

## Bee Editorial

# Eggertsville Youth Center a timely addition

The southwest corner of the Town of Amherst will finally have a neighborhood center its residents so justly deserve.

Ground will be broken Saturday for the Eggertsville Youth and Community Center, a project that primarily involves the renovation of an existing structure.

A former church, the building will be well suited for renovation and reuse — more than buzz words for those dedicated individuals who have seen the project move from the talking phase to reality.

The idea of a community center in this densely populated, diverse neighborhood had its beginnings in 1990 when former Youth Board Director Joseph Bachovchin and his staff saw a need and started to address it. The Eggertsville area, one of the oldest in town, was already showing signs of change. Its postwar apartments ringing the University

Plaza were at full occupancy, primarily by students from the University at Buffalo. Many were from other countries, a trend that continues today. They chose to live here after graduation.

Duplexes in the same area were popular destinations for young families, as were smaller single-family homes. These housing patterns helped develop a new cluster of children who had limited areas for recreation and development. Their safety was at the forefront of the concern of everyone involved in the project.

These factors are still evident today, with an even larger number of children to mentor and even more distractions for them to battle.

The center will provide outlets for sports, games, entertainment and instruction. Small meeting rooms will enable the facility to be a bridge to other neighborhood groups and service clubs.

It is also commendable that all parties involved — from the Town Board to the Youth Board — were able to breathe new life into an existing building. The location is ideal as it does not disrupt existing conditions and will give families a magnet for safe, constructive activities. It should have a long life.

The town has not played favorites with facilities for its youth, but Eggertsville has lacked the level of support demonstrated in other pockets of the community. We in Western New York are a culture that prefers local services over a blanket approach. Thinking local will help everyone in Eggertsville, from traditional families and single-parent homes to the senior citizens who are rightfully concerned about their own quality of life.

We say thank you to those who had the vision to stretch out the hand of hope to a valuable part of our community.

## Spindle items



by DAVID F. SHERMAN  
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• **I AM READY TO SERVE** —The 2008 presidential election campaign

has been one of the most exciting races in the last 60 years. Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama will make history as they build up to Election Day on Nov. 4.

Yet one lingering question remains: who each nominee will select as his choice for vice president. This person will be next in order of succession should the president be unable to perform his duties. With history as my guide, I have an announcement to make.

I am ready to serve.

I take this bold step because of the events which took place exactly 100 years ago when a man from New York State named Sherman joined William H. Taft on the Republican ticket.

OK, that's where the similarity ends.

James S. Sherman was a former mayor of Utica who rose through the House of Representatives to become Taft's running mate, according to the U.S. Senate Historical Office. He was a compromise candidate between the progressive and the conservative wings of the party, whose delegates met that year in Chicago. The Taft-Sherman team defeated William Jennings Bryan by more than 1 million votes and nearly doubled the three-time loser's tally in the Electoral College.

Sherman was put to work by the president mending political fences and trying to unify the bickering substructure of the Republican Party. It was a tough sell.

Former President Teddy Roosevelt was still lurking behind the scenes and mounted an aggressive but unsuccessful campaign to win the party's nomination in the 1912 election. Roosevelt split from the GOP after the convention, forming the Bull Moose Party. The Democrats — who gathered in Denver as they will again this year — sided with Woodrow Wilson.

Sherman had quietly been falling into poor health that summer and less than a week before the election, died on Oct. 30, 1912. Taft felt it best not to replace him on the ticket, and those who cast ballots on the Republican line were actually voting for a dead man. It made little difference, as Taft and Sherman finished a distant third.

More Vice President Sherman trivia:

- His marble bust is the only one in the Capitol Building featuring a vice president wearing glasses.
- He is not the author of the Sherman

Antitrust Act. That was U.S. Sen. John Sherman, a Republican from Ohio.

- The vice president's nickname was "Sunny Jim" because of his pleasant disposition.

- Sherman's father, Richard, published a Democratic Party newspaper.

