

## Bee Editorial

# Totes were worth the investment

After years of seeing the rodent population increase in the suburbs, it's a relief to see some decrease. Peter Tripi, Erie County senior public health sanitarian, attributes much of the decline to the purchase of totes.

For all the complaints about them being too heavy or too big, we'll take those inconveniences over rats on our property any day.

It wasn't easy, but it was worth it. Finding the money, ordering and distributing the totes was costly and time consuming, but it had to be done. The rats were starting to become very comfortable throughout the town and village.

One resident took us on a tour of her home, and no one would ever want to deal with her problem. The rats were burrowing in from all corners of her home. She stuffed scouring pads into the holes to try and stop them. She became a landscaping expert, keeping her lawn free of

any food source or shelter possibilities. But she still found dead rats in her garbage cans and live ones running happily around her property. Residents pleaded with the Town Board to do something because the rodents just kept coming.

With the totes now in place, the Erie County Vector Department reported that the numbers are decreasing. Thankfully. We hope the worst is past for the town, but that can only happen if the totes are used properly.

Don't overstuff the totes. If you need another one, ask the town if that's a possibility. If the lids aren't closed, animals can get inside to get food. As long as rats have food they won't eat the bait that kills them off.

The problem became bigger than cohabiting with the rodents. It turned tragic for dogs in Western New York. Tripi said there were approximately 150 confirmed cases of lep-

tospirosis in WNY from 2004-06, 35 in Amherst. The disease mostly affects dogs and other animals and can be deadly for animals.

But it can also affect humans. Symptoms include high fever, rash, vomiting and jaundice. Tripi said while only three human cases were reported in the state in 2000 (the most recent data available) he was concerned that ignorance of the rat problem in WNY would only breed trouble.

His basic message to town residents: you have the totes, use them properly. Rats need us for food and shelter so stop giving it to them.

The county is also going after businesses with overflowing Dumpsters. The totes will do no good if the rats can just turn the corner and find plenty of food from a local restaurant.

Keep the garbage in the totes and the rodents out of town. Albeit late, the town finally got it right.

## Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **SAVE THE APPLAUSE FOR SHEA'S** — A parent told me on Monday that his son had chosen to attend the Amherst Town Board meeting for a class because "That's where the entertainment is." The student doesn't even attend an Amherst

school. I'm usually quick to scold the actions of the Town Board for creating the infamous entertainment but during Monday's meeting I realized it's also to the fault of the audience members. When applause erupted for the 100th time (I'm exaggerating) I found myself asking aloud, "Is this a play or a meeting?" Clapping for a soapbox speech, from a board member or a resident, is not appropriate — especially as often as it occurs during a single meeting. It should be reserved for the first minutes of the meeting when the board honors residents. Or in the rare case the board adjourns in less than four hours — I'll even join in for a round of applause.

• **26 OR 6?** — Just when I thought I was turning the corner to becoming an official adult I was asked a question that stopped me in my tracks. During an interview last week I met a woman who asked me, "Are you the little girl who writes that column every week?" After a moment of shock, I replied that, no, I was the young adult who did.

Later, when I left the office, I was still in shock. I got into my car, which I paid for, and drove back to the office, playing the scenario over in my head. Later that day I went home to my apartment, for

which I pay the rent, and wondered what part of me conveys "little girl."

My niece will turn 6 years old this month and celebrate at Chuck E. Cheese — she *is* a little girl. I will creep one year closer to 30 in a few short months and not do so over a game of Skee-Ball or in a pit of plastic balls.

I'm always careful to address everyone with respect. I know the woman didn't mean to offend me, but I am still confused as to why she addressed me that way.

• **VOLUNTEERS NEED** — The Girl Scout Council of Buffalo and Erie County is seeking adult volunteers to assist in carrying out its mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

The Girl Scout Council has been operating for more than 90 years, providing programming that builds leadership and confidence, offers career exploration and develops and enhances skills in

today's girls.

Training and support is provided to support volunteers. For those interested but with limited time available to volunteer, short-term opportunities are also available. For information, visit [www.bflogirlscouts.org](http://www.bflogirlscouts.org) or call 837-6400, ext. 256.

