

## letters

## to the Editor

## Harmony Party

(Continued from page five)

Brian Geary and David Lipinoga will apply their much-needed business expertise to the village. Jeff Kingsley will add his extensive legal knowledge and experience. Jeff Voelkl has already shown that he is an outstanding village justice.

All are committed to solving the current Mill doldrums. They also look forward to revitalizing plans to link Glen Park and the Mill complex. Their energy will result in a new emphasis on improving village quality-of-life issues — such as improved residential property maintenance.

In summation, I urge Village of Williamsville voters to vote for positive solutions. Vote Harmony Party candidates Brian Geary for mayor, Jeff Kingsley and David Lipinoga for trustee and Jeff Voelkl for justice.

**Basil J. Piazza**  
Village trustee

## Special Olympics drew 400 athletes

The 35th year of the Special Olympics Spring Games in Erie County were held on Sunday, June 3 at the Sweet Home High School athletic facility. Opening ceremonies, led by Debbie Fleetwood, the Erie County Special Olympics coordinator, were followed by the participants in all 14 track and field events.

Nearly 400 athletes were competing following their many weeks of training. Nearly 100 volunteers came to offer their time and talents to these persevering athletes. In addition to the local events, several finalists will travel to Albany on Father's Day weekend for the state finals.

The Special Olympics International was founded in 1968 under the direction of Eunice Kennedy Shriver. It is still the largest volunteer-based organization on an international level. There are 500,000 athletes at the international level who are training and competing in 17 various sports venues.

Training clubs from Amherst, Cheektowaga, Lancaster, BOCES II and Sweet Home were involved and received many ribbon awards. Congratulations to one and all.

**Mary Ann McClellan**  
Williamsville

## Reader wishes columnist well

As a regular reader of Brian Ackley's weekly political column in the Bee Group Newspapers, I

wish him well in his new position in Florida.

I hope he is not as disappointed as I was in what he calls "the sunshine state." I spent two years there and finally came back to Western New York.

First, the term "sunshine state" is a misnomer. Florida has almost as many cloudy days as we do and second, the traffic is horrendous. Third, the summer heat (sometimes over 100 degrees) can be unbearable.

I feel Western New York is a much better place to live. I feel Mr. Ackley wrote so much about what's wrong with our area and so little about the many things that are right, that he began to believe his own press clippings.

I hope that Dan Meyer, his successor in the Bee column, will give equal time to what's right and what's wrong with the Buffalo area.

**Joseph H. Radder**  
Main Street  
Williamsville

## Teachers didn't use freedom of speech

Heim Middle School received national attention recently when a group of its students won a video contest sponsored by C-Span television. The topic of their video, broadcast nationally on Channel 9, was the controversy surrounding creative design, the alternative view to evolution.

The students started out not knowing much about the topic but succeeded in learning about this complex issue by interviewing ministers and their teachers. They also included C-Span film clips of opinion-makers as required by the contest rules.

As a former teacher, I was proud to see these local kids do so well. They were articulate in answering questions about their project on TV.

The show host even showed a map indicating where Williamsville is located to inform the national audience.

My only complaints are that the Heim School teachers asked about their view on creative design would not answer. Were they afraid of the Board of Education or an administrator's condemnation? What happened to freedom of speech, a concept taught in history/social studies departments?

**Pauline Dyson**  
Cayuga Road  
Williamsville

## Police thanked for academy

We recently completed the Cit-

izen's Police Academy held at the Amherst Police Department over a 13-week period from mid-February through mid-March.

This program is lead by Lt. Steve McGonagle and is offered once a year to any resident of the Town of Amherst interested in learning more about what these brave men and women do in maintaining this community as one of the safest places to live in the country.

In every call these officers answer within the 54-square miles of Amherst there is always some risk involved whether it be a routine traffic stop, a call of domestic violence, a robbery, a drug bust or someone who has fallen in their home. We were able to experience this firsthand through the Citizen's Police Academy, as each member of the academy was given the honor and privilege of riding along with an officer during his regular shift. There are so many things these officers do that we, as residents, take for granted, and are truly grateful to them for making Amherst a great place to live.

We have gained a much deeper respect and appreciation for what an Amherst police officer does and what they face each day. We want to thank the Amherst police for their time in offering such an informative program, and we encourage all Amherst residents to take part in the Citizen's Police Academy in the years to come.

**Ron and Bonnie Gentner**  
Cadman Drive  
Williamsville

## Memorial Day editorial featured good suggestions

I am writing in regard to the wonderful editorial you had about Memorial Day. Your suggestion of other groups taking over the task of putting flags on the graves of our departed service men was an excellent idea.

My husband is a Navy veteran and a member of the F.J. Donovan Post who has done this service for years. I would go with him to place flags on the graves as did the wives of many members. I considered this a privilege. However, the last two years we could not participate because of physical reasons.

