

160 years

Beach-Tuyn Funeral Home handles difficult times

by **JESSICA L. FINCH**
Associate Editor

Handling the multitude of details while grieving can be made easier with help from the experienced.

Beach-Tuyn Funeral Home Inc.'s 160 years of experience can assist a family when the planning of a funeral service seems overwhelming.

Gregg Bennett of Amherst said he is grateful for the times that Beach-Tuyn has helped him deal with planning a funeral.

"They are excellent, they treat you like family and take care of everything for you," he said.

His family has lived in the town since 1907, and Bennett said he has never used another funeral home because of the great job Beach-Tuyn has done.

Having attended calling hours and services at other places, Bennett said he would never deal with another company.

The 160th anniversary of the business will be marked in 2008, and Beach-Tuyn is believed to be the oldest operating funeral home in Western New York and second in the state.

According to Beach-Tuyn's history, Demeter Wehrle, a German immigrant, opened the funeral home at South Cayuga Road and Main Street in Williamsville where it has stayed for 16 decades.

It has changed names throughout the years from Wehrle Funeral Home to Wehrle and Beach to its current name, Beach-Tuyn.

Peter Tuyn has 46 years of experience. His father Edward F. and business partner Stanley Beach incorporated Beach-Tuyn in the 1950s.

The three funeral directors at Beach-Tuyn are Gregg S. Berwick, Jess Present and Tuyn.

Through the years, funeral services have changed and now include more options to personalize them.

"We have seen a change in attitude in bereavement, with personalization of urns



Beach-Tuyn Funeral Home Inc., run by, from left to right, Gregg Berwick, Peter Tuyn and Jess Present, will mark its 160th anniversary in 2008. The funeral home has always been located at Main Street and Cayuga Road in the Village of Williamsville, shown in 1946-47.

Photo by Joe Eberle

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By handling every detail, Beach-Tuyn is able to ensure that the family doesn't have any additional stress with the planning and carrying out of the service.

The staff coordinates transportation to churches and cemeteries as needed. For convenience, an on-premise casket selection room and burial vault display are available.

"We have been an established funeral home for 160 years and plan to serve for many years to come," said Berwick, who has 21 years with the company. "We are independently owned and operated, and continue to be."

By offering all in-house services, families can get the answers they need from the staff member who is handling the funeral services.

"We customize any needs, including financially. And we personally serve each client. You are not going to go through several different people to get an answer," Present said.

Pre-planning is also available, which many people choose so as to not burden their family members when they die. Beach-Tuyn offers the service free and talks with the client about his or her options.

Beach-Tuyn Funeral Home is located at 5541 Main St., Williamsville. For information, call 632-1174.

Meetings

M&T Bank sets mortgage seminar

M&T Bank will be sponsoring a free seminar for seniors interested in learning how a reverse mortgage can be used to supplement retirement income, without having to worry about making monthly payments. The seminar will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27 at M&T Bank, 10 Slade Ave., West Seneca. Discussions will include: how a reverse mortgage can be used to pay medical expenses, consolidate debt, make home improvements or simply provide financial security and peace of mind. An M&T reverse mortgage specialist will be available to answer your questions and explain how to qualify. For more information, call 824-5334.

Labor seminar to be held on Oct. 4

Jaeckle Fleischmann's Labor & Employment practice group will present its annual labor seminar at 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4 at 400 Essjay Rd., Amherst. The seminar will focus on topics such as employee conduct, dealing with allegations of harassment, discrimination, wage and hour violations, investigating off-duty employee conduct, investigations by government agencies, investigations into an employee's ability to perform the job, effective disciplinary investigations, retention of documents and electronic files, and an update on immigration law. For further information or to register, call, 843.3801 or e-mail cpalmateer@jaeckle.com.

SCORE hosts business seminar

SCORE of Buffalo/Niagara will host a seminar about starting and managing your own business at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 24 at the Buffalo & Erie County Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. For more information, call 551-4301.

WBA to host healthcare forum on Oct. 4

The Williamsville Business Association Business Development Forum will present its second annual program for small business owners from 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4 at the Williamsville Meeting House and Museum, 5653 Main St.

This year's seminar is called "Healthcare Concerns for Small Businesses."

Guest speakers at the event

will be Gary Henderson and Assemblyman Jim Hayes, R-Amherst.

Henderson is a specialist on account-based health benefits, including Health Savings Accounts and Health Reimbursement arrangements. He has helped pioneer innovations in the retirement plan market as it has shifted from a defined benefit to defined contribution structure over the past 25 years.

He is a chartered financial analyst and benefit consultant.

Hayes, first elected to the New York State Assembly in 1998, was, in 2006, named Ranking Minority Member of the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee, which oversees issues related to raising and spending tax revenue. He also sponsors an annual health fair in Amherst.

The seminar is open to the

public, and pizza and beverages will be provided by WBA members.

Parking will be available in the rear of the meeting house.

Reservations are required as space in the meeting house is limited.

For reservations, call Dan Fogel at 634-2500 or e-mail info@brodylaw.com.

For more information on the event, visit www.Willvill.com.