



Buffalo Rocket

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Cherry Blossom Festival



Members of the Buffalo Cherry Blossom Festival Committee from L-R: Trudy Stern, Abi Echevarria, Paula Hinz, Atsuko Nishida-Mitchell

Garden located behind The Buffalo History Museum. The festival runs now through May 4th and most events take place in or around the Buffalo History Museum.

The twelve days of celebration began on Wednesday, April 23rd with a Tea Ceremony by Buffalo's own Tea Ceremony Teacher, Atsuko Nishida-Mitchell in the auditorium of The Buffalo History Museum.

Japanese Tea Ceremony requires many years of study and is an opportunity to experience a special part of the culture of Japan. The Tea Ceremony hostess prepares a bowl of tea with choreographed aesthetics and her guest in mind. English interpretation of the ceremony is provided.

Cherry blossoms, or
(Continued on page 7)

Buffalo will awaken from its annual winter slumber to kick-off spring with Cherry Blossoms.

This year marks the first year of the Annual Buffalo Cherry Blossom Festival at the Japanese

Swim Program Offered

Calling all 12-15 year olds in Erie County!

Willie Hutch Jones Educational & Sports Programs and West Side Rowing Club are collaborating and making the ultimate show of teamwork in the creation of a free Philanthropic Spring Swim Program, offering swimming lessons.

This swimming program will be open to males and females, ages 12-15. Now through June 17th lessons will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the City Honors School indoor pool. Two sessions each day will be

offered from 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm or 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm,



Free swimming lessons are available at City Honors indoor pool for local youth

with a maximum of twenty swimmers per session. Certified swim instructors and lifeguards will oversee the program, ensuring a fun experience in a safe environment for each and every young participant.

"We are so excited to be

able to offer our youth of Buffalo and Erie County a free opportunity to learn to swim," said Barbara Johnson, Director of Recruiting and Fundraising at West Side Rowing Club.

"Buffalo is a waterfront city, and this program will not only ensure kids' safety in watersports, but will also prepare them for active and healthy lifestyles in all water sports, including swimming, boating, and rowing!"

This Philanthropic Swim Program Initiative
(Continued on page 6)



This year's annual North Buffalo Spring Cleanup is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 26th from 8:30 am to 12 pm.

Those interested in participating are asked to arrive promptly at 8:30 am in front of Saint Margaret's for registration and team assignment. All volunteers will receive a free t-shirt. Light snacks, coffee, and water will be provided, and volunteers will depart for their assigned sites at 9 am sharp.

Between 9 am and 12 pm volunteers will be sprucing up their assigned sections of Hertel Avenue and the surrounding community by picking up litter,

sweeping sidewalks and along the curbs, weeding and mulching tree beds, and anything else needed to improve the area.

Gloves and bags will be provided, but brooms and shovels will be limited; therefore volunteers are encouraged to bring any tools they may have to help with the cleanup.

After the cleanup, pizza and soft drinks for volunteers will be available at Gecko's, courtesy of the Hertel-North Buffalo Business Association.

Any questions, comments or concerns about the cleanup can be directed to info@northbuffalo.org or through Facebook or Twitter.

A Sure Sign of Spring



Hanna's Frosty Treats on the corner of Colvin Avenue and Taunton Place in North Buffalo is now open for the 2014 season.

Heather Morris, of North Buffalo, is excited to be working at Hanna's and will greet each customer with her cheery smile.

Local Weather

THURSDAY, APRIL 24	FRIDAY, APRIL 25	SATURDAY, APRIL 26	SUNDAY, APRIL 27	MONDAY, APRIL 28	TUESDAY, APRIL 29	WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30
Sunny High 54° Low 39°	Showers High 59° Low 39°	Few Showers High 54° Low 33°	Few Showers High 50° Low 36°	Few Showers High 51° Low 38°	Showers High 55° Low 44°	Showers High 57° Low 42°

The Adventures of...

Rocket Man

by Doug Smith



Shaw's Spring Training

Summer theaters have spring training, too, and the Shaw Festival just threw out its first pitch.

It's called a preview and just like in the Grapefruit League, the scores don't count. Critics have to pose as civilians and there's even more intermingling of fans and players, such as Norman Browning retrieving groceries at Valu-Mart before suiting up as Major Paul.