The Erie County American Legion supplies the posts with the name and grave number. Any resident who wants a flag placed on a family veteran's grave should contact the American Legion at City Hall, 852-6500. The office is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Thursday.

Your quote of President Lincoln of "we must care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan," also is written in the lobby as you come into the V.A. Hospital.

My husband and I are on the Veterans Affairs Committee and were also a part of getting the Veterans Monument to all veterans in Cheektowaga and

Town Park.

Thank you for the appropriate article to help us remember our veterans.

**Elaine Rosenthal**  
Cheektowaga

## Parks remain dangerous

In response to the growing criticism of the Village Parks Committee's utter failure to maintain the parks which was crystallized in the Buffalo News, Ms. Fessard nevertheless continues to defend that committee's record in last week's Amherst Bee without offering us any facts to support her position. Perhaps the most glaring example is Fessard's dismissal of the criticism involving the Village Parks Committee off-site meeting with the Village Square Apartment complex promising tax dollars to the private entity while most of Garrison Park is still left unusable and in a dangerous condition.

Setting aside the political motivations of such a move (Mayor Mary Lowther and trustee candidate Brian Kulpa attended the meeting), the principal question

is: why is the committee spending hours preparing for and delivering a rare off-site, and perhaps illegal, meeting while far more important issues are left undone? Focusing attention on the Village Square meeting is, at best, a complete lack of judgment on behalf of the Village Parks Committee and, at worst, it is utter incompetence.

Finally, I reject Ms. Fessard's notion that simply placing "tape ... around (the Garrison Park slide) to identify that it should not be used" is a valid solution to the unattractive nuisance it has become let alone an adequate safeguard while the unit is either being repaired or replaced. It would take only a curious child bypassing the loosely held tape around the slide to be severely injured. Ms. Fessard's general defense to the mounting criticism is of course that the committee is doing the best it can to address these problems. Does that justification provide comfort to any of us? I know that as an aunt of a 3-year-old who loves slides, it certainly doesn't for me.

**Angela Callizo**  
Main Street

## Bee will post election results on Web when polls close

Although the June 20 edition of The Amherst Bee will already be in print when the polls close for the Village of Williamsville election, readers can get still get the results from the hometown paper.

Shortly after polls close at 9 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, the results will be posted at [www.amherstbee.com](http://www.amherstbee.com).

## Bee policy on elections

Bee Group Newspapers will not publish letters to the editor, Bee Heard calls or political briefs on candidates or issues involved in the June 19 Village of Williamsville election after the June 6 edition.

This election policy does not pertain to paid advertising.

## ElderWood Health Care volunteers recognized

In acknowledgement of National Volunteer Week, ElderWood volunteers were honored for their efforts, and Volunteers of the Year were named from each ElderWood facility.

East Amherst resident Norine Turner has been named Volunteer of the Year at ElderWood Health Care at Heathwood, 815 Hopkins Road, Williamsville.

A Eucharistic minister from St. Mary's of Swormville, Turner has volunteered at the facility for about 12 years. She assists in the weekly Catholic service and provides pastoral care visits to residents.

Volunteers from St. Benedict Church have been named Volunteers of the Year at ElderWood Health Care at Oakwood, 200 Bassett Road, Amherst. The Rosary Volunteer Group includes

Anne Bellittiere, Marge Cole, Mary Jane Edwards, Mary Ermer, Mary Manaher, Joan McDonald, Grace Neureuther, Sally Pasternak, Peggy Price, Jean Quigley, Joan Silver, Joyce Sinnott, Ronnie Walterich and Patricia Webster.

Sr. Francis Marie Vallone, OSF, has been named Volunteer of the Year at ElderWood Village at Glenwood, 5271 Main St., Williamsville. She is a resident of St. Mary of the Angels home for retired religious in Williamsville.

She has been serving the spiritual needs of residents for two years.

Kay Gould has been named Volunteer of the Year at ElderWood Health Care at Wedgewood, 4459 Bailey Ave., Eggertsville. She has been a volunteer here for several years and visits with her dog, Shadow, every Sunday.

In honor of National Volunteer Week, April 15-21, more than 300 volunteers serving at ElderWood Senior Care facilities in Western New York were acknowledged during ElderWood's annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on May 2.


Volunteer of the Year award winners from ElderWood's 13 local skilled nursing and assisted-living facilities were presented with a clock, signifying the gift of their time.

**CIVIL WAR LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND**

**Amherst Museum**  
June 16, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
June 17, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**OVER 200 RE-ENACTORS**  
Camp life, music, battles, artillery, vendors, civilians, historic buildings, and exhibits  
Admission: \$6 adults, \$3 children  
Free Parking

**Amherst Museum**  
Corner of Tonawanda Creek & New Roads  
(716) 689-1440 [www.amherstmuseum.org](http://www.amherstmuseum.org)



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Jacquie Taylor "JT" Joni Stovroff