

## Mohan hopes (Continued from page one)

problems and add some new amenities, including a reception desk, resource library and commons area.

He estimated that the new Town Hall would need to be at least 25 percent larger.

"In talking to the department heads we formed a task force," he said about reviewing plans.

Mohan said he didn't know what the general consensus was for supporting a new Town Hall, but he hadn't heard any opposition from the departments.

He said should a new Town Hall be built, the current hall could be leased, bringing in revenue for the town, which could offset the cost of a new one.

Not everyone is in favor of the proposal.

Council Member Dan Ward said that building a new Town Hall is not a new concept. He heard the pitch when he was supervisor.

"This idea has been around for awhile," he said, adding that whenever there is a new supervisor some departments push for a new building. "They try to get one to bite. As an engineer this appeals to him (Mohan)."

Ward said he thinks a new Town Hall is unnecessary and the town could "do better with what they have." He said the current building was erected with the idea of there being three above-ground floors, and he thinks there is now a need for that additional floor.

He said the Town Hall should remain on Main Street, which has been the center of government. The Village Hall, as well as the offices of Sen. Mary Lou Rath, Assemblyman Jim Hayes and Legislator Ed Rath III are all located on that section of Main Street.

"It's a sense of what the town is, and was," he said, comparing the argument for moving the Town Hall to the center of town as the same as moving Washington, D.C.

to Nebraska.

Currently, there is not a bus line that goes to the J.J. Audubon Parkway, which Ward said is a major reason the building can't be moved there.

"It doesn't serve the greater population," he said.

In Ward's opinion, the idea isn't to build a bigger Town Hall but to shrink town government — not just the Town Board, but the number of employees as well.

Another idea he has proposed, is bringing in a group from the University at Buffalo that specializes in facility planning. He said the council member meeting room is definitely in need of changes. He also believes that technology will reduce the need for space, with employees using more e-mail and computer.

He does agree that the current Town Hall is too crowded, but he said retrofitting the building

would cost far less than a new one.

The Police Department was built in 1979 at 500 J.J. Audubon Parkway. The Town Court followed in 1985, and the senior center was completed in 2000.

The current Town Hall was built in 1965, and the Williamsville Village Hall was built in 1964.

*e-mail: jfinch@beenews.com*

## Creek Road fire damages five vehicles

Williamsville Fire Department responded to an alarm at 6:03 p.m. Monday at 64 Creek Road where a garage was in flames.

The garage was not attached to the home, owned by Jeffrey and Polly Klapper.

The exact cause of the fire remains under investigation and damage is estimated at \$25,000 to the structure and \$45,000 to contents.

One of the owners reported a car was on fire in the detached garage. Before the department arrived, the fire had extended to the four-car wood frame garage.

Also damaged were two additional cars and two motorcycles. The estimated value of the five vehicles is \$35,000 and an additional \$10,000 in contents was listed.

The garage was a total loss. The fire is believed to have started in the engine compartment of one of the cars.

Snyder Fire Department FAST Team also responded.

## Board calls for investigation of transportation needs of senior center

Currently four major buildings in the Town of Amherst are not accessible by bus — the Police Department, court, the town's main library and its senior center, all located on John James Audubon Parkway.

At its Jan. 7 meeting, the town board agreed an investigation into the matter should start with transportation services for seniors.

Initiated by Council Member Dan Ward, the resolution calls for an ad hoc citizens advisory committee to study the issue. The committee will have seven members — one for each member of the Town Board. Results were requested within six months of the committee's formation.

The committee will be asked to make policy recommendations "to remedy these transportation problems, and improve the quality and quantity of such senior transportation to the Amherst Senior Center."

Also, the committee is asked to thoroughly investigate the operations and procedures of Amherst

Transportation for the Elderly Inc., the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, and its bus system, any other transportation sources and systems, as well as, the needs and desires of Amherst senior citizens, both those who currently are using the center and others who either don't or can't access or use the center.

In Ward's resolution he said complaints have periodically surfaced as to the quality and quantity of transportation to the senior center by residents, who either do not drive there themselves or are not driven there in privately owned vehicles.

According to Ward, the only transportation to the Amherst Senior Center is owned and operated by AETC, with a number of small vans.

"There are not enough of these vans, they do not have enough capacity for handicapped/disabled seniors, their routing does not adequately service the entire Town of Amherst and they are too expensive," he said.

## South grad (Continued from page one)

Some of the responses to his site have been that the user feels more confident discussing politics and now feels confident to vote on a candidate.

DiNunzio said he feels that if his site results in one person feeling more informed when voting, then his months of work will be worth it.

His sister, Rachel, illustrated the Web page, and Justin Fenar, also a Williamsville native, has helped run the site.

In New York, the presidential primary is on Tuesday, Feb. 5 and nationwide, Election Day is Nov. 4.

## Business News

**Autistic Services Inc.** recently promoted Nancy E. Gangloff to senior director of finance and business operations. She joined the company in 1995 as an agency accountant. Gangloff is a member of the Financial Managers Association Central Region. Amherst resident Michael D. Samulski was named director of finance, replacing Gangloff. He was hired in 2006 as a controller and in his new role will be responsible for the supervision of payroll and general accounting for the agency.

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