

Bee Editorial

Costs keeping trees' destiny unknown

Storm-damaged trees may start coming down as soon as July and there stands a good chance that residents won't know if a tree near their property will go or stay.

Highway Superintendent Bob Anderson said he has the final list from the Erie County certified arborist and it included 9,500 trees in the town's public right of way — 1,500 more than initially thought.

He estimates the cost of letting residents know is \$7,000 in postage and he doesn't have that in his budget.

It is upsetting to hear that work has to be done by Oct. 12 or else the Federal Emergency Management Agency won't pay. What's worse is trees in question might be coming down now. That's because should the town "wait and see," the town would have to pay if the tree should die later.

So 9,500 trees are scheduled to come down

and Anderson said some specific areas will be hit hard and the town has to follow the arborist's recommendations.

At press time the only recommendation told to The Amherst Bee was a schedule, following the sanding routes, would be posted on the town's Web site. The company, to be hired to cut the trees, would follow the established route so residents could expect when crews would be on their street.

Supervisor Satish Mohan said he feels bad there has been a lack of communication with the residents and wants them to be included but didn't offer a suggestion as to how. That \$7,000 figure is in addition to millions needed for tree removal and stump grinding.

For residents not able to attend the marathon meetings it should be noted the Town Board has *talked* about a program to let residents know which trees will be gone. We agree with

what you may be thinking — them talking about it doesn't help you any.

Maybe the residents don't need to know because they have no say in what goes or what stays. If you want to know let the Town Board and Mohan know that.

Just as a point of information — the orange tags and X's on trees mean nothing. What will mean something is the day the trucks pull up and the first of 9,500 trees are taken down.

We hope that \$7,000 can be found somewhere to mail residents information. If not why not post more than the schedule on the Web site?

The Amherst Town Hall may still be in the "Jurassic period" when it comes to WiFi, as Council Member Dan Ward says, but there must be something that can be posted on the Web — at the very least the streets. We understand 9,500 trees are a lot, but 9,500 upset residents complaining takes a lot more time.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **TURN OFF THE TV** — I have to credit my friend Sara with sparking my interest in recreational reading. An English teacher in Syracuse, she suggested some amazing books, thus creating my new appreciation for novels. With that being said, I

encourage all students to find the same passion for reading during the summer through Assemblyman Jim Hayes' 2007 Summer Reading Challenge. According to Hayes, studies have shown that children who continue to read during the summer perform better in school in the

fall. The program is for pupils in kindergarten through sixth grade. Pupils must read with their parents or another adult at least 15 minutes per day for at least 40 days during the summer. Those who meet the challenge will be honored by Hayes in September at a ceremony, where they will receive a New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading certificate. To participate, request a program brochure by calling 634-1895 or e-mailing hayesj@assembly.state.ny.us.

The brochure includes a calendar to keep track of daily reading and a list of book suggestions for various grade levels.

• **SOUNDS GOOD TO ME** — Stephen Shewan told me the East High School jazz ensemble was good, the press releases about the band indicated they were good, and the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival named them one of the best. But without hearing the band you don't really know how good they are. At the June 12

Williamsville Board of Education meeting I heard how really good they are — even better, they are great. The band performed at the start of the meeting, pieces the group played in the Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Competition and Festival held in New York City in May. The team placed fifth in North America. Bravo to all the members of the jazz ensemble for a stellar year.

• **ARE YOU UP FOR IT?** — Univera Healthcare is looking for parents to participate in an online contest by explaining how the Fun 2B Fit program has encouraged their child to lead a healthy lifestyle. The Fun 2B Fit program is a school-based, healthy lifestyle program for pupils in grades two through four and their parents. One family will be selected on a quarterly basis who the organization feel exemplifies the healthy habits promoted through the Fit 2B Fun program. These include making healthy food choices by trying new foods, increasing

physical activity levels, shopping for healthy foods, and preparing meals together as a family.

