

Bee Editorial

Notification procedure needs some work

Daisy Lane residents recently learned from a flier flapping on a pole that the lighting on their street would be discussed by the Amherst Town Board. No information was sent to their homes.

Homeowners showed up to refute the proposal and won. That means they won't be required to have lights installed, which carried an estimated annual cost of \$260.

In the past, homeowners hadn't battled lighting installations, but for some Daisy Lane residents it was an important issue they wanted to address. Had they not noticed and spread the word among their neighbors, they would have missed the public hearing.

But at approximately \$12,000 for a townwide mailing, the town can't afford to inform residents of every concern brought to the Town Board. A resolution passed at Monday's meeting requests that first class mail be sent to

residents about any special district expansion or any "other kind of official notice for any other municipal purpose." An amendment stated that only "affected areas" be notified.

This is a shallow term that could open a sea of debate.

For example, Sanitary Sewer District 16 encompasses three-quarters of the town. Who is to say who is affected within that broad scope? The current law requires notices be mailed to residents within 600 feet of a zoning proposal, also when an item affecting said residents is on the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals agenda.

In its current language, the resolution requiring notification is far too vague and hasn't really addressed the issue. As an example, the Daisy Lane lighting district is now part of one lighting district. To say residents must be notified of the lighting district expansion pub-

lic hearings would, in theory, require a townwide mailing at a cost of \$12,000. Those 10 homeowners don't want lights, and no one else should have a say in it — or maybe they should, seeing as how they are part of "a special district expansion."

Neither fliers posted on trees nor astronomical mailing costs are the answer. Specific requirements need to be put in writing because Daisy Lane residents were not the first to appear before the Town Board, upset that they weren't notified of a proposal they felt concerned them.

Each week The Amherst Bee, official newspaper for the town, publishes public notices of the town. They are printed in the back of the paper, explaining the same information that appears on a tree or in a mailbox. Until the town can figure out what the guidelines will be, check The Bee for the information you need.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **BEYOND OUR CONTROL** — I know that many of you enjoy reading the police blotter entries and will be disappointed to learn that The Amherst Bee is without such report this week. My attempts to obtain that information fell short as the

it can also be an annoyance. Look for the blotter to return (I hope) next week.

• **HARRY POTTER PARTY** — When it comes to the world of Harry Potter, I am clueless, but I know I am in the minority. For the many Potter fans, Barnes & Noble in Williamsville will stay open late on Friday, July 20 to sell copies of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." There will be a Midnight Magic Costume Party with special Harry Potter events.

The book, to be officially released on July 21, is the seventh and final Harry Potter book. The party begins at 10 p.m. Friday, July 20 at the 7370 Transit Road location, and at the stroke of midnight, copies of J. K. Rowling's last Harry Potter book will go on sale.

Attendees are welcome to go dressed as their favorite Harry Potter character for a night of enchanting activities, spell-binding prizes and photo opportunities. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows"

will sell for \$20.99, 40 percent off the list price of \$34.99. Barnes & Noble members can buy the book for \$18.89, a savings of 46 percent. The compact disc and audiocassettes for the unabridged book will also be available. Customers can order the book at any Barnes & Noble or B. Dalton store or online at the Web site www.bn.com/midnightmagic.

by DAVID F. SHERMAN
Managing Editor

• **HOLIDAY CONCERT FACTS** — We published a comment in our Bee Heard column last week from a person upset with the music provided during the town's Independence Day celebration at UB. We have since been informed that the Erie County Wind Ensemble was indeed scheduled to play during the event, but was canceled by town officials at noon because of rain. The concert has been rescheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 28 at Bassett Park.

"We do not want to be seen as the bad guys here," said Geoff Richter, director of the wind ensemble.

He suggested the town could have prevented the confusion through signage at the UB stage.

• **ENTERTAINMENT NEWS** — Beginning this week, our listings for major regional events, entertainment, concerts and film reviews has a new look. "Bee Entertained" is the title of this new grouping, which combines the old "Bee There" listings and the newer Entertainment pages.

