

Meetings

Junior League offers grants

Members of the Western New York Group of Financial Women International will host the 22nd annual fundraising event to benefit Cornerstone Manor, WHYME House Foundation, Inc. and the WNY Scholarship Fund. This year's event will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23 at Father Justin Knights of Columbus Hall, 2735 Union Road, Cheektowaga. Tickets are \$25, or \$30 at the door. Tickets may be purchased from Tammy Wolff at 892-6221.

Re-Tree seeks volunteers

Re-Tree WNY's mission is to reforest every public area destroyed by the October 2006 snowstorm. Last November, several hundred Re-Tree volunteers took to the streets and parks to plant nearly 2,000 trees. This April and May 2008, volunteers again will plant thousands of trees in every municipality in Erie County. First, Re-Tree WNY needs volunteers, called Re-Tree municipal coordinators, willing to take a leadership role in the reforestation and beautification of their own communities. For more information, contact Tim Finnell at 741-7063 or tdfinnell@roadrunner.com.

'Friendship Express' forms available

Ford Dealers of Western New York will continue to give the gift of transportation to local not-for-profit organizations through its annual Ford Friendship Express program. Charities from within the eight counties of Western New York and two counties in Northern Pennsylvania can apply by March 7, 2008. Van recipients will be announced this summer. Past recipients include Meals on Wheels of Buffalo and Erie County, Friends of the Night People, St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, Aurora Adult Day Services, Camp Good Days & Special Times, and the Buffalo Zoo. Applications are available by logging on to www.wnyford.com or by sending a request to Ford Friendship Express Program, 50 Fountain Plaza, Suite 1000, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Oh! You Dirty Dog! self-serve dog wash takes the mess away from home

by JESSICA L. FINCH
Associate Editor

Whether it's water splashing everywhere or hair clogging the sink, washing a dog at home is not an easy task, but now dog owners have an alternative.

Patricia Forbes of Snyder has opened Oh! You Dirty Dog! a self-serve dog wash at 5732 Main St., at North Ellicott Street, in the Village of Williamsville.

"This is a new idea that started at the beaches in California," said Forbes, who lived in the Golden State for 15 years while working in the music industry.

Moving back to Western New York to be with family, she launched a new business adventure that makes life a bit simpler for dog owners.

"Basically, it's a lot easier," she said about washing a dog at Oh! You Dirty Dog! "People complain about hurting their back at home. Here you don't have to lift a big dog."

The business has four large tubs with ramps. The water temperature is already pre-set with a pull-out spray faucet. Each station has shampoo, a blow dryer and an apron for the washer.

With the tubs, owners don't have to bend over, and the tubs fit any size dog, even as large as a Great Dane.

Forbes said owners also don't have to worry about the hair clogging their sink or making a mess in their home.

A wash is \$12.99, plus tax.

The business also has accessories, including high-end, "unusual" pet jewelry and tags from a de-



Mary Anne Laughlin is assisted by Stephanie Forbes, 8, and her sister Tatiana, 6, at Oh! You Dirty Dog! at 5732 Main St. in the Village of Williamsville as they give Ninja a bath. The large tub fits all dogs and offers a ramp to reduce back pain for owners.

signer in California.

She stocks spa supplies for pets — speciality shampoos and treatments — and is also planning to carry a line of pet clothing.

Forbes designed the business to be cozy and homey, not sterile and cold, making the experience pleasant for human and beast.

The owner of two dogs herself, Forbes said she and everyone who has used Oh! You Dirty Dog! love

the facility, because most dogshate baths, and this makes it a lot easier.

Appointments can be made for dogs with special needs, and Forbes will assist owners if needed.

The business is open from noon to 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; noon to 5:30 p.m. Saturday and is closed Friday and Sun-

day.

Forbes opened her pet wash in December and held a photo session for pets and Santa Claus. She plans to hold a similar event for the Easter holiday.

She is also planning a plaster paw print craft for owners to have as a keepsake. Forbes is even considering a cocktail hour for pet owners.

For more information, call 633-1134.

Fidelis Care announces office promotions



Draper Krupp Paonessa Scaglione

Fidelis Care, a nonprofit health plan serving more than 298,000 members in 39 counties across New York state, recently promoted four individuals in its Western New York regional office.

Beth Draper, certified provider credentialing specialist, was recently promoted to director of provider operations, responsible for the direction and management of the provider database management and provider credentialing departments. Draper previously served as a director of provider credentialing for the past five years.

Matthew Krupp was recently promoted from file room associate to claims processor, responsible for entering accurate claims into Fidelis Care's processing modules. With Fidelis Care for the past three years, Krupp previously worked in landscaping.

Lori Paonessa was recently promoted to claims provider liaison, responsible for reviewing and resolving all claims issues for her assigned providers. With Fidelis Care for the past five years, Paonessa previously worked as a medical claims processor.

Gail Scaglione was recently promoted to claims provider liaison, responsible for processing long-term care and Medicare Advantage claims. With Fidelis Care since May 2004, she previously worked as a claims processor. Prior to working at Fidelis Care, Scaglione worked at Independent Health.

Fidelis Care's WNY regional office is located in Amherst.

Business News

Inner Balance Chiropractic in Amherst added Dr. Erin Torzewski to its list of care providers. Torzewski is now accepting new patients and can be reached at 210-1060, Inner Balance Chiropractic, 2800 Sweet Home Road, Amherst. For further information see www.innerbalancechiro.com or www.nuca.org.

Gilman Ciocia Inc., a provider of federal, state and local tax preparation and financial planning services, announced on Feb. 4 its acquisition of Kelchlin Business Services Inc., an accounting firm located in Depew. The transaction is effective immediately. David K. Kelchlin, a certified public accountant, and Jeffrey Kelchlin and their staff will move from their current offices to Gilman Ciocia's existing offices located at 5839 Main St., in Williamsville.

Independent Health announced that Jennifer Buehler, a business partner in the human resources department, was recently named HR Professional of the Year at the 2007 Human Resource Excellence Awards presented by the Buffalo Niagara Human Resource Association. The company's Western New

York headquarters is based in Amherst.

The Synergy Group, located in Amherst, has hired Kristina Capozzi as director of its Just for Kids school-age programs. She will oversee and coordinate 10 school-site programs, which employ approximately 70 staff members. Just for Kids has been offering programming to school-age youths through summer camps and vacation and holiday programs for more than 12 years.

William Bernhardt, an attorney, has opened an office at 1321 Millersport Highway in Amherst. He also has locations in Olean and West Seneca. He specializes in disability claims and has more than 20 years' experience in Social Security disability claims. For information, call 674-2424.

Mitch Flynn, president of Flynn & Friends Advertising, announced today that the firm has been retained by the Olear Realty Group at MJ Peterson Real Estate, in Amherst, to provide strategic, creative and public relations services. The Olear Realty Group specializes in owner-occupied, residential real estate in Erie and Niagara Counties. Flynn & Friends is an advertising agency located in Buffalo.