

## Bee Editorial

# Everyone should be on alert for predators

In light of reports of attempted child abductions across Western New York, Amherst police are sending out a warning to parents: teach children about stranger danger.

Now that spring has arrived, youths are outside more, playing in yards and not always with a parent's eagle eye upon them. Unfortunately, it can take just a split second for a child to disappear, so everyone should be on alert when out and about.

In these cases, you can never be too careful. With houses close to the streets in many parts of town, an abductor could come and go before the parents know what happened.

This weekend, a family was forced to address a situation that could have involved a predator. Amherst police investigated a man who was driving a pickup truck in town and pulled up to a house where children were playing. The man asked the children if they knew someone in the

area. Their mother then stepped up, and the man left the area. She was right to be concerned and to take action during the situation. Making her presence known and approaching the man were the right things to do. When there is any suspicion, it's best not to ignore it.

In this case, the man was checked out by police and found to be no threat to the town, but Amherst Assistant Chief Timothy Green said that with other incidents being reported around the county, it's a good time to remind parents to talk to their children about stranger danger.

They should discuss playing too close to the roadway, keeping track of friends and the buddy system. The Web site, [www.safety-cops.com](http://www.safety-cops.com), reminds parents to teach children not to talk with strangers. Period. Youths should be told not to approach a motor vehicle for someone asking directions. SafetyCops say

adults don't need directions from children.

Youths are sometimes alone when walking to school or waiting at a bus stop, but that can be avoided with the buddy system. Arrangements should be made so a child doesn't have to be alone.

SafetyCops adds that if a stranger does approach your child, tell him or her to remember the license plate number of the motor vehicle and to report this information to you immediately.

Don't assume it was nothing and discount what your child has to tell you. Call your local police and report any suspicious activity.

You are the eyes and ears of your community. The police can't be in all places at all times. Get involved and report suspicious activity and not just to your neighbor.

## Spindle items



**JESSICA FINCH**

Associate Editor

• **EGGS** — On Easter Sunday, while my sister and brother-in-law were outside hiding eggs for the annual family hunt, the rest of my family and I reminisced about the best prizes we ever got from an egg hunt. One cousin was the lucky winner

Church, will boast of their finds: Silver Egg winner (3 and younger) Matt Alge; Gold Egg winner (ages 4-6) Brianna Jerla; Silver Egg winner (ages 4-6) Matthew Burkard; Gold Egg winner (7 and older) Abbey Kraft; and Silver Egg winner (7 and older) Brett Siskar. In addition, 42 children won chocolate rabbits for third place.

• **WANT TO HELP?** — Volunteers are needed to assist the Amherst Museum staff in cleaning historic buildings. Workers are needed for the 10 19th-century buildings on the museum's 35-acre campus. No experience is required. Required skills include attention to detail and care in handling objects. Training in artifact handling and cleaning procedures will be provided. Volunteers are needed approximately eight hours per week from April to October. Scheduling is flexible. Send a letter of interest and three references to: Jessica Johnson, curator of exhibit collections, Amherst Museum, 3755

Tonawanda Creek Road, Amherst, NY 14228 or e-mail [mcurator@roadrunner.com](mailto:mcurator@roadrunner.com). Call 689-1440.

by **DAVID F. SHERMAN**  
*Managing Editor*

• **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION** — The annual brunch held in recognition of the hundreds of volunteers at the Amherst Museum was well-attended last Saturday morning.

As Museum Executive Director Joseph Weickart said, the facility could not operate without these individuals. One by one, their names were each read aloud as they stepped forward to receive a colorful certificate.

Laura Klementowski was named Youth Volunteer of the Year, and Michael Dowling was cited as Volunteer of the Year.

While some of the faces were familiar to me because of their involvement in other town activities, there were many more I was seeing for the first time. The

Lace Guild, Quilters Guild, Victorian Dance Society, Herb Gardeners, Weavers Guild and Civil War Event Committee, to name a few, were among the groups represented. It was also great to see young museum guides there as well.

