate airline miles to help returning soldiers reunite with their families, purchase gift certificates or phone cards for service members to enjoy, support a veteran scholarship fund or simply send a message to the troops thanking them for their service. The Web site www.americasupportsyou.mil brings

together more than 150 nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping our soldiers and their families.

I encourage all Western New Yorkers to take a moment to visit the site and lift the hearts of those who have parted with family, friends and hometowns to serve their country and defend freedom abroad.

As we enjoy the warmer weather and the backyard gatherings and ballgames that come this time of year, let's also remember the troops who serve every day, those who have returned home safely and those who have passed on. In distant lands, they have given all they have to give and shown Americans all America can be.

For their service and their sacrifice, this Memorial Day we all say, humbly and sincerely, "thank you."



TOM REYNOLDS

Congressman 26th District