

Bee Editorial

Public comments make a difference in decision process

The Erie County Department of Public Works has nixed the roundabout concept for the Brighton/Eggert intersection in Tonawanda because of the negative response from the public.

The New York State Department of Transportation is also proposing alternatives for Niagara Falls Boulevard at Koenig and Ridge Lea roads. Now is the time to comment on the three alternatives proposed during the public hearing held June 11.

According to Susan Surdej, a public information officer for the DOT, the preferred reconfiguration proposal, also known as alternative nine, is the most extensive but best option for Route 62. The alternative would realign Ridge Lea Road, reconfiguring the exit and on-ramps to Interstate 290 on the east side of Niagara Falls Boulevard. The eastbound ramp from I-290 to Niagara Falls Boulevard would have

dual left-turn lanes from northbound U.S. Route 62 and one through-lane to Ridge Lea going eastbound. The new on-ramps would spur off the newly aligned Ridge Lea Road where the eastbound ramp is currently located. Another on-ramp to I-290 would be located farther up Niagara Falls Boulevard.

Some residents have already expressed concerns about the preferred alternative and mentioned circulating a petition in their neighborhood. However, one resident said when the concerns were raised during the public hearing, the DOT officials "shrugged their shoulders."

It's important to note that the public comments do in fact play a major role in the proposed plans submitted to the state. The same process was followed at the Brighton/Eggert intersection, and the residents saw results.

The same can happen for the residents near and around Ridge Lea and Koenig roads in the towns of Tonawanda and Amherst. Alternative nine is not the end-all be all.

There are still two other options being considered, including the installation of a signal at the I-290 eastbound exit ramp to Niagara Falls Boulevard south. Dual left-turn lanes could also be reconstructed on north and south Route 62, according to this alternative. The other option would eliminate left-turn lanes from Niagara Falls Boulevard to Ridge Lea and install dual left-turn lanes from Romney Road at Route 62, which would also include possibilities for left turns at the plaza across the street near Ridge Lea.

The only way to get results, though, is to speak up, by sending in written comments to the project manager. For more information, call Mark Castonguay at 874-3021.

Spindle items



DAVID F. SHERMAN

Managing Editor

• **SPECIAL AWARD** — The editorial staff of The Amherst Bee is honored to have received the 2008 New York State Theatre Education Association volunteer award. The presentation was made last week by Roger Paolini, president of the association and adviser to the

Williamsville South High School Drama Club.

"We wish to recognize the editors and reporters of The Amherst Bee for their consistent support of theatre in our schools by featuring our dramatic and

musical productions," he said. "We especially appreciate that the focus of these features is always the students, and focuses on their reactions to being a part of the educational theatre experience."

Bee Group Newspapers instituted a policy several years ago to publish a feature story on each high school musical being presented in the communities it covers. We believe the actors, musicians, stage crew and production staff deserve just as much credit in a community newspaper as do their classmates who make their mark in athletics, business clubs and academics.

• **GOOD GOLFERS** — Elmer "Mo" Scharmach scored a hole-in-one during play in the Amherst Senior Golf League on June 6. Scharmach used a 6-iron on the par-3 ninth hole of 135 yards at Amherst Oakwood Golf Course. John Maddock notched a hole-in-one on June 12 at Audubon's third hole. Maddock used a 5-iron on the 166-yard hole.

• **RECOGNITION** — Donna Hoelscher Suchan recently received the 2008 St. Thomas More Award from the St. Thomas More Guild, a group of Catholic lawyers in the Diocese of Buffalo. A member of St. Gregory the Great Parish, she handles commercial real estate transactions and telecom leasing issues for Phillips Lytle, LLP. Suchan has served on the board of trustees of Mount St. Mary Academy and on the finance council of St. Greg's.

Also honored were scholarship winners Emily Gibson and Elizabeth Ogorek.