I hope the age and experience diversity exhibited at the brunch will ensure the museum will continue to be a valuable resource in town. Coming soon will be the biennial quilt show to be held Friday through Sunday, April 25-27. Visit [www.amherstmuseum.org](http://www.amherstmuseum.org) or call 689-1440 for more information.

• **PLAY BALL** — The arrival of baseball season was made official on Monday when I spotted Fenton Harrison in the bleachers at the Amherst Central High School diamond. Harrison has played, managed and watched more ball games than anyone can imagine. As usual, he had a few stories to share about his favorite sport. And for the record, Williamsville South beat Amherst 3-1.

## Out of the Past

### 125 Years Ago April 12, 1883

Tuesday evening, the yearly meeting of the Williamsville Cemetery Association was held for the purpose of electing trustees and officers.

The Ladies of the Methodist Church will give a pie social at the residence of Mr. George Hartman on Friday evening of next week.

Miss Emma Good will teach the summer term of school in District No. 6, Swormville.

Mr. Philip Wendling has sold his farm of about 40 acres to Mr. George Pfister for \$116 per acre.

The adulteration of all sorts of food is common now. A chemist in New York is trying to make fruit without consulting nature and should be suppressed. It is said he can make apple sauce out of chemicals, which cannot be distinguished from the genuine article. If apple sauce is going to lose its integrity, in what can we trust?

"A little girl, aged nine, called her father to her bedside the other evening. 'Papa,' said the little diplomat, 'I want to ask your advice.' 'Well my dear, what is it about?' the father replied. 'What do you think would be best to give me on my birthday?'"

"A boy paid his first visit to one of the public schools the other day, and as he came home his mother inquired, 'Well Henry, how do you like going to school?' 'Oh,' he replied in an excited voice, 'I saw four boys get licked, one girl got her ears pulled, and a big scholar burned his elbow on the stove. I don't want to miss a day.'"

### 100 Years Ago April 9, 1908

The Great Lakes Construction Co. of Buffalo is putting its machinery together on the farm of William Dorenfeld of Pickard's Bridge in order to begin digging the barge canal through the farm.

E.C. Bucher, who for the past seven years has conducted the Getzville Hotel, has disposed of that property to Benjamin Black of Swormville and will devote his time to his telephone interests.

Work has been started on the redecorating of the interior of SS. Peter and Paul Church. Leo Frohe, prominent Buffalo decorator, is in charge.

### 75 Years Ago April 13, 1933

The sale of 3.2 beer, legalized by the government, will proceed in Amherst at present with no restrictions beyond those of soft drink ordinances.

R.L. Huck, 5498 Main Street, advertises spring wall paper in a wonderful assortment of new patterns and colors. Phone 223.

Officers of the Williamsville Fire Department include A.H. Herman Jr., chief; Richard Bitterman, first assistant chief, and Albert B. Brown, second assistant chief. Lloyd Carmer is mechanic.

In the fullness of 88 years, Mrs. John Duethorn entered into rest at her home in Swormville last week Wednesday, April 5, 1933. She was highly esteemed by a wide acquaintanship.

### 50 Years Ago April 10, 1958

The newly-decorated Transit Valley Country Club was severely damaged by soot shortly after 7:00 p.m. this past Monday evening. Delayed ignition of an oil-burning furnace was the cause.

Otto Striejewski has been re-elected chief of the Eggertsville Hose Company for his fourth consecutive term.

Cornerstone laying ceremonies will be held next Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock for the Suburban Religious School Annex of Temple Beth Zion on Sweet Home Road.

Miss Bonnie Bird, a senior at Williamsville Central School, is a candidate for "Presidential Scholar" at St. Lawrence University.

### 25 Years Ago April 6, 1983

Eggertsville firefighters battled a \$85,000 house fire at about 4 a.m. last Saturday at 92 Capen Boulevard. Police officer Richard Klein helped rescue a man from a second floor window.

Edward (Buckets) Hirsch retired last Thursday after 30 years of service with the Amherst Police Department. He was a member of the Buffalo Bills football team in the old All-American Football Conference from 1947-49.

The Amherst Major Pee Wees will host the U.S. Nationals this weekend at the Audubon Rink.