

 Meetings

Women business owners schedule speakers

The Buffalo Niagara Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners will host both Laurie Albertsson and Michelle Bonn, who will share their strategies for succeeding as women entrepreneurs, during a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, at the Fairdale Inn, 672 Wehrle Drive, Amherst. Albertsson is vice president of Fernwood Capital and Leasing, which leases equipment for businesses. Bonn is president of Expedient Trade LLC, an international buying and manufacturing services company. The deadline for reservations is 5 p.m. Friday, June 13, which can be made online at www.nawbowny.org or by phone with Jamie Jordan at 580-1135. The cost of the meeting is \$25 for members and \$30 for guests.

Partnership plans Movers and Shakers series

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership will hold the next Movers and Shakers series at 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 18, at the Partnership, 665 Main St., Suite 200, Buffalo. Featured at the open discussion will be Partnership President and CEO Andrew J. Rudnick, Principal William Collins of Travers Collins & Company, and Ron Smith, chair of the department of communication at Buffalo State College. They will address the local media's impact on the economy. There are only 25 spots available, and attendance is limited to Partnership members only. Register online at the events calendar page at www.thepartnership.org. The cost of the session is \$25, which includes breakfast.

Greenway Commission sets comment period

The Niagara River Greenway Commission has announced a public comment period for a third round of projects. From now through June 28, the public can post a comment pertaining to any of the commission's projects on the organization's Web site at www.niagaragreenway.org.

Jewish Center to renovate Benderson Family Building

As part of their growth strategy, members of the Jewish Community Center's Board of Directors approved a \$7 million project to renovate and improve programming at both the Holland Family Building in downtown Buffalo and then the Benderson Family Building in Getzville.

These renovations are a result of a successful year of restructuring. About one year ago, the Benderson Family Building was nearly closed. JCC members and community program participants, both Jewish and non-Jewish, rallied with an outpouring of support.

A task force led by Kevin Kulick, current president of the JCC Board of Directors, designed a three-year transition plan to lead the JCC toward a prosperous future. The plan is known as the "JCC Bridge Plan."

The Bridge Plan involves using community contributions and benefactor matching funds to help sustain operations and programs at the JCC while a long-term stability and growth plan was developed. Due to this strategy, the JCC's deficit this year was almost 50 percent

less than anticipated.

The community's support was also shown by increasing membership participation and program usage throughout the year.

Renovations will begin with the Holland Family Building. Modernizing the Buffalo location will allow for increased membership and revenues. This in turn will help support the more complex planning and redesign of the Benderson Family Building.

Both buildings will benefit from considerable increases in the size and amenities available in the fitness centers, including new cardio equipment: facilities dedicated to group fitness, Pilates, yoga and personal training; renovated and updated locker rooms; and opportunities for many new programs.

The Benderson Family Building will add a new, secure one-story JCC Early Childhood Center with its own entrance, drop-off zone, accessible parking, indoor play space and outdoor playground. Children will benefit from a Kids Place after-school program space, children's locker rooms and a new interactive

youth exercise and fitness area.

Other additions include: a women-only and senior-only fitness circuit; a new community lobby and meeting spaces designed for comfort and communal interaction; a new building entrance facing North Forest Road featuring a front-door drop-off zone and new, easy-access parking; enhanced green space for summer and year-round children's outdoor activities will be added. Building operations will have new, highly efficient mechanical systems that will replace the old, inefficient and expensive infrastructure, producing significant annual savings.

Informational open houses are scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, June 16, and 8 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 17, at Benderson Family Building, 2640 N. Forest Road.

More specific information about plans for the implementation of the JCC strategic plans will also be shared at the annual meeting of the JCC Board of Directors at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, at the Benderson Family Building.

Initiative seeks community input on health care system

The Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, in conjunction with The John R. Oishei Foundation, the P2 Collaborative of Western New York and the University at Buffalo Regional Institute, recently launched One Friday, Four Futures, an initiative that utilizes scenario planning to seek community input on what the region's health care system might look like in the future.

"Scenario planning is a dramatically new concept for our region as far as addressing a public policy issue because it offers the community an opportunity to look ahead and shape the system of the future through communitywide conversation and dialogue," said Ann F. Monroe, president of the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York.