Our goal is to give readers useful information about leisure time activities both in the suburbs we cover as well as those in Buffalo and other nearby communities. Packaging this news with information about books and films gives Bee readers more to enjoy each week.

Information for the Bee Entertained pages can be sent to Bob Kupczyk at ent@beenews.com or call 204-4916.

program used by the media to read police reports was still down as of late Monday. Chief John C. Askey assured me he would look into the progress and give me an update as he is able.

I had said this past weekend, that as helpful as technology can be some days,

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago July 20, 1882

A dispatch from Springfield, Ill. says that Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln, widow of President Lincoln, died at the residence of her sister, Mrs. A.W. Edwards, at 8:15 o'clock Sunday evening of paralysis. She was 64 years old.

Notwithstanding the grumbling and fault-finding on account of wet and cold weather during the spring and summer, the prospect of an abundant harvest of wheat and spring crops is favorable.

With commendable enterprise, Mr. J.D. Long, assisted by Mr. E.B. Miller, has opened up the stone quarry east of Mill Street, which has lain idle for the past thirty years. We are informed that the stone taken from this quarry is of a good quality and thoroughly reliable.

Joseph Heading, a farmer living on the Transit Road, was struck by the 9 a.m. Lockport train at Tonawanda last Friday and considerably hurt.

"It may be occasionally right to take a bull by the horns, but it's always well to keep in mind that the horns belong to the bull."

"Jesse James once thought seriously of going through college; but the idea of howling around at night, changing street signs, disconnecting telegraph wires and greasing railroad tracks was so repugnant that he concluded to go west and become a respectable highwayman."

"She may dress in silk or she may dress in satin, she may know the languages Greek and Latin, she may know fine art, may love and sigh, but she ain't no good if she can't make pie."

100 Years Ago July 18, 1907

Main Street from the Buffalo City Line to Clarence will soon be changed from one of the dustiest highways at this end of the state to one without dust. Contracts have been let for treating the road with Tarvia, a tar preparation, which makes it waterproof.

John Lehn, 83, one of the pioneers of Williamsville, died at his home on July 12, 1907.

75 Years Ago July 21, 1932

The medals, ribbons and other insignia which decorate the breast of John T. McKenna of Mill Street are so numerous that one cannot resist asking for which they stand. "That's a long story," he replies. Beginning in 1898, when as a buck private, "Mac" enlisted at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War and had 35 years of service to his country.

Townpeople were pleased to read of the designation of Carl H. Burkhardt of North Long Street as director of physical education in the Buffalo elementary schools.

Members of George F. Lamm Post 622 will hold a basket picnic on July 31 at Walker's Grove.

Another link to the past is broken in the passing of Emanuel C. Long, one of our pioneer residents. He fell asleep on the morning of July 17, 1932, the end coming as peacefully as he lived his life.

50 Years Ago July 18, 1957

The formation of a sewer district which would serve parts of the towns of Amherst and Clarence was discussed at a recent meeting of the Erie County Sewer Agency.

Wing Commander Kenneth H. Running, Royal Canadian Air Force medical officer, and Mrs. Running, the former Emily Whittman of Williamsville, will be presented today to Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

25 Years Ago July 14, 1982

A dispute between Amherst's Government Study Committee and Supervisor Jack Sharpe over the needs of Amherst Town Court has broken out into open warfare. The Committee ruled out erecting a new building in favor of "utilizing its present facilities to minimize court congestion and maximize service to the public." Sharpe has long favored moving the court to a new facility adjacent to the new police headquarters.

Firefighters from three Amherst companies responded as part of Monday night's general alarm fire at the Connecticut Street Armory in Buffalo.

The Amherst Symphony Orchestra Women's Committee has planted three shrubs in Glen Park near Main Street in memory of the late Mrs. Helen Faxlanger, a long-time committee member and supporter of the free concert concept.