• **HIGH NOTE** — Mark Danni, a member of the Williamsville South High School class of 1984, has followed an impressive path in the world of music and the performing arts. He chose to attend Baldwin-Wallace College in order to work with faculty and in an undergraduate-only Conservatory of Music. Danni's thought was to have a greater chance to

conduct without having to compete with more experienced graduate students. The plan worked well. He became a substitute conductor with the Baldwin-Wallace Symphony Orchestra and was later asked to be assistant music director of the college's opera and musical. Danni served as rehearsal conductor of "The Threepenny Opera" while his mentor, Stuart Raleigh, played piano in the pit. He stayed in the area year-round, assisting with the Berea Summer Theater and the Great Lakes Theater Festival.

After working as a substitute percussionist on Broadway, he decided to try his hand at stage directing for high schools close to New York City. That led Danni to appointment as director of performing arts at the Community School of Naples where he established TheatreZone, a professional regional theatre company. Danni credits the personalized instruction from professionals on staff at Baldwin-Wallace for allowing him to be a conductor as an undergrad.

Out of the Past

125 Years Ago June 21, 1883

The line dividing the City of Buffalo from the Town of Amherst runs through the farm at the Erie County almshouse. A horse coming out of the barn would be in the city before the carriage got out of the town.

Mr. Marshall Campbell has entered into proprietorship of the Williamsville flour and feed store, having purchased the same of Mr. George Cox, who is going west. Mr. Campbell is an industrious and accommodating gentleman, who will do his best to please customers.

The celebrated Hazelton piano is advertised by F. Knoll, 78 East Seneca Street, Buffalo. Sold on the installment plan.

"We have been asked why we do not publish Peck's 'bad boy' articles. We think these articles are dangerous reading. The Bee politely declines to aid in the manufacture of so undesirable an acquisition. Parents will only have themselves to blame if their boys develop early habits of impudence and rowdiness as a result of reading these articles. We are glad to see any journalist prosper, but not at the expense of the morals and manners of the youth of the country."

"It is the little bits of things that fret and worry us. We can dodge an elephant but can't a fly."

"Said a student of one college to a friend who was attending a rival institution, 'Your college never turns out gentlemen.' He replied, 'No, our college allows gentlemen to go right on and graduate.'"

100 Years Ago June 18, 1908

The village fathers have ordered a quantity of hose which will be used to lay the dust on the principle streets, particularly Main Street, which has become a great nuisance since so many automobiles use it.

About 28 boys and girls will make their First Communion on June 20 at SS. Peter and Paul Church.

75 Years Ago June 22, 1933

The Heim confectionery store at Main and South Cayuga streets, operated for the last 15 years, by Mr. and Mrs. George E. Heim, was sold the first of the week to Mrs. F.M. Hoehn of Buffalo.

Arrested on June 7 on a burglary charge, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Helmer, who gave their address as Detroit, were brought to trial this week. Both were accused of taking house furnishings from a home on Koster Row while the occupants were away.

The Gordon Branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Snyder had its annual election of officers last Thursday at the home of Mrs. James B. Dillingham. Mrs. Wm. H. Johnston was elected president.

Williamsville will play the National Biscuit team tonight on the Long Street diamond. Terhaar or Wolf will probably start the game.

50 Years Ago June 19, 1958

Glenn Ungerer of Amherst Central High School will be made a fellow of the Science Teachers Association of New York State at its annual banquet at Oneonta.

Ground-breaking ceremonies for Williamsville Central's new junior high school on the east side of Mill Street were held Wednesday morning.

Official films of missile firings at Cape Canaveral will be presented June 19 at Williamsville High School. "The Challenge of Outer Space," a film with Werner Von Braun, will be shown.

Arthur C. Wind is closing his barbershop at 5588 Main Street at Furnace Street in Herman Building. He and Mrs. Wind are moving to Florida.

25 Years Ago June 15, 1983

A meeting was held yesterday afternoon at Town Hall to discuss measures needed to correct problems caused by the failure of a bridge over Ransom Creek on Tonawanda Creek Road between Campbell Boulevard and Hopkins Road.

Richard A. Siggelkow, vice president of student affairs at the University at Buffalo, will resign this summer to return to teaching.

UB shortstop Paul Daddario signed a professional contract with the Atlanta Braves last week after being picked by the club in the 19th round.