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Anniversary

Robert Jaus will celebrate his family's 130-year-old business in July. See page 45

New location

'Amherst Celebrates the Arts' on June 30 at town museum. See page 30

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Old Home Days

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
Town of Amherst
Village of Williamsville
County of Erie
Amherst Central Schools
Sweet Home Central Schools
Williamsville Central Schools

Bee office: 632-4700
E-mail:
newstips@beenews.com
Web:www.BeeNews.com
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Sign to warn motorists of disabled child

Believed first in WNY

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

Eight-year-old Sawyer Aston's parents know that a lot of hard work goes into protecting their children, and sometimes they can't do it alone.

Diagnosed with autism, Sawyer is considered very low functioning, his mother, Kim, said. He lacks the ability to make his own decisions when it comes to safety.

"If he ever got out of the yard he would bolt into the street; he has no concept of danger," she said.

Kim's husband, David, thought it would be a

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Fourth of July celebration planned

Independence Day events are to be held at the University at Buffalo North Campus on Wednesday, July 4.

The evening will start with "The Boomers" performing at 7 p.m., followed by the Erie County Wind Ensemble at 8:45 p.m. Fireworks will follow the last concert at approximately 9:45 p.m.

This year's display will be partially choreographed to music and will be electronically fired.

Open cooking, sparklers and fireworks are not permitted. Be advised that the university is currently renovating some of the sidewalks.

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Tomorrow's future

Williamsville North graduate and National Honor Society member Evan Bryant is congratulated by Superintendent Howard S. Smith during Sunday's commencement. See more graduation photos on pages 16-17.

Photo by Joe Eberle
Purchase color photos at www.BeeNews.com

Town: 1,000 'hazardous' trees have to be removed

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

As a matter of safety, the Town of Amherst will remove 1,063 trees beginning this week. Streets that have any of those trees, la-

beled "dangerous," will be listed on the town's Web site.

"This is to give the green light to start felling those dangerous trees," Supervisor Satish Mohan said at Monday's special meeting.

The resolution, passed 6-1 with Council Member Dan Ward voting no, allowed for Highway Superintendent Bob Anderson to hire the company to remove the trees. The cost will be billed to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Monday's resolution did not address the remaining 8,400 trees. Since Erie County's arborist, Davey Resource Group, released its report that 9,500 trees were recommended for removal, questions have arisen on whether the town should remove these trees now or wait.

Anderson said by removing the trees sooner it would allow the town to start its re-forestation plan more quickly. He added that the town has a small variety of tree species, and this could be an opportunity to replace the damaged tree with a new one.

The Tree Advisory Committee, formed in January, had two representatives speak at Monday's meeting, recommending the removal of all 9,500 trees.

Bill Snyder, a certified arborist, said trees leafing this year are doing so because of stored energy, but the damage suffered won't allow the tree to bring in the

energy it needs for the years to come.

He also said that many of the damaged trees will need to be trimmed, which requires funding and manpower.

"We are a bunch of 'tree huggers' here but we recommend alternative two," Snyder said, which calls for the removal of the 9,500 trees.

The survey of the town found that 194 trees are dead; 762 are critical; 220 are severe/high risk; 8,538 are moderate risk; and 1,321 are fair/good/very good. These numbers are subject to change.

The Town Board will review a resolution — titled "Saving Trees Reasonably" — being presented by Council Member Deborah Bruch Bucki at its 7 p.m. Monday, July 2 meeting.

As submitted to The Amherst Bee on June 26, the resolution calls for the town to support a request to FEMA for a one-year extension on reimbursement of felled trees; and should it be granted, that the town only remove trees labeled critical or dead that pose a severe risk.

The resolution also contains a

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OUTDOOR MARKET — Guita Dovkhona purchases an eggplant at the Ciminelli Development Co. outdoor market at Centerpointe Corporate Park from Kristin Wilson of Dan's Produce. The market is held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday through Sept. 12 at 350 Essjay Road, Amherst. The sidewalks will be filled with a variety of vendors selling food, fresh produce, jewelry and an assortment of gift items.

Amherst High School coach retires from athletics — see page 21