

Bee Editorial

Earth Day didn't end at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday

While Tuesday, April 22, marked the official Earth Day, there are still plenty of opportunities to make every day Earth Day.

The Town of Amherst has recently announced several initiatives that can help you and those around you live a greener life.

A list of Earth Day events taking place in the Village of Williamsville can be found on page nine of this edition.

Also, Council Member Mark Manna presented a resolution at Monday's Amherst Town Board meeting titled, "Residents Care Plan for New Trees." The resolution addressed the need to care for newly planted trees as the town attempts to re-tree the community following the devastation of the October 2006 storm.

The resolution asks that the Highway Department prepare a plan with information to include:

1. Laminated care tags with the information attached to the newly planted trees.

2. Fliers placed in the doors of residences.

3. Notices published in The Amherst Bee and other publications.

And any other information the highway superintendent deems necessary to accomplish this goal.

Volunteers are being organized by Re-Tree WNY to plant trees throughout the town in the coming months.

New trees aren't the only concern — old waste is a major issue. So from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 26, the town will take part in "Recycling Day" for computers and electronics at the Central Park Plaza, off East Amherst Street on Holden between Main Street and Bailey Avenue.

Items that can be brought to the site for proper disposal include computers, cathode

ray tubes or monitors, keyboards and mice, printers and scanners, fluorescent bulbs, cell phones, rechargeable batteries, VCRs, DVD players and televisions. For information, call 858-6996, or visit www.erie.gov.

Another opportunity for safe disposal of waste will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10, at Erie Community College's North Campus at the Tech Drive entrance. Erie County's Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day is held annually and accepts items that can't be thrown out in the weekly trash pickup. A complete list will be run in an upcoming edition.

Only 59 percent of Amherst Bee readers who voted in this past week's poll said they had made changes to live a greener lifestyle. Until that number reaches 100 percent continue to educate yourselves and others. Some of the changes are easy and can be done today. For tips, visit www.goodgoingwny.com.

Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **STICKER SHOCK** — I was recently banned. From saying the words "gas prices" that is.

I will admit I have become obsessed with talking about them. Last week I was reading the list of state's prices to Ken-Ton Editor Jill Schmelzer,

Hillary drove, and all along the Thruway we saw changing prices, and, of course, I had to make mention of them. But on the way home, with no rush to get there, we took Route 104, and I saw the prices change from \$3.47 to \$3.78 in the different towns. Just before Rochester, she had enough of my babble and told me that I was banned from saying "gas prices" the rest of the ride home. I can't blame her; I annoy myself with it.

When we got to her house I handed her money for my half of the gas, and she, of course, tried to refuse it. I told her, "With gas prices these days, I want to contribute." She told me I still couldn't talk about it, but I figured the trip was over and the ban was lifted.

It was just a week ago that I was complaining to my boyfriend, Dan, about the price being \$3.55 near my house, and he said not to "freak out" until it reached \$3.60. Well, that took less than two miles. As I drove to my friend Adam's, I passed a busy corner in the Elmwood district

where gas was then \$3.65.

It is scary, though, and while we can't control the prices, we can control our own consumption, to a point. In November, I budgeted \$30 a week for gas and I have stuck to that spending amount. When the tank gets low I just don't go anywhere.

• **ACAC NEEDS MEMBERS** — The Amherst Conservation Advisory Council is seeking volunteers to fill existing vacancies. The ACAC meets once a month and provides advice to the Amherst Town Board with respect to environmental, open space and conservation issues of importance to the town. The ACAC also comments on environmental and conservation issues with regard to rezoning and development proposals submitted for town approval.

To apply, send a brief statement about why you want to serve on the committee, how you believe you could contribute and a copy of your resume to: Council

Member Mark Manna, ACAC liaison, Amherst Municipal Building, 5583 Main St., Williamsville, NY, 14221.

