

Bee Editorial

Center opens doors to helping domestic violence victims

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in every five deaths in the United States is related to smoking.

What have national leaders done to address the problem? Plenty. Public service announcements about the dangers of smoking and how to find help quitting flood the airwaves. Tobacco companies have been fined millions of dollars for enticing children to smoke and forced to set aside more funding for smoking cessation programs. Laws have been enacted to ban smoking in many public places to protect nonsmokers from secondhand smoke.

Everyone knows smoking is dangerous because the message has been loud and clear in awareness campaigns. If such campaigns can drive down nicotine addiction, they also could work for another epidemic in our society that isn't as easy to see, one in which power serves

as the drug — domestic violence.

The statistics are just as staggering as they are for smoking. One in four women and one in nine men will be physically or sexually abused in their lifetime.

If domestic violence were a disease instead of a social taboo that gets swept under the carpet, "there'd be a clinic in every neighborhood," said Linda Ray, director of the Family Justice Center of Erie County Inc.

For now, that clinic in our "county neighborhood" is the Family Justice Center, and it provides services to help those in danger to escape domestic violence and find comfort in one place, instead of having to visit several different places — police stations, courts, emergency rooms — and having to deal with personnel who are sometimes not as sensitive as they should be to victims' needs.

The Family Justice Center is the ultimate safe

haven for anyone — woman or man — who is suffering with domestic violence.

The center also is working to conduct a campaign in October that has the potential to save lives. Volunteers would hang posters with the slogan "violence happens behind closed doors, so does help" on the inside of stall doors in women's restrooms in public places. If a woman viewing the poster needs help, she could tear off a small portion of the poster that would contain the Family Justice Center's contact information. The initial secrecy would provide the key to empowering a victim to seek help.

Domestic violence may happen behind closed doors, but the barriers to publicizing this social disease and helping victims must be knocked down. Community groups are encouraged to back the Family Justice Center with whatever resources they have available.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **RED MEANS WHAT?** — "Doesn't anyone stop for red lights around here?" That is what my boyfriend asked me during a recent visit.

I took him on the grand tour of Western New York, walking down Elmwood, going to Eastern

Hills Mall to play games at Dave and Busters, visiting the Albright Knox Art Gallery, going to HSBC Arena for a Bandits game and enjoying a dinner out with friends. While we were driving to and from these places he became a bit disgusted by our driving habits — not

mine, thankfully, as I completely agree with him. He really hit the nail on the head and I said, "No, they don't stop."

Every morning I arrive at Cayuga Road and Main Street in Williamsville, and I know for certain that a green light showing my side means another two to three cars will pass through the intersection before it's safe to proceed. I can make the same assumption wherever I go in town, but these are among the worst I see.

It seems that around Western New York, drivers have adapted the "five-second rule." No longer is it the general rule for dropped food, but when a light turns red, drivers take those extra few moments to zip through and think nothing of it. Like dusting a piece of lint off the candy, drivers aren't fazed, as long as they don't see a police officer pulling up behind them.

It's become dangerous for those of us who stop and have one of these "non-stoppers" behind you. They get right up on your bumper and expect you to drive

on through, and they are determined to make the light as well, no matter how long it has been red. In those cases, I just pray they stop in time, even though I know they are cursing me for not running a red light.

• **REALITY SETS IN** — Writing about training for a half-marathon is the easy part. Seeing the words come from someone else is a bit scary.

This past weekend I received an e-mail from a trainer who volunteers with Roswell Park Cancer Institute for Team Cure. While the e-mail was very energetic and supportive, I still became extremely nervous while reading it. I sat back on the couch, looking at the screen of my laptop and thinking "Well, here we go." The e-mail included a weekly schedule of how many miles to run, and I immediately started to stress about budgeting my time and finding enough daylight in which to run. I have my first group run this weekend, and I am already nervous.

I have that same feeling you get on the first day of high school or at a new job. The question "Am I going to be able to do this?" keeps circling in my head.

