

Bee Editorial

Amherst gets professional service from volunteers

Reminders of just how dangerous the job of firefighters has become was right at the doorstep of Amherst residents last week, as two restaurants sustained heavy damage in less than 24 hours.

Each fire presented its own unique set of hazards to the men and women who responded. The call at McDonald's on Sheridan Drive involved a dark basement packed to the ceiling with combustibles and cardboard boxes. The door at the rear of the restaurant was the firefighters' only way in — and only way out. Masonry walls held in the heat, making ventilation difficult and subjecting the firefighters to extreme conditions within a confined space.

Once the flames were extinguished, the arduous task of pulling the debris out of the basement began. It was a difficult assignment for volunteers of any age and ability, but part of the job that could not be left undone.

Finally, the equipment used in the fire — including hoses, axes, exhaust fans and ladders — had to be cleaned and made ready for the next emergency.

No one could have known that next emergency would come just a few hours later and less than two miles away at Chang's Garden Restaurant on Maple Road. Many of the same firefighters from Williamsville and Snyder who worked at the McDonald's blaze, were back at it assisting Getzville at the second fire.

While there were no hazards in a basement at this fire, the real peril was up above, as flames crawled their way across the roof's frame, weakening its support system. The fire shot out from a dormer on the west side of the building, causing it to cave in over the kitchen — the firefighters' primary objective.

Horror stories of firefighters trapped under collapsed roofs and disoriented by entangling

debris had to be on the mind of those commanding the effort as they altered their tactics. This fire would now be fought from the safety of above as ladder trucks rained water on the ruins. Again came the process of salvaging the contents of another popular business, saving what could be reached in time. As dawn broke, the extent of the damage became more clear.

While the focus has rightfully shifted to insurance adjusters and cleanup crews, stop and consider the firefighters. There was no paycheck waiting for them when they headed home and no reward except personal satisfaction.

The Amherst community should acknowledge the professional level of service afforded residents and business owners through the 10 volunteer fire companies which respond every day without question to our call.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• WAITING —

Going through the process of looking for a new apartment and making appointments to show mine, I have learned the frustration of waiting. On Saturday neither of my two appointments showed up. No

phone calls either to say such. So I sat and waited and waited. Thirty minutes after the second appointment was to take place I called the phone number and talked to the girls' mother — a bit awkward. She said they decided not to come look. I wish they would have told me. Needless to say I

was mad. The lack of common courtesy stuck in my head for the remainder of the day.

Then on Sunday morning I went to church with my family, and as life would have it, the topic of the sermon was — waiting. The pastor spoke of patience and the value of time. She read the poem, "To Realize," which I actually have taped to my computer monitor. The short poem explains the value of time, going from 10 years to a millisecond. The reason I have it at work is one of the sentences reads, "To realize the value of a week, ask an editor of a weekly newspaper."

A lot can happen in a week, I have learned that time and time again. Maybe within the week someone will tour my apartment and decide to rent it. Maybe not. But I just hope that if they change their minds about coming that they let me know.

Time is a precious gift — one I don't think we get enough of — and we should appreciate what we do get.

• YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

— The Amherst Youth Board, located in the Harlem Road Community Center, 4255 Harlem Road, is seeking volunteers to assist in after-school child-care programs. Students, retired seniors and others willing to participate are needed to help with homework, crafts, games and general supervision of children ages 5-11. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and meet other eligibility requirements.

Individuals are also sought to assist with office tasks related to the Warm Clothing Project, which provides new winter clothing items to children in need.

Special event volunteers are needed to help plan events such as the Amherst Dusk to Dawn Relay Challenge and the Amherst Golf Classic, as well as perform tasks during these events. Assistance is needed with various cleaning tasks for the Family Room program, serving young children from infancy to age 5.

Also, volunteers possessing office/clerical skills are being sought for help with short-term projects, general errand assistance, telephoning, mass mailings and data entry.

For further information, contact Antonella Covelli, director of volunteers at 631-7210.