- Speakers of the House often turned to Sherman when they had to leave the rostrum, or whenever the Committee of the Whole was invoked. Working with a smaller quorum, legislation was often acted upon sooner and debate was limited. Sherman was described as "The best chairman of the Committee of the Whole whom that great body had known in many years," according to Rep. Henry Cabot Lodge.

Whomever McCain and Obama select as their vice presidential candidates now, 100 years later, will be wise to remember the words of Vice President Sherman: "I am to be vice president and acting as a messenger boy is not part of the duties."

## Out of the Past

### 125 Years Ago June 14, 1883

Butter and eggs went down with a vengeance in this village last Friday. It appears Albert Retzloff, a grocery keeper at Wolcottsburg, was en route to Buffalo driving horse attached to a spring wagon, the latter being loaded with 500 dozen eggs and 250 pounds of butter. Stopping in Deam's hotel shed to allow the beast to refresh, Mr. Retzloff repaired to the hotel. He was suddenly recalled by the noise of the horse backing out, and before he could reach the vehicle, the animal headed east on Main Street at a rapid rate. The wagon turned a complete somersault. For a space of twenty feet, the ground was literally covered with broken jars of butter and smashed eggs. Moral — always tie your horse.

The frequent and heavy rains of the past few weeks have made farmers very late with planting and other spring work.

Niagara Marble Works announces it no longer has any use for the windmill and derrick at the Youngs quarries, and will sell at a bargain. Inquire at 861 Main Street, Buffalo.

"A Chicago man insists he saw a red and black snake forty feet long, and as big around as a barrel of whiskey. We have no doubt that he did, but he unquestionably saw the barrel of whiskey before he saw the snake."

"Heavens! What a cow!" was the approving remark of a teetotal judge from Vermont, after swallowing a potent punch which had been offered to him as a plain glass of milk."

### 100 Years Ago June 11, 1908

The well-known brewery property at the corner of Main and Grove streets, which for some years past has been in the possession of Mr. J. Chalmers Sr., was sold recently to Mr. William Schellerman, a new resident. The deal, made by C.S. Burkhardt, includes the brewery and the building known as Calumet Hall.

A horse dealers convention will be held at Quinn's Hotel in Williamsville from July 25-27.

### 75 Years Ago June 15, 1933

Mrs. Elizabeth Menig appeared before the Town Board Monday night to make an urgent request that two buses be operated by the Buffalo Transit Co. at the busy hour of 5:30. Mrs. Menig uses the bus daily, and practically every evening she is obliged to stand all of the way home, an ordeal for her after a busy day.

The 1933 edition of the Searchlight, the year book of the Williamsville High School, comes off the press today and is available at 75 cents per copy. The book is dedicated to Miss Isabelle Wetherbee, instructor in French for the past five years.

Into the annals of time this week goes the passing of Mrs. Lucy Huver. Just as a candle burns itself out after giving its kindly light, so did her benignant, gracious days come to an end on June 12, 1933.

### 50 Years Ago June 12, 1958

Amherst Central Senior High School graduation exercises will be held on Friday evening, June 20, in the new gymnasium. The colonial facade of the Williamsville High School, with its white tower, will add to the impressiveness of this year's commencement program on the evening of June 20, for the exercises will be held for the first time in the courtyard in front of the school. Exercises for the Neumann Catholic High School will be in the school auditorium Sunday evening, June 22.

Two new parishes have been established in the Town of Amherst by the Most Rev. Joseph A. Burke, Bishop of the Buffalo Diocese. The Rev. Father Joseph L. Buchheit has been named pastor of the parish of St. Gregory the Great in East Amherst and the Rev. Father Joseph J. Weber has been assigned pastor of St. Pius X at Getzville.

**For Sale:** "SS. Peter & Paul school uniform with two Dacron blouses, size 8, \$6.50. SP 4670."

### 25 Years Ago June 8, 1983

Construction of a new Red Roof Inn will begin in July on the west side of the Flint Road extension and just north of the Marriott Inn.

Parishioners of Christ the King Church met at a brunch last Sunday to honor the 80th birthday of former pastor Monsignor John J. McMahan.