I am even worried about what to wear. Laugh if you will, but I am seriously concerned about having too much or too little clothing. And something as simple as water is a conundrum. The e-mail said to bring water or Gatorade, and I have been debating how many ounces to take. I don't want to run out, but I don't want to be the person with an excessive amount, looking ready for a trek in the Syrian Desert. I never said I was easy-going.

• **SPRING FORWARD** — Daylight saving time will begin earlier this year, thanks to the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Residents are reminded to turn their clocks ahead one hour before retiring on Saturday night, March 8. Daylight saving time will begin at 2 a.m. Sunday, March 9 and end at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 2.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago March 8, 1883

The town elections in Erie County, with the exception of Grand Island, were held Tuesday, and the result is that the next Board of Supervisors will be Democratic with a majority of two. The Republicans had to elect eleven members in the towns to retain control of the board, and have failed to do so. John Fiegel, a Democrat, was elected in Amherst without opposition.

Several new converts were added to the Circle of Safety of the Order of Royal Templars of Temperance on Friday evening last in Bowmansville.

After Oct. 1, 1883, the postage on letters will be two instead of three cents per half-ounce.

A number of Mrs. George Sivy's friends surprised that lady very agreeably yesterday afternoon, by gathering at her residence and celebrating her birthday. A jolly good time was the result.

Mrs. R.T. Godfrey has recovered from her long spell of sickness so as to resume her domestic duties again.

Mr. N. Fritton is preparing to do wagon-making and blacksmithing at Swormville.

"You will find the painting looks better a little ways off," said the artist. "The guest said innocently, 'Would half a mile be far enough off, do you think?'"

"Why is a retired carpenter like a lecturer? Because he is an explainer."

"Time works wonders," as the woman said after she got married after a thirteen-year courtship."

100 Years Ago March 5, 1908

A desirable building property, Landmark farm, has been turned over to M.T.E. Morley who will sell it for building lots.

The third edition of "The Echo," issued annually by the Williamsville Study Club, was eagerly listened to at its most recent meeting.

A grange was organized at Williamsville on Feb. 28, with Wm. H. Beach elected master.

75 Years Ago March 9, 1933

Townsppeople, in union with those all over the country, watched with anxious interest the financial developments throughout the week. Officials of the local institutions believe the bank holiday will be beneficial and their institutions are ready to reopen for business when that right is extended to them. Both the Bank of Snyder and the Bank of Williamsville are open for the purpose of making change and access to safe deposit boxes.

The pressure of creditors forced the closing Tuesday morning of Schuler's Bakery at 2510 Kensington Avenue.

The Amherst Branch of the League of Women Voters held its regular meeting at the Amherst Community House in Snyder, on Monday, March 6th. The topic, "What Depression has done to Youth" was of vital interest.

50 Years Ago March 6, 1958

Theodore H. Huck, who on March 31 will retire after serving as a village trustee for 24 years, will be honored at a testimonial dinner at the Little White House restaurant on Wednesday, March 12. At the same dinner, tribute to be paid to Gilbert B. Dodge, who is retiring as village clerk.

A replica of the \$10,000 Hickok Belt, given to the professional athlete of the year, is on display at the Minit Car Wash, Main Street, corner Harlem. The belt is in the possession of Carmen Basilio.

Joseph M. Hark, 76, of McKinley Avenue, died on February 28, 1958. He was a Spanish-American War Marine Corps veteran and a retired postal service employee.

25 Years Ago March 2, 1983

Garr Cheskin, 11, has been entrusted to play his grandfather's 1705 Italian violin in the Jewish Center's production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

Richard G. Bennett of Amherst, vice president and general manager of Western New York Offset Press Inc., will retire on March 11.

Western New Yorkers will have the opportunity to see first-hand how high-quality painting of Goebel and Hummel figures is achieved when European artist Rudi Friedrich visits the Jeness Decor Shop at the Boulevard Mall.