"The conversations that will take place over the next several months are intended to gather community input so we can put forth recommendations for a health system that can meet the needs of diverse constituencies," she said.

One Friday, Four Futures is premised around four scenarios depicting what the health care system in the region may look like in the year 2018. The four

scenarios will be presented in audio format with trained facilitators leading a discussion for feedback and comments to the scenarios.

The objective of One Friday, Four Futures is to build a composite picture of what the users of the health system would like the system to deliver in the future. The information will be used to provide policy makers with recommendations regarding proposals to address the complex issues challenging the region's health care system, including costs and access to care.

"All of us are users of health care," Monroe said. "This initiative is structured to hear from as many users as possible about what they need and want from their health care system. Then, these many perspectives can be rolled up to create an accurate picture of the community's priorities."

Conversations will be hosted throughout Western New York by various entities, including church and civic groups, nonprofit organizations, neighborhood associations and block clubs. Any group or organization is welcome to host a One Friday, Four Futures community conversation by calling 829-3777 or by visiting online at www.rx4excellence.org.

 Business News

The Skimmersville Cemetery Association Inc. will hold its annual lot owners/trustee meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 16, in the White Chapel on the cemetery grounds, 490 Frontier Park, off John James Audubon Parkway near the University at Buffalo North Campus. All lot owners are welcome to attend and participate in the discussions for ongoing business the cemetery conducts. Call 472-7120.

The Amherst Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce and CITSLINC, is offering a tour of China in November. The tour runs from Nov. 8-16. A pretour orientation meeting will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. Wednesday, June 25, at the Chamber, 350 Essjay Road, Suite 200, in Williamsville. Reservations are appreciated. Call 632-6905. For information on the meeting or to obtain a tour packet, call the Chamber at the number listed above. To register for the trip, call the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce at (585) 343-7440.

Kathleen Peter of Williamsville has joined Waterford Village Bank as the assistant vice president of commercial loan administration. Prior to her position at Waterford Village Bank, Peter was the assistant vice president of commercial loan administration for the Greater Buffalo Savings Bank and has more than 17 years of experience, having also worked in loan administration for Fleet National Bank.

The Alliance Advisory Group Inc., located in Amherst, has announced that the following individuals have qualified for membership in the Million Dollar Round Table: John A. Cammarano, Samantha Clark, Stella L. Fey, James R. Fashano, Peter T. Godios, Bruce D. Hyman, Paul J. LaRou, Mark F. Majewski, Dwight C. Moldenhauer, Glen M. Van Derzee and Paul R. Vossler. The MDRT is an international, independent association of more than 35,000 members, or less than 1 percent, of the world's most successful life insurance and financial services professionals.

President of New Era Caps to speak at Chamber event

Peter Augustine, president of New Era Caps, will be the featured speaker at the Amherst Chamber of Commerce's Breakfast with the Best event at 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 18.

Breakfast with the Best will be held at the Amherst Chamber of Commerce, 350 Essjay Road, Suite 200.

Augustine began his career at New Era in 1990 where he served

as controller, chief financial officer and chief operating officer before becoming president.

He has spearheaded an internal program at New Era called "New Era YES!" The idea is to rethink the way the company does business and communicate with all of its internal and external customers.

Augustine serves as a board member for the Children's Hospital Foundation and is involved in

several other organizations in Buffalo.

Breakfast with the Best is a new series of speaker events being held by the Amherst Chamber. The June 18 event will be the kickoff to the quarterly speaker's series.

This event is available to Amherst Chamber members only. Reservations are required, as seating is limited. The cost is \$15 per person. Call 632-6905.

Chamber's Business After Hours to be held at Ramada

The Amherst Chamber of Commerce will hold its Business After Hours event from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, at the Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, 2402 N. Forest Road, Getzville.

Business After Hours is a monthly casual networking event sponsored by an Amherst Chamber member and hosted by a restaurant, bar, hotel or country club.

This event is sponsored by the Ramada Hotel &

Conference Center. It is free for Amherst Chamber members. Nonmembers may attend for a \$25 fee.

Reservations are required for both members and nonmembers. Members who do not register by noon Tuesday, June 17, will be charged a \$5 entry fee as a walk-in.

To register online, visit the Event Page on the Amherst Chamber Web site, www.amherst.org, or call the Chamber at 632-6905.