And it's interactive. Audience response helps guide directors and other staff. "Arms & the Man" costumier Charlotte Dean sat right alongside in the front row of the Royal George balcony, studiously inputting observations. Imagine First Mate's glee when one of the world's

finest designers turned and said, "my, you two certainly look nice together." That's another thing. Good seats are consistently available, at fetching rates.

Reviews at this stage are strictly forbidden, so one may not report that "Arms" was absolutely charming (though it was) or that director Morris Panych brought it home in less than two hours.

Or could have, anyway. At intermission stagehands scurried about with flashlights as if searching for Flight 370. At last Director Panych himself appeared, apologizing that a technical glitch was impeding the rotation. "If we can't get it turned, we'll just play without it,"

he promised.

Five minutes later the contraption took its cue, to the biggest applause of the day. It was amusing to think that a week earlier, Niagara Regional Theater Guild, with a set budget of \$10 US, had spun its own "Damn Yankees" set without so much as a darn. Every "Arms" attendee came out smiling into an April shower. Spring was here and so was sustenance. At this time of year, the restaurants are so quiet that the maître d's have their hands in their own pockets.

Jackie Maxwell, Festival artistic director since 2003, has begun what a pro athlete might call a victory lap, moving on after a tenure typical for the trade. She's on the committee to seek her successor. In her 11 years the Festival has broadened its horizons and thrived, despite a declining economy and tighter security at international borders. Last year's resplendent

"Guys & Dolls" held over to mid-November.

"Cabaret" goes into previews at the Festival's large theater this afternoon (2 p.m., still available). Then come "The Charity That Began at Home" in the Court House where the festival was born in 1963, and "When We Are Married" in the Royal George May 7.

Later openings include works by Tennessee Williams, Sean O'Casey, the charming "Philadelphia Story" (precursor to "High Society") and the monumental "The Mountaintop," focusing on the late Dr. Martin Luther King. Hundreds of thousands of walkers, gawkers, hawkers and lovers of life, extravagant theater will test the town until at least Oct. 26.

For now, though, the Shaw Festival is at its laid-back finest, not always flawless, but always fun.

Fire back to Rocket Man via pollyndoug@hotmail.com

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The Grapevine

8th Annual Prescription Drug Take-Back Day This Saturday - Unused & Unwanted Drugs Can Be Surrendered on April 26th between 10 am – 2 pm at Buffalo State College 1300 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo.

The Erie County Department of Health (“EC-DOH”) strongly encourages all residents to take advantage of the opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted drugs at this event.

“This is a convenient way to ensure that unused drugs do not fall into the wrong hands” said Erie County Health Commissioner Dr. Gale Burstein.

“Unused medications in a home are a public health and safety concern. They can be accidentally ingested if mistaken for another drug, misused or abused by other fam-

ily members or visitors to your house and even make your home a target for theft. Burstein concluded: “It is important to note that this service is free and anonymous and no questions will be asked. We also want to thank all of our law enforcement partners for their cooperation in administering and staffing the drop-off locations. Their assistance is invaluable in helping to properly dispose of these potentially harmful drugs.” Only pills and other solids, like patches, can be brought to the collection sites--liquids and needles or other sharps will not be accepted. For more information: Erie County Department of Health – [http://www2.erie.gov/health/Drug Enforcement Administration](http://www2.erie.gov/health/Drug%20EnforcementAdministration) – www.dea.gov.

The Niagara Fron-

tier Watercolor Society announces its May meeting and artist demonstration, Thursday, May 15th at 7 pm at the Burchfield Penney Art Center, 1300 Elmwood Avenue in Buffalo, NY. The featured artist demonstrator will be our May Workshop Artist, Internationally renowned John Salminen. Visitors are invited to hear about watercolor classes and upcoming events, watch the demo, and enjoy refreshments with a group of enthusiastic fellow artists and art lovers. For more information about NFWS, check out our website, www.nfws.org.

The Arbor Day Foundation is offering a handy tree-care booklet designed to help people plant and care for trees. Anyone can receive Conservation Trees, a user-friendly booklet featuring illustrations, colorful photos and easily-understood descriptions, by making a \$3 donation to the Foundation this month.

“Conservation Trees is

an ideal resource for tree planters,” said John Rose-now, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation.

“Taking care of existing trees is just as critical as planting new ones, and proper care ensures communities are able to fully enjoy the diverse benefits of urban forestry.”

The booklet provides details about the right way to plant and prune trees. It also includes tips on using shade trees and windbreaks to save on energy costs, attract song-birds and create a living snow fence.

