

Bee Editorial

Include local businesses during seasonal shopping

If “Black Friday” isn’t what you consider an ideal shopping experience, then maybe a leisurely stroll along Main Street would be more appealing.

With the vast majority of residents doing some holiday shopping, everyone has his or her shopping preference: online, the mall or independent boutiques. While big-box stores can make one-stop shopping easier, don’t forget to patronize your local businesses.

The Williamsville Business Association will make a day of it beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday with its Village Holiday Open House. Shopping in the village’s shops also gives patrons the chance to win a \$500 shopping spree through the Business Association. The association has planned several family friendly events to make it a special holiday event. More information on the day’s events is available on page three in this edition.

Williamsville is just one of the corners of town that has speciality shops and independently owned businesses. At Main and Harlem, renovations are under way, but businesses remain open for dining and shopping. Farther up Main Street, toward Transit Road, are additional shops, with an inventory not always found in the malls.

And don’t forget about gift certificates to Amherst restaurants. Homemade, local food offers something special that chain restaurants can’t seem to capture. Western New York restaurants have a lot to boast about, claiming to have the best beef on weck, pizza or chicken wings, so share places you consider a dining gem with friends and family.

Amherst and Williamsville stores and businesses offer the opportunity for finding unusual, speciality gifts, while putting money directly back into the community instead of a corpo-

rate office on the West Coast or somewhere else around the country or overseas.

While many big-box stores and chains can use their large bank accounts to bombard you with newspaper, television and radio advertisements highlighting their “one-day” only sale (which clearly becomes more like a 100-day sale), many of your local merchants may not have enough money to do the same.

It’s important that during this time of giving and receiving that we all remember to help out “our own.”

There is something to be said about walking through a beautifully decorated shop, with festive, creative displays.

The same feeling isn’t there when walking through bright, fluorescent, boxy aisles with mass-produced products on every shelf. Make this shopping season enjoyable, relaxed and local.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

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• **NOT SO EASY** — The day before Thanksgiving was a miserable day to be on the road. It wasn’t by choice, but I had to trek on the Thruway to deal with a family problem. My trip home was three people heavier — my nieces. Between the pouring

rain that afternoon, a crying 1-month-old and her two sisters trying to calm her, the ride was stressful. Add the holiday traffic, and it was treacherous. As we approached the Lackawanna toll, I was grateful to know I was in the home stretch. I was sure there was a green “X”

in the lane I chose, but when I got to the window it was empty and the EZ-Pass sign was telling me to “call EZ-Pass.” I had no choice but to drive through, ticket and \$1.50 still in hand. I was worried about what my mistake might cost me. My brother’s girlfriend told me it once cost her aunt more than \$70. A friend told me he thought it was like a parking ticket, about \$30. Both sounded outrageous, so I went to the source. The nice customer service agent at EZ-Pass told me I would receive a notice in which I would be charged the amount of the toll AND an administration fee, along the lines of \$20. Thankfully, I learned that if I write a letter explaining what happened, and since it was my first offense, the fee could be dropped.

I am hoping that the fact it was the busiest travel day of the year, the weather was horrible — making visibility poor — and I had three children under the age of 6 in the car, the New York State Thruway will allow me a pass.

What is a bit ironic about the story is, years ago, my mom was driving members of my church’s youth group to a convention in Troy, and in the busy capital region traffic, with a van full of teens, made the same mistake. I remember thinking, “How could she have made that mistake?” I now know; add unfavorable conditions and being responsible for someone else’s children, and the answer becomes obvious. Making a last-minute, unsafe lane change could be a lot more costly.

• **MITTEN TREE** — It is the time of year to bring new hats, gloves, scarves and mittens to the Amherst Museum to decorate the mitten tree. In return for donations, a complimentary admission to visit the museum will be given. All contributions will be donated to the children at Buffalo School No. 45. This year the museum will also be collecting books for the library at School 45. Books suitable for children in kindergarten

through eighth grade, or cash contributions, can be left at the mitten tree. The staff of the museum will deliver all contributions to the school after Dec. 31. The Amherst Museum is located at 3755 Tonawanda Creek Road, corner of New Road, in Amherst. Visit the museum at www.amherstmuseum.org.