• **TREE PICKUP** — Christmas trees will be picked up by the Highway Department through Friday, Jan. 18. Call 631-5770 with questions.

The Village of Williamsville will once again sponsor Christmas Tree recycling. The drop-off point for the trees is the Department of Public Works lot on South Long Street next to the Train Depot. The lot is marked with a sign at the lot, as well as one on Main Street directing residents to the drop-off area. Used trees will be collected now through the second week of January. For more information about the program, call Lowther at Village Hall at 632-4120, ext. 3006.

## Out of the Past

### 125 Years Ago Jan. 11, 1883

A description of the Edison electric light is reprinted from the Buffalo Telegraph. A reporter from The Bee witnessed its excellent working last Saturday. The Edison dynamo is located in the engine room of Mr. Urban's mill. It supplies current for the thirty-four lamps. The lamps consist of a pear-shaped glass globe, about four inches in length, exhausted of air, into which is sealed a filament of carbonized bamboo the size of a horse hair. This filament becomes incandescent by the passage of electricity through it, giving a beautiful, soft, white light exceeding the illuminating power of a gas jet of the best quality.

Mr. H.B. Secrist is buying wheat for the Dodge Roller Flour Mills.

"A woman was offered a sealskin cloak if she would not speak for an hour. At the end of seven minutes, she exclaimed, 'Mind, it's got to be a \$250 one.'"

"We read frequently of some persons whose hair has turned white in a single night, through grief or fear, but the white-haired man who goes into a barber shop and comes out in half an hour with hair and whiskers black as the raven's wing never gets a line in the paper."

"That butter is all right," said a boarding-house keeper; "It is keg butter, and tastes a little of the wood, is all." "If that is the case," replied a boarder, who was also a contractor, "I should like to get some of that wood to make railroad bridges out of."

### 100 Years Ago Jan. 9, 1908

Mrs. Rose Schallmo, a past president, installed the officers of the LCBA, Branch 820. Mrs. Mary Fischer, the president, was presented with two handsome cut glass vases as a token of appreciation for her work.

### 75 Years Ago Jan. 12, 1933

Calvin Coolidge, 30th president of the United States, died unexpectedly on Thursday, January 5, 1933. His death brought sorrow not only to our country but to the entire world. He led his country wisely, sanely, constructively, from 1923 to 1929.

John G. Monk was re-elected a trustee, and Mrs. Glenn Coykendall was a new trustee chosen at the annual meeting of the Williamsville-Amherst Free Library, held last Friday evening.

Miss Genevieve Watson of Buffalo has been engaged by the Board of Education of Amherst Central High School as instructor of music. She will succeed Miss Doris Weegar.

Howard F. Stimm of North Forest Road was elected treasurer of the Buffalo Launch Club.

Clesson H. Field was appointed town engineer for the year 1933 at a yearly salary of \$2,500, payable monthly.

Haibel's Meat Shop, 5640 Main St., advertises fresh, home-made liver sausage, 14 cents per pound. Lamb stew, 7 cents per pound.

### 50 Years Ago Jan. 9, 1958

All employees of the Town of Amherst received salary increases when the Town Board held its annual reorganizational meeting on Jan. 2. However, most of the elected officials did not receive salary increases. Formerly the employees received a cost of living bonus but this has been discontinued in favor of graded steps of increases.

### 25 Years Ago Jan. 5, 1983

Edward E. Cook, 68, who who served seven terms as an Amherst town councilman, died Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1983. He was elected to the Town Board in 1951 and never lost a local election. He was a trustee of old School District No. 4, which served Getzville before centralization.

James R. DeSantis, president of the Nova Group Inc., has been elected first vice chairman of the Amherst branch of the American Red Cross.

Charlie Garfinkel recently presented Egbertsville-Snyder librarian Marie Robillard a copy of his recently-released book, "Racquetball for the Serious Player."

The Amherst Major Bantams brought 1982 to a close with the greatest come from behind victory in the 15-year history of the prestigious Golden Horseshoe Tournament in Burlington, Ont. last Thursday. Jimmy Freeburg was named the tournament MVP.