To receive the Conservation Trees booklet, send a \$3 check along with your name and address to: Conservation Trees, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, or order online at arborday.org/conservationtrees.



Buffalo State Jazz Ensemble, Performing Arts Center at Rockwell Hall on May 1st, 2014 at 7:30 pm. The Buffalo State Jazz Ensemble will perform under the direction of Dr. Rick Fleming. The concert is free, everyone is welcome to attend. For more details call (716) 878-3005.

Dr. Angela Minnici, the director of the American Institutes for Research, Center on Great Teachers and Leaders, will speak at SUCNY Buffalo State on May 2nd on national trends and best practices central to teacher evaluation. She will deliver the lecture, “Teacher Evaluation: Where We Stand and Where We Need to Go,” at 3:30 p.m. in Rockwell Hall, Room 204. Participants will be invited to engage in an interactive discussion focusing on teacher evaluation in New York State. This Year of the Teacher event is free. Participants are asked to register online in advance.



Dear Friend of the Buffalo Public Schools,

As you may have heard, I have decided to run for Buffalo Board of Education. With a relatively new superintendent and three open board seats, we have an opportunity to move forward with a new leadership team. There are 14 candidates, including two incumbents, running for three board seats. I ask for your support and your vote in the upcoming May 6th elections. If elected, I bring nine years’ experience as a Board Member representing the West District including two consecutive years as President.

I bring expertise and experience that will help the board navigate the vital issues it will face over the next five years—developing a strategic plan and addressing enrollment growth, to name just two. In all of my professional work for the Buffalo Public Schools, I have collaborated with parents, teachers and administrators. I have stood in the middle among differing perspectives, listened to discover the shared values, and in response created new initiatives and supported existing ones. As a school board member, I will continue to bring that same sense of balance. I believe I have a better vision on how we move forward and the most experience candidate in the race.

In short, I will be guided by the following principles:

- Laser-sharp efforts—focus our resources to support best practices
- Inclusiveness—ensure educational opportunities for every student
- Teamwork—collaborate with my colleagues on the Board, district administration, parents, teachers, and the community

By working together, we can continue to improve the quality of education in our public schools. I would appreciate your vote during the May 6 school board elections.

With many thanks,
Ralph

Ralph’s pledge on the Board

Academic Excellence and inclusion: With the support of my colleagues and the Superintendent, craft a strategic plan with measurable, achievable benchmarks that ensure intellectually rigorous opportunities appropriate for every student.

Get the most out of our resources: Fiscal responsibility is not just about spending less; it’s about getting more. We have to promote innovation, identify best practices already in place, and spread both throughout the district.


Include the Community: The Board’s critical upcoming decisions-Superintendent’s contract, charter schools and its response to growth-must reflect the views of the community.

Comprehensive Planning: Create a plan to meet our current pressing enrollment growth and facilities needs that reflects a long-term, comprehensive vision for our schools.

Vote for Ralph Hernandez on Tuesday, May 6th

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Councilman Mike LoCurto and The First Amendment Club Endorse Attorney John Licata!

School Board Election in Less Than 2 Weeks!

By John Duke



On Tuesday, May 6th 2014, the City of Buffalo will be holding elections for its 3 At-Large Seats on the School Board. There is no primary because party affiliation does not count or matter. You get to select 3 members who will make decisions for school children and their families for the next 5 years. The voting will determine whether the School Board remains dysfunctional or corrects its present course. It is a very important election and your vote will determine its outcome. That's why so many concerned citizens urge you to **cast one of your 3 votes for John Licata.**

In addition to those mentioned above, Licata has support from various current and former elected officials from throughout the city, including former Erie County legislator Gregory Olma, from the East Side; Assemblyman Mickey Kearns, from South Buffalo; Council Member Joe Golombek, from the North District; and former School Board member Louis J. Petrucci, from South Buffalo.

There's good reasons for you to be concerned and that's a good reason for you to get out and vote!

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Jacobs Advises of Expected Mortgage Tax Revenue

Erie County Clerk Chris Jacobs announced local governments will soon receive their share of the Erie County Mortgage Tax collections based off of real estate transactions recorded in the Clerk's Office. The total to be distributed on May 15th is \$6,916,558.09 and covers the six month period October 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014.