• **BATTERY ROUNDUP** — AAA will hold its Great Battery Roundup, a local effort to collect hazardous "stray" vehicle batteries for recycling. Each battery returned will generate funds for the local chapter of the Audubon Society to commemorate Earth Day. While 97 percent of vehicle battery lead is recyclable, more than 5 million stray batteries were not returned to industry recycling plants last year. Dead automobile and marine batteries can discharge lead and sulfuric acid into the environment, creating health and safety hazards for humans and animals.

The collection day is from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 19, at the AAA Amherst Travel and Insurance Center, 100 International Drive, Amherst. Call (800) 836-2582 or visit the Web site www.AAA.com/events.

then the worldwide prices. She said, "Are you doing a story about them?" I said no, took the hint, and decided to shut up. But what would the headline be? Probably "Gas prices rise — again."

This past weekend, I had my sorority's alumni weekend in Oswego. My friend

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago April 26, 1883

Through the stupidity or carelessness of some employee of the U.S. post office department, the letters for Williamsville were missent and did not reach this village. Although it is not our fault, we will try and make amends to our readers who are affected by this carelessness.

Miss Hattie Westland is the assistant for the spring term, and will teach the intermediate department of our Academy school.

Mr. Peter Gabriel is erecting a new barn at his place in Clarence Centre.

Mr. Lucius Snearly anticipates taking a trip to Texas for his health.

The many friends of Mr. Frank W. Metz will learn with sorrow of his death, which occurred last evening at 11 o'clock, after a long illness of chronic malaria. The deceased was 43 years of age and leaves a wife and one child to mourn his loss.

The work on Mr. and Mrs. J. Wayne Dodge's new house on Garrison Street is being rapidly pushed. From the present appearance, it promises to be one of the finest residences in town when completed.

New York City is growing with rapidity since the completion of the elevated railroads. Thousands of tenement houses big and small have been built in the upper portion of the island and at last the supply of houses is so equal to the demands that rents are beginning to go down.

100 Years Ago April 23, 1908

Well attended was the public hearing called by the village board regarding the granting of a franchise to the Williamsville Electric and Power Co.. President of the company is A.O. Simmons.

The Class of 1904 of the Williamsville High School was entertained at a reunion by Miss Mae E. McArthur. Only one of the nine members of the class was unable to attend.

75 Years Ago April 27, 1933

The Public Service Commission has approved several changes which will be of advantage to consumers. The gross minimum monthly charge for residential and commercial service has been reduced from 90 cents to 85 cents per month.

Trustees in school districts will be elected next Tuesday, May 2. There are eighteen districts in the Town of Amherst.

Clark E. Eiss, justice of the peace in the Town of Amherst from 1908 to 1911, died last Sunday, April 23, 1933. Mr. Eiss was engaged in real estate for several years. The tract known as Rosedale Boulevard was one of his developments.

For Sale: "Will sell for \$4,200 — comparatively new single house, connected to sewer, all improvements, on pleasant street in the center of Williamsville."

50 Years Ago April 24, 1958

The Williamsville Chamber of Commerce has appealed to the Amherst Town Board to locate the proposed new town hall in Williamsville or its immediate vicinity and to keep the new library building within the village limits.

The funeral of Arthur E. Franklin, 83, a direct descendent of James Franklin, the brother of Benjamin Franklin, was held Tuesday in the Beach-Tuyn Funeral Home. Mr. Franklin died Tuesday, April 15, 1958 in the Masonic Home, Utica.

The Town of Amherst will beautify many streets this year by the planting of 500 silver maple trees, according to F. Theodore Jenzen, superintendent of highways.

A.V. Cordey won a portable TV set given away at the grand opening of Graoc's Thrift Dairy Store at the Sheridan-Harlem Plaza.

25 Years Ago April 20, 1983

The Williamsville Central School District will lose another school — Casey Middle — at the end of the current academic year. Underenrollment is blamed.

Willard A. Genrich of Snyder, chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents, will be the guest speaker on Friday, April 29 at a "Lunch and Issues" meeting at the Eagle House restaurant.