

Plan will redevelop (Continued from page one)

to address the specific concerns of the intersection.

UB professor Hiro Hata, who has 30 years experience in urban design, has worked on several projects throughout WNY. He has been hired to create the "new look" of the corner.

While finalized plans are months away, the committee has brainstormed some ideas, such as maintaining the historic aesthetics of St. Benedict's Church and Sacred Heart Academy, when designing wall features.

The redevelopment would make Eggert-Main more pedestrian friendly, hiding large parking lots with landscaping and moving others to the rear of buildings.

Road, sidewalk and crosswalk improvements will also be included in the redevelopment.

The Eggertsville redevelopment project will set a precedent for other older areas of the town. Black said the town will use the work done at Eggert and Main as a template when redeveloping such areas as Main and Harlem and Harlem, Kensington and Cleveland Drive.

"The town's adopted master plan shows a strong emphasis on redevelopment," Black said.

In addition to the town's Planning Department, the IDA, and UB collaborating, the project is also supported by business owners and residents in the area.

The Main-Eggert Revitalization Committee is chaired by John Felgemacher, a lifelong resident of the corner and now a current business owner of the plaza where Ziggy's and Bead Creative are located.

He is personally vested in seeing

changes happen.

"A lot has already been done this year, but I know it's going to be a slow process," he said. "But there are a lot of people involved."

The headway made has Felgemacher feeling optimistic about the project.

His major concern is to address the safety issue. With five schools located in a half-mile radius, a lot of students are walking in the area.

"Statistics show that corner is above average for accidents," he said.

Felgemacher would also like to see trees, grass and benches added where currently there is just cement.

"This is the entrance into the town from the city of Buffalo. It's the first real corner, and it looks kind of shoddy," he said.

He plans to upgrade his properties, adding apartments about the businesses.

"I'm putting my own money in there. I would like to see improvements to the corner," he said.

In its 2008 Capital Improvement Program, the town marked \$85,000 for the Main-Eggert project. The committee will seek grants to match the dollars used by the town.

Mingoia estimates the total cost of the streetscape work is \$300,000 to 400,000.

At present, the committee's priorities are taking the public and business owners' input and feedback. Black said the group will review the existing conditions and take the input to create an actual site plan. The design ideas will be subject to more public input.

The design process will take place in 2008, with possible groundbreaking in spring 2009 or 2010.

Committee (Continued from page one)

program results in significant benefits," Wood said.

The committee also concluded that Amherst is unlikely to see a significant benefit to the town manager form of government.

The purpose of a town manager

is to allow the Town Board to focus on policy-making while the manager takes on the responsibility for day-to-day administration.

Wood said the committee found that the benefit of the manager

handling that role wasn't significant enough to overcome the other negative impacts, such as additional expense and putting power in the hands of an unelected official.

"Another problem with the town manager form of government is the difficulty a town manager would have in administration of day-to-day town operations because two key departments are headed by elected officials; not department heads serving at the pleasure of the manager," the report stated. "If the town manager is not the entity to whom the town clerk and highway superintendent report, the supposed benefit of smooth day-to-day administration will also not be achieved."

Wood said in the committee's opinion, the most difficult issue

to overcome with the town manager form of government is the level of suspicion among the population for political tricks.

"We are in an era in which the electorate is concerned with patronage and politics as usual," he said.

Wood added that because the manager is hired by the board and not directly accountable to the electorate, it is likely that residents would fear that this form of government would quickly degenerate into a political ally employment program.

"Because it is unlikely other supposed benefits of the town manager form of government will be achieved, this concern is unlikely to be outweighed," he said.

Kindel said 84 million people live under this form of govern-

ment in the United States, and he hopes Amherst will one day do so.

When he pushed for the position, Kindel said professionals should handle day-to-day business, including accounting, bill paying and handling contracts.

He said the misunderstanding in connection with the position is that power is taken away from the supervisor, which is not the case.

"The supervisor could do more overall viewing of the bigger picture," he said in February. "This is an attempt to build a professional foundation. The supervisor would continue to lead the town."

Following the GSC's report, the Town Board did not voice any action it planned to take.

Williamsville

School Board approves new pact with CSEA

The Williamsville Board of Education has unanimously approved a new five-year collective bargaining agreement with the Civil Service Employees' Association Local 1000, CSEA, AFL-CIO, and the Williamsville Unit, Local 868, whose contract expired on June 30, 2006.

The CSEA membership ratified the agreement in a vote on Dec. 11. The new contract extends the terms and conditions of employment for its members for five years, through June 30, 2012.

The new agreement includes an annual salary increase that averages 3.67 percent during the life of the contract. In addition, the district and the employee group agreed on two cost-saving measures related to health care coverage. Members agreed to accept Independent Health as the single health care provider and will pay a portion of their health care premiums beginning July 1, 2008. In addition, the work schedule was modified to provide for evening and weekend assignments, reducing certain overtime pay requirements.

The CSEA represents 250 child nutrition and facilities staff.

UB faculty members named Distinguished Professors

Three University at Buffalo faculty members and a former dean, have been named SUNY distinguished professors — the highest faculty rank in the SUNY system — by the SUNY Board of Trustees.

Of the eight distinguished professors appointed by the trustees, four have ties to UB.

The designation — a rank above full professor — denotes exceptional contribution in an academic field. It has three co-equal designations: distinguished professor, distinguished service professor and distinguished teaching professor.

Named SUNY distinguished professors are: Rodolphe Gasché, Eugenio Donato professor of comparative literature in the department of comparative literature, College of Arts and Sciences; Claes E. Lundgren, professor in the department of physiology and biophysics, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Frederick Sachs, UB distinguished professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics; and Maurizio Trevisan, former dean of the School of Public Health and Health Professions.

Trevisan left UB in October to become vice chancellor and chief

executive officer of the University of Nevada Health Sciences System.



CANDY MANSION — Stephanie Mohr's gingerbread won first place in the student category at the annual "Gingerbread, Gifts, and Glitz" event held on Dec. 1 to benefit Gilda's Club of WNY. Mohr is a student at Amherst High School and in the culinary skills program of the Erie 1 BOCES Harkness Career & Technical Center. Her mansion creation was auctioned. Jessica Kahy, also from Harkness and Amherst High School, received a fourth-place ribbon in the competition.



Briarwood Manor

1001 Lincoln Ave., Lockport • 433-1513

Affordable Care For The Elderly

The Only Licensed Assisted Living Program In Niagara County

Private And Semi-Private Rooms Available



- 3 Nutritious Meals plus Snacks
- Laundry/Housekeeping
- Freedom to Come and Go
- 24-hr. Supervised Care
- Nurse on Staff
- Personal and Family Counseling
- Professional Planned Daily Activities

We Are Licensed & Certified by New York State Department Of Health

www.briarwoodmanor.com