In a letter sent to Mayor Byron Brown, County Clerk Jacobs informed him that the City of Buffalo will be receiving approximately \$1,076,238.68 in their mortgage tax distribution.

"Mortgage tax distributions are a major source of revenue for many of the County's cities, towns and villages," stated Jacobs. "I believe it is essential to provide the municipalities this financial information immediately to better assist them in their budgetary and cash flow planning."

Jacobs noted that since taking office he has made it

a priority to review internal processes and procedures to identify efficiencies and improve work flow. As a result, working with the Comptroller's Office, County Clerk Jacobs will be able to deliver these monies to localities a full month earlier than in the past.

"Municipalities continue to tighten their belts in order to stay within their own budgets, and we are keenly aware that even one month can make a difference in cash flow planning for municipal governments," added Jacobs.

Mortgage tax is collected by the County Clerk's Office in accordance with specific State laws. Twice a year, the County distributes mortgage tax receipts to the three cities, 25 towns and 16 villages located in Erie County. Distributions are determined by the amount of total mortgages entered into for each municipality during the applicable period.

BUFFALO TRIVIA

How well do you know Buffalo?

by Joe Bortz

A rose by any other name would still smell as sweet. Shakespeare, or something like that. Ever wonder how they come up with the names of streets? Kenmore is, I believe, one square mile of real estate. Rather small, one would say. How did they come up with these names?

- 1) (This one's easy) Four streets named after presidents
-
- 2) Sheep tender
-
- 3) Forest in France
-
- 4) She has a secret
-
- 5) Sex doctor
-
- 6) In the Bahamas
-
- 7) Haven't been sick for awhile
-
- 8) Former morning paper
-
- 9) Golfer Arnold
-
- 10) Explorer, Waterfront Park
-

What is used here is writer's privilege, which means the information does not need to be accurate. Like the former example in North Buffalo - Gaining weight? Answer: Sagamore Terrace. Are you kidding me? Now, if you can get all the names of the Kenmore streets correctly without looking at a map, you are truly a Kenmoron. If you have to get out the map or look on the computer, you are just like the rest of us. -JB

Last weeks answers: 1) School of hard - Knox; 2) Long gaze - Starin; 3) Famous in the Fall - Harvest; 4) Needed this winter - Sanders; 5) Building downtown - Rand; 6) Between male and female - Middlesex; 7) President - Taft; 8) Lucky gambler - Winston; 9) European home - Villa; 10) Morgan - Fairchild

Check next week's ROCKET for the answers.

John B. Licata, Member-at-Large Buffalo City School District

Buffalonian, lifelong resident who attended Buffalo Public Schools and graduated from SUNY Buffalo School of Law.

Married father with four children who attend Buffalo Public Schools

I hope to represent Buffalonians for another five years, and this is my plan:

The Buffalo City School District (BCSD) needs to have leadership that will keep parents informed, work with the community, and include education partners in planning. I will provide and support that leadership.

We need to improve education by having lower class sizes so teachers can provide needed individual attention to students.

I helped create the Medical Campus School to get Buffalo children on the medical campus for career training across all pathways of employment on the campus: doctors, nurses, technicians, industrial and power-plant services, patient support services.

My vision for BCSD includes developing a renewable energy school in the Riverbend Project in South Buffalo so Buffalo children can learn to design, create, manufacture, install, and maintain renewable energy systems.

Bennet High School should be changed into a 7-12 program for developing business skills, paralegal programs, and personal financial skills among students.

By making Kindergarten mandatory we can put our children on a solid educational footing to improve their education careers and studies by limiting the number of students who need remedial programs to catch up in later years.

The BCSD has been educating children since 1838. It is well beyond the time we should have mastered the duty of providing a quality education. Our planning needs to reflect the ongoing responsibility to educate the children of Buffalo to prepare them for a life of learning and exploring the reach of their talents and ambition.



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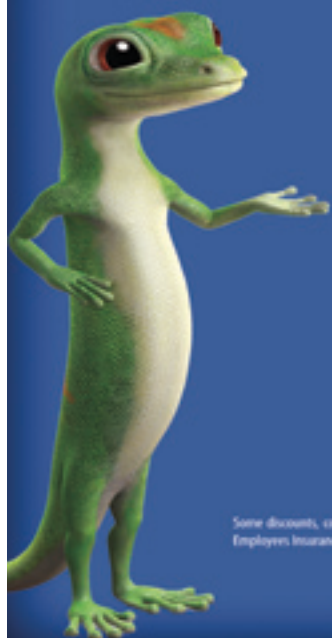
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Swim Lessons

(continued from page 1)

is designed to help introduce area youth to water sports, by offering Buffalo Public School youth the opportunity to receive their swim test certification. A swim test certification is often required for many area water sports.

