

## Bee Editorial

# School budgets should be passed

Those wanting to speak out against the 2008-09 school budgets had their chance, and to vote down a budget now would be backwards thinking.

The three town districts — Amherst, Sweet Home and Williamsville — have their spending plans ready for your consideration. Well, they have *had* them ready. For months actually.

First presented in February or March, the budgets are the result of hours of balancing, cutting and increasing. Unfortunately for the district, many of those numbers are handed to the administrators as is and can't be altered.

On Tuesday, May 20, you are asked to go to the polls to support the districts which have spent those hours trying to prepare a budget that meets numerous requirements, including the needs of taxpayers.

We watched as the budgets changed from preliminary to adopted. Those changes includ-

ed tough decisions for the administrators and board members. No one wants to see cuts to programming or proposed teaching positions, but in the days when almost everyone is overextended, the districts needed to be fair to the residents.

Amherst was thrown into the spotlight when it suggested changing the nursing procedure in the private schools that fall within its boundaries. The option drew objections from the staff and parents. In the end, the idea was pulled from the table.

Williamsville board members sent the administration back to the drawing board when the preliminary budget carried a tax increase they weren't comfortable with. Now, if residents approve the proposed spending plan, they can expect a tax rate increase of 0-1 percent.

These are just two examples of how getting involved can lead to changes. But while the

opportunity was there, most people didn't take advantage of it. Among the three districts, there were two speakers at the budget hearings held recently.

What is being presented for approval varies among the districts. Explanations of the budgets and how they will affect the tax rate can be found on page nine of this edition.

It was a tough year for the districts — rising costs of just about everything, and unfunded mandates from the state. That, while dealing with two major issues that are out of their hands: change in assessment and state aid.

We encourage voters to get out and approve the budgets presented. If you wanted to see the budgets fail then you should have spoken up sooner, not in the 11th hour.

Voting down a budget leaves the district with very few options.

Remember to vote yes on Tuesday, May 20.

## Spindle items



JESSICA FINCH

Associate Editor

• **THE BEST MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS** — My mom gave herself her own Mother's Day present last week.

Her final grades from Trocaire College were tallied, and she has graduated, earning the title of registered nurse.

All the hours of proofing her papers and quizzing her, using medical terms I can't even begin to pronounce, are over. I am sure she is relieved, too. Just kidding of course. I would never make light of the amount of work required to become an RN. She earned it, and she deserves it.

Going back to school years after graduating from nursing school took a lot of determination. Doing it on top of working a full-time job took great stamina — a level of which probably hasn't been tapped into since the years when my three siblings and I would tear apart the house. I wonder what a mother of four would deem more difficult. But we are grown and out of the house, and she is a recent graduate. Hopefully, she can sit back and enjoy her successes. Congratulations, mom.

And no, I didn't count her hard work as a Mother's Day present. I will be treating my mom to a day at the salon in the next few weeks as we prep ourselves for my family's upcoming vacation in the Outer Banks.

On another Mother's Day note, one of my good friends and her husband welcomed their son on May 6, making her first Mother's Day an early one. When I went to the hospital last week to see her and the baby, she informed me that, as an

Amherst resident, she is waiting for a column where I call out the actions of rude people.

There's not enough space in the paper for that task, but I will start with her recent complaint — people who don't signal when driving on Interstate 290.

On her behalf, as a young mother who will be toting around an infant, please re-evaluate your driving skills and become a safer driver. There are so many horrible drivers out there — people's decision making has become scary.

Happy Mother's Day to a brand-new mom. I hope you see more blinking lights during your travels.

by DARLENE DONOHUE  
*Lifestyles Reporter*

• **THE NEWBIE** — Hello everyone. I am the new Lifestyles Reporter with Bee Group Newspapers, and I look forward to writing stories about Amherst and the surrounding areas. I will also be covering

the Williamsville Village Board. I attended my first meeting Monday, and have already been introduced to a lot of newsworthy issues. With that said, I anticipate many phone calls and e-mails, or you can stop into the office to say hello. I can be reached at 204-4920 or via e-mail at ddonohue@beenews.com.