A brief description of 250 words or less should be provided explaining what kind of impact the program has had on your child. The winning family will be interviewed, photographed and featured on the Fun 2B Fit Web site. The winner will also receive a gift certificate to Laux Sporting Goods and Wegmans to continue their healthy lifestyle. Winners will be selected on a quarterly basis. To enter online, visit <http://www.fun2bfit.univera-healthcare.com> or call 857-6312.

• **PITCH IN** — ElderWood Health Care at Oakwood, 200 Bassett Road, Amherst, is in need of volunteers to assist with Saturday afternoon bingo, and in the gift shop during various shifts. Opportunities are available for teens through adults. To sign up, call Sydne Masino, director of volunteer services, at 689-6681.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago June 22, 1882

At the Academy Hall, in this Village, tomorrow evening a pleasant occasion is promised at the closing exercises of the school. Those who attend will undoubtedly be well entertained.

The Buffalo printers are on strike. The Evening Courier failed to put in an appearance last night and the Buffalo Commercial and Express look exceedingly light-waisted.

The proper thing to do is buy a few barrels of kerosene. Scientists predict that the supply of petroleum will be exhausted in about four years.

"A little boy whose parents are always moving from one house to another, was asked by the Sunday school teacher, 'Why did the Israelites move out of Egypt?' 'Because they couldn't pay their rent,' he replied."

"Little Willie had been summarily corrected by his mother for repeated acts of naughtiness. The punishment being over, he said to his father, 'Papa, how could you marry such an ill-tempered woman as momma?'"

You can't eat enough in a week to last you a year, and you can't advertise on that plan either.

100 Years Ago June 20, 1907

A reception and hop are being arranged in honor of the graduating class of '07 at Calumet Hall on July 1. Members of the executive committee are

Miss Alice Maurer, Mr. Leon J. Hinkley and Mr. Franklin J. Maurer.

Members of the graduating class of the Williamsville High School are Miss Katharine M. Huckler, Miss Catherine A. Weingartner, Miss Charlotte E. Pample, Miss Mary E. Snearly and Mr. Bernard G. Deazley.

75 Years Ago June 23, 1932

Having no intimation of a change to come in church administration, the council of St. Paul's Church, Eggertsville, was Sunday confronted with the resignation of their pastor, the Rev. George E. Schettler. So taken aback were the members of the council that their hearts were too full of any action beyond utterance of the sorrow they felt in the action of their beloved pastor.

Williamsville High School will graduate the largest class in history, numbering around forty.

Members of the George F. Lamm Post, American Legion, have finally developed definite plans as to their building. Tuesday of this week, the post purchased from the city of Buffalo the old club house of the Trap and Field club, which now stands at Genesee and Cayuga. It will be moved to a site on Wehrle Drive, about 600 feet west of Cayuga, on four acres of land.

Bee Editorial: "Graduation this year is apt to find many a bewildered member of a class when future pursuits are considered. We are proud of each graduate and they deserve the congratulations and best wishes of the townspeople."

50 Years Ago June 20, 1957

The Kiwanis Club of Amherst has taken an initial step to form an Amherst Youth Council. William J. McFarland, county secretary of the Council of Social Agencies, said the council must be representative of the entire community.

Word was received Tuesday night that Lt. Herbert Zimmerman was the high man on the recent police chiefs civil service examination.

The Class of 1957 of the Williamsville Central High School will receive their diplomas at exercises to be held Friday evening in the auditorium. The 25th annual commencement program of Amherst Central Senior High School will be held Friday evening in the school gym. Graduation exercises of Neumann Catholic High School will be held on Sunday evening in the school auditorium.

25 Years Ago June 16, 1982

A special worship service to mark the 25th anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Kenneth H. Kolbe, pastor of Faith United Church of Christ, will be held Sunday, June 20.

Frank J. Mischler, 68, retired president of Mischler's Florist Shop in Williamsville, died Sunday, June 13, 1982. He and his wife, the former Ruth M. Diem, established the business in 1944.

Police Blotter: "Woodshire South resident reports man with a ponytail in a parked car."