West Side Rowing Club and Willie Hutch Jones (WHJSP) are long-time collaborators in serving the youth of Western New York. Each summer, up to 20 WHJSC participants are funded through grants to attend the West Side Rowing Club Summer Crew Camp. The Summer Crew Camp provides hands-on introduction to the sport of rowing for kids between the ages

of 12 and 15. The Camp is held in two three-week sessions, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon. Session I will be held July 7-25th; Session II will be held July 28-August 15th.

For more information on the Free Swimming Program or to register, contact Talisa King at 716-715-4980.

For more information on Summer Crew Camp or West Side Rowing Club, visit the website at WSRC.ORG or call 716-881-9797.

For more information on Willie Hutch Jones Summer Educational and Sports Clinics, visit the website at <http://www.whjsc.org>, or call 716-715-4980.



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This week's featured friend:

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Blossoms

(continued from page 1)

Sakura in Japanese, are celebrated for their ephemeral beauty. Due to the brief life of the blossoms, one must put aside all other plans and make the viewing of the blossoms a priority. This reminds us to value our own short life. These blossoms signify the start of spring. In Japan it is common to participate in a “hanami” or a flower viewing by sitting under the cherry blossoms with friends to appreciate nature.

The Festival wraps up on Sunday, May 4th. Navigate your way around Delaware Park with The

Cherry Blossom Challenge Orienteering Event that starts at 11 am in front of The History Museum. Cherry Blossom Family Day at The History Museum will include Japanese and Burmese Dancers at 1:30 and 2:30 respectively, a family friendly Tea Ceremony in the orchard at 2pm, Origami, Cherry Tree Planting, and a creative pink and white parade beginning at 3pm in the parking lot of The Buffalo History Museum. Everyone is invited to join in the parade.

A complete schedule of events can be found at www.buffalocherryblossomfestival.com

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTONOFF

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below

1. Mother is missing 2. Buttons are missing 3. Duff is missing 4. Umbrella is different 5. Car body is different 6. Puddle is smaller

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The Blotter Felonies

From "D" District

North Buffalo

April 7, 2014

Hertel Ave. – Complainant reports that while out of town, unknown person (s) gained entry to residence, by unknown means, and ripped the plaster off of walls to remove copper piping. Removal of pipes caused flooding in basement and the water did freeze causing damage. Total amount of damage is still undetermined.

April 8, 2014

Linden Ave. – Victim reports walking down the street when he was approached from behind and

hit in the head. Suspects took wallet and phone from victim.

April 10, 2014

Nottingham Ter. – Complainant reports that unknown person (s) gained entry to his vehicle by breaking the passenger window. Once inside, taken was a wallet, containing credit cards and cash.

April 10, 2014

Parkside Ave. – Complainant reports that unknown person(s) gained entry into his home by unknown means. Taken without permission, cash and jewelry.

April 12, 2014

Great Arrow – Complainant reports that unknown person (s) gained entry into his vehicle by breaking window. Once inside, taken without permission were two suitcases and a laptop computer, valued over \$5,000.

April 13, 2014

Ramsdell Ave. – Complainant reports that while attempting to purchase marijuana, she got into a car with an unknown male and female. Once inside, the male pulled out a gun and asked if she had a phone or anything on her.

West Side

April 3, 2014

Auburn Ave. – Complainant reports that his vehicle was broken into by unknown person (s). Taken

without permission was a GPS and laptop computer valued at over \$1,500.

April 3, 2014

Grant St. / Ferguson Ave. – While investigating a call of drug transactions officers observed hand to hand transaction and found defendant to be in possession of five bags of heroin and hypodermic needles.

April 9, 2014

Breckenridge St. – Complainant reports that after having a party in her home that her purse was missing. There were invited guests and some people the complainant did not know. Purse contained food stamps and other personal papers.

April 9, 2014

Baynes Ave. – Officers responded to investigate ongoing neighbor complaints of drug deals and witnesses hand to hand transactions. Defendant was in possession of 30 dime bags of marijuana.

April 13, 2014

Harvard Pl. – Complainant reports that unknown person (s) gained entry