• **HONOR ROLL POLICY** — The Amherst Bee has implemented a new honor roll policy. We will publish lists of only the highest level of achievement, for example, honor rolls and not merit rolls. The actual name of this level of distinction will be as determined by each school. We will publish these lists only for grades 5 through 12. The lists run as provided by each school. We will not reprint any lists because of errors. Our goal is to standardize how we publish these lists. While there is no guarantee on how soon they will be published after we receive them, it is our hope that this policy will streamline the process.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago Nov. 30, 1882

Miss Julia Oswald has been placed in charge of the Stone School House, and Misses Jennie Van Pelt and Jennie Green are teachers in the Academy. The two primary departments now have seventy-five pupils each and the senior department numbers sixty-two. The scholars of the senior department deserve much credit for deportment, manner of recitation and progress they have made during the last term.

A disturbance occurred Monday evening at the saloon of A. Koehler between Mr. L. Hinkley and the proprietor, which resulted in the demolition of the lower sash of one of the front windows.

Mr. Andrew Klinglesmith of North Amherst visited friends in the Village last Thursday.

The boys and girls are enjoying new sledding.

To the average citizen of America, there is no feast or fast day that has a more reverential hold upon his affection than Thanksgiving. It is exclusively an Americanism. It is an occasion which the most lowly and most exalted can observe in their own way.

The heaviest storm of the season hereabouts began early last Thursday evening and continued furiously throughout the night. All the elements seemed to be at war simultaneously. There was heavy rain, high wind, a tremendous display of thunder and lightning, followed by lower pressure, sleet and snow.

“A Kentucky woman has married a Mr. Calico — she has married a prints, as it were.”

100 Years Ago Nov. 28, 1907

The Rev. J. F. Bennett, new pastor of the Williamsville Methodist Church, and his wife were honored at a reception at the M. E. parsonage, given by the Ladies Aid.

The new St. Mary’s Catholic schoolhouse at Swormville is nearly completed. The furnace was put in last week by Emendorfer, the plumber of Lockport.

75 Years Ago Dec. 1, 1932

Convinced that the water department in the Village of Williamsville should be self-supporting, Mayor Harry A. Abel announced the first of the week that he was planning to make it so and intimated that there would shortly come a raise in water rates.

From December 5 to December 24, buses leaving Williamsville will run to downtown Buffalo every half-hour. Regular service on Sunday.

Many residents of the town remember well a blind man who traversed the streets here endeavoring to sell brooms, brushes and the like as he called from house to house. This past week, on Monday, November 28, 1932, that man, John Hirz, passed away in Buffalo. His age was 74 years.

Williamsville High School opens its basketball season Friday evening at home with DeVeaux of Niagara Falls furnishing the opposition.

50 Years Ago Nov. 28, 1957

Teen-age drivers are frequently the targets of “oldster” motorists. They are prone to brand all teen-age drivers as a menace. This is not true, and more and more young people are becoming aware of their responsibility as drivers. In this area there are three such organizations: the Amherst Slo-Pokes, the Getzville Auto Club and the Clarence Street Angelos.

The Smith’s Tavern euchre team ended its four-game series with Whitey’s Restaurant on Wednesday evening, Nov. 20, overwhelming their rivals by a score of 31 to 18.

25 Years Ago Nov. 24, 1982

The Williamsville Historical Society will celebrate the centennial of the Main Street bridge over Ellicott Creek at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30 in the Amherst Municipal Building. A slide presentation will be shown of artifacts found in the bridge’s center stone.

Officials of the Cantalician Center for Learning on Monday started a legal process for acquisition of the old Eggert Road School.

The formal dedication for the new UB Alumni Arena will be held Saturday, Dec. 4.

Sister Pat Russo, O.S.F., has been named second vice president of the Western New York Chapter of the American Diabetes Association.