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Village of Williamsville
County of Erie
Amherst Central Schools
Sweet Home Central Schools
Williamsville Central Schools

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Planning Board in favor of Maple Road project

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

The Amherst Planning Board has recommended the rezoning of a section of Maple Road which is earmarked for a multi-use development, but Board Member Debra Norton said the site is not designed for such a project.

"Saying this will not change the comprehensive plan is ridiculous," she said about the 4-1 vote taken at the June 28 meeting.

Calling the proposal an abomination, Norton said for years the board had attempted to protect Maple Road, but the multi-use development would bring excessive traffic.

"We can't have every traffic artery in Amherst becoming a commercial strip," she said. "We won't be able to get from point A to point B," she said. Norton noted that several residents spoke on Thursday against the proposal.

With the adoption of the comprehensive plan by the Town Board in January, rezonings must now go through a process to determine if the rezoning maintains the goal of the plan.

Norton said in her opinion the project would not. The properties are at 218 and 330 Maple Road. A 28-acre portion zoned Community Facilities CF is being sought to be rezoned to General Business GB. The other parcel, 5.2

acres, is CF and Residential-R3, and the request is for Multi-Family Residential District-MFR-6.

"It would be a giant retail center, thousands of square feet of retail space. It's not mixed use — call it what it is, a giant retail center," Norton said.

Benderson Development has proposed a mixed-use development of retail, restaurant, office, hotel and residential projects. The site was home to the Buffalo Gun Club and is one mile west of North Forest Road.

The Maple Road public hearing was one of two that lasted almost six hours during the Planning Board meeting.

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QuieterHome Program to begin this year

by KEATON T. DEPRIEST
Cheektowaga Editor

Despite sweltering conditions inside the Maryvale High School auditorium, approximately 600 residents attended a public information meeting Friday to learn about their eligibility for noise reduction solutions based on their vicinity to the airport.

Hosted by the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, the meeting was meant to inform residents of approximately 1,700 households eligible for the Buffalo Niagara International Airport QuieterHome Program.

The program will allow homes on a list created by the Federal Aviation Administration to receive

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Keeping cool

The pool at the Clearfield Community Center was a hot spot last week as temperatures soared during the first week of summer vacation for area elementary and high school students. Photo by Amy Krakowiak

Purchase color photos at www.BeeNews.com

Woman turns 112, making her 26th oldest on Earth

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

Beautiful. That is how 112-year-old Olivia Patricia "Pat" Thomas described her birthday on June 29.

The milestone makes her the 26th oldest person in the world, 12th in the country and second in New York.

The bouquet of pink roses, the enormous white frosted cake and the people who sang "Happy Birthday" were all beautiful in Thomas' eyes. A former resident of Snyder, Thomas' neighbor, Frank Kelly, has been her caregiver. He said he received notice that Thomas has been validated a living "supercentenarian."

The title is bestowed by the Gerontology Research Group, and Thomas is now officially part of an exclusive group.

A supercentenarian has to be at least 110 years old. Of the 80 recognized today, 73 are women. The oldest person on the list is 114.



Olivia Patricia "Pat" Thomas

Thomas lives at St. Francis of Williamsville where a party was thrown on Friday to celebrate her birthday.

"She is very happy for the nice recognition they gave her," Kelly said.

Thomas was the center of attention as

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Old Home Days begins Tuesday, July 10

The biggest event of the summer starts Tuesday, July 10.

The 30th annual Williamsville-Amherst Old Home Days will be held from Tuesday through Friday, July 10-13 at Island Park at the rear of the Amherst Municipal Building, 5583 Main St.

Midway rides will be offered at the special price of \$13 per person from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday. A Chiavetta's chicken dinner will be served from 4 to 9 p.m. by members of St. Stephen's Church. Proceeds will benefit "Hope Chest" for breast cancer survivors.

The parade begins at 6:30 Tuesday evening at Williamsville South High School, proceeding west to Los Robles Street.

Information can be found on page 13 and in a supplement to this week's Bee.