However, some people won't talk to strangers so let me tell you a little bit about myself. I'm a Western New Yorker, born and raised, living it up in the Land of the Crabapples — Cheektowaga. I'm a Medaille College graduate, and I have journalist experience from previous employment as a sports editor and schools reporter for the Cheektowaga Times and Metro Community News.

When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, watching movies and some television shows, playing fetch with my two dogs, blogging on various forums, attending concerts and sporting events and relaxing at home.

## Out of the Past

### 125 Years Ago May 17, 1883

On last Sunday afternoon, a laughable incident occurred on Cayuga Street. A gentleman was driving rapidly along, when the overhanging branches of a tree caught his whip and nearly jerked it from its socket. The owner immediately stopped his steed, alighted from his carriage, and turned back to recover his stolen property, which he found nicely suspended in mid-air by the woody robber.

Mr. Henry Baker, a farmer on the Sweet Home Road, is the owner of several fine Jersey cattle.

Among the many handy castings made at the foundry of Mr. John Oswaldt, the little ten-pound anvil is the handiest. No farmer should be without one, as they are most convenient where any kind of implement repairing is necessary.

Miss Frances Fown has charge of the culinary department at Mr. Criqui's hotel at present.

"Be jabbers," exclaimed the man. "I've slept sixteen hours! I went to bed at eight and got up at eight."

"What use can a man make of his time while waiting for the doctor? Why, he can make out his will."

"A Western preacher was conversing with a man regarding his religious duties. 'Do you attend church regularly?' asked the preacher. 'Oh no, I never go to church,' he replied. 'But I always make it a point to attend funerals. They are just as solemn but there's no collection.'"

### 100 Years Ago May 14, 1908

Papers for the changing of the name of the Williamsville Hose Company to the Hutchinson Hose Company have been signed, as well as the incorporation papers. Members absent from the meeting must sign before the papers are filed.

A barn raising was held on Wednesday on the property of George Spiesz southeast of Williamsville.

### 75 Years Ago May 18, 1933

The State Milk Control Board has set a minimum price of four cents per quart for milk with 3.5 percent butter fat.

The services of the Rev. Albert P. Schilke as minister of the Ascension Lutheran Church will be terminated Sunday, May 28, due to his acceptance of the pastorate of a church at Jamaica, N.Y.

Residents on Mill Street from Belmont Street to the northerly village limits and also in the Cleveland Park Terrace section who were hoping for city mail delivery are doomed to disappointment at this time. Federal officials said in view of the fact that this extension would entail additional expenditure, it could not be countenanced at this time.

Approximately 50 Amherst men were put to work recently when construction of the new six-mile Millersport Highway was begun.

### 50 Years Ago May 15, 1958

Since last fall, five local teenagers labeled "The Tunerockers" have been entertaining with their own special brand of rock and roll at record hops. With one exception, each is now attending Amherst Central High School: Mickey Vanderlip (a 1957 graduate), Gene Strong, Ken Starr, Tim Nolan and Fred Patton.

Joe Kaczmark and Ed Wrona announce the opening of a "Flying A" service station at Sheridan Drive and North Bailey Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Granada are in the process of moving into their new home on Transit Road. The schoolhouse next to the home of Mrs. Julia Muskopf has been remodeled into a lovely little home by the Granadas.

Mrs. Janet Rice and Mr. George Symons were honored by the Eggert Road School PTA on May 13 for their devotion to duty.

### 25 Years Ago May 11, 1983

A recital will be held Sunday to celebrate the 150th anniversary of St. John Lutheran Church.

Three well-known sports personalities will be honored May 24 when the Amherst Chamber of Commerce conducts its eighth annual Amherst Avenue of Athletes luncheon. They are Richard Johnston, Frank Sykes and Richard Curtis.