• TAKING CHARGE —

Master Khechen School of Tae Kwon Do will hold a Bully Buster seminar on Saturday, Sept. 22 at each of its four locations, including 1630 Hopkins Road, Amherst. The seminar will teach students how to avoid confrontation, walk away from trouble, show courage and assertiveness, keep a safe zone and defend themselves if necessary. The program will be divided into three time frames: all 5- to 7-year-old participants at 1 p.m.; a special presentation at 2 p.m. and participants 8 years and older at 2:30 p.m. For more information or to sign up for the seminar, call 688-8878.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago Sept. 21, 1882

Mrs. Pierce will receive pupils for instruction in French at her house on Cayuga Street, every Tuesday and Saturday evening beginning October 3rd. Terms, \$5.00 per twenty lessons.

A goodly number of our best citizens assembled at the M.E. Church on last Saturday evening and enjoyed a very pleasant trip through many places of interest in Europe, courtesy of Dr. Huntington. Liverpool presented the appearance of a burnt forest, so many were the ships' masts that lifted their heads above the houses. Oxford, the city of twenty colleges, was visited. We saw the prison where Craumer, Latimer and Ridley were confined and suffered martyrdom.

Where are all the peach peddlers this year?

A man from Mendon, N.Y., has lost a valuable horse in a singular manner. A mouse gnawed a hole from the manger into the grain bin, and through it the grain rushed into the feed trough. The horse feasted during the night and died the next day.

Women are to take the place of men in the postal savings bank departments of the British post office. The London *Spectator* points out that employment of women by the French government has proved successful. The birth rate is certain to be lessened if women are admitted to the work and calling of men.

"Ain't that dog got fleas?" queries a woman at the railway station, near whose feet a dog was reaching for his spine. "I think not," replied a small man. "It looks more like the fleas has got the dog."

100 Years Ago Sept. 19, 1907

Bank Examiner Allen of Buffalo met with a painful accident one day last week. En route to visit friends on Garrison Road, he passed it and, realizing his mistake, started to back up. The car stalled, and he got out to crank the machine. He forgot to release the clutch, and when he cranked the car, the powerful forty horse-power machine leaped forward, knocking him down and passing over his body. His wife grasped the steering wheel and withdrew the spark plug, stopping the car.

75 Years Ago Sept. 22, 1932

Charles F. Jasmund will not be present to claim any more prizes for being the oldest man present at the Williamsville Old Home Day, as he has for the past couple of years. Worn out by his worldly career of over 91 years, it was in natural order that he should fall into everlasting sleep. He died Sunday, September 18, 1932.

A pleasant time was had at the home of Mrs. Magdalena Braunscheidel on Saturday evening, September 17. The occasion was a surprise in honor of her 54th birthday.

Mrs. Marie Thuman has been appointed as the teacher in School District 7, Skinnerville.

Williamsville High School's first football game of the season will be played Saturday at 2 p.m. on the Long Street field. Alden is the opponent.

50 Years Ago Sept. 19, 1957

Five thousand dollars in cash and negotiable bonds was stolen from a Park Circle home sometime Tuesday evening between 6:00 and 10:30 o'clock. Detective Edward Hehr said it is the work of professionals.

The intersection of Sheridan Drive and Transit Road, one of the most dangerous in the area, will be eliminated when Sheridan Drive is repaved, probably next spring. Elmer G.H. Youngmann, state engineer, said Wednesday that Transit will cross over Sheridan, according to present plans.

A gigantic parade and rally to kick off the 1957-58 sports year at the Williamsville Central High School will take place this evening down Main Street starting at 7:00 p.m.

25 Years Ago Sept. 15, 1982

The Williamsville Planning Board denied approval Monday night for a restaurant proposed for Main and Hirschfield. Board member Richard Baer said, "It's not very colonial."

Sweet Home High School student Donna Bogdan has been named recipient of the Amherst Business and Professional Women's Club's annual Girl Youth Leader award.

Kleinhans in the Boulevard Mall recently capped an extensive remodeling effort with a grand re-opening.