



Amherst Bee

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**Bombs
bursting
in air**

Fireworks explode high above the South Lake Village apartments on the eastern edge of the Amherst Campus of the State University at Buffalo during the town's official observance of Independence Day. Earlier rain showers failed to stop the music and subsequent aerial show.

Photo by David F. Sherman

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Cost of unsettled contract exceeds budget

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

Halfway through 2007, the money budgeted to fund health insurance for town highway employees is gone, according to Comptroller Frank Belliotti.

(See editorial on page four)

During the July 2 Amherst Town Board meeting, Belliotti asked how the board would like to proceed now that he can no longer pay those bills from the highway budget.

The contract has been unsettled since December 2005, meaning the highway employees continue to use multiple health care providers instead of the one provider used by other unions.

At \$50,000 a month, the cost is nearing \$1 million — a significant expense for taxpayers, Council Member William A. O'Loughlin Jr. said.

"Stop pussyfooting around and behave in a way that is sensitive to the people that pay taxes. \$900,000 on one contract ... (we) should be ashamed we have allowed this to go this far," O'Loughlin said.

The board voted to allow the Comptroller's Department to pay the bills from the surplus on a month-to-month basis.

"This has been going on far too long ... at what point are you going to sit in a room and finish this?" Council Member Dan Ward questioned the supervisor.

Supervisor Satish Mohan admitted during the July 2 meeting that he didn't have much bargaining power in the process.

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✓The contract has been unsettled since December 2005.

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Inside



New business

Tammy Swanson is co-owner of a salon and day spa on Niagara Falls Boulevard. See page 44

Lucky day

Many brides played their hand right on July 7, 2007. See page 29

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Green named assistant chief

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

From the moment Timothy Green was named to the Amherst Police Department patrol he has been honored to serve the town where he grew up.

That feeling has continued through 24 years as lieutenant, captain and now assistant chief.

Green was appointed to his new position on July 2 by the Amherst Town Board. He replaced John C. Askey, who was named the successor to Chief John Moslow at the end of June.

"I am really excited ... but it hasn't set in yet," Green said as he prepared for the transition. He officially assumed the assistant chief's post on Tuesday.

As Green and the department handle the staffing changes, he credits Moslow with preparing him for the position.

"I learned a lot from Chief Moslow. He has had a big influence on me ... he has a great work ethic," Green said, noting that no one works harder than the retired chief.

Green's appointment to assistant chief marks



Timothy Green

the end of a successful run as captain of the Detective Bureau. During his more than five years in the position, Green oversaw a professional group of detectives and handled many high profile cases.

With at least five murders investigated by his team, Green reflected on closure of the James Kopp and Altemio Sanchez cases.

"The Detective Bureau cooperated successfully with other agencies. I think I can bring (those skills) with me to the capacity of assistant chief,"

Green said about working with the staff and other law enforcement agencies.

He said he is ready to work alongside Askey; it's something they have done for years. Both served as lieutenants and captains during the years before Askey was named assistant chief in 2006.

"We don't know what changes will come to the community or what events will happen. But I think we have similar thoughts on how to keep the department on task and serve the people in town by staffing the best people," Green said.

Askey echoed the sentiments of Green, saying

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Old Home Days runs through Friday

The annual Williamsville-Amherst Old Home Days continues today through Friday at Island Park, at the rear of the Municipal Building, 5583 Main St.

• **Wednesday, July 11:** Bike rodeo at 11 a.m. Dinner to benefit Williamsville East Service Club, 4-7 p.m.

• **Thursday, July 12:** Dinner to benefit the Williamsville South High School Football Boosters Club, 4-9 p.m.

• **Friday, July 13:** Dinner to benefit the Amherst Youth Foundation, 4-9 p.m.

Home Show opens Saturday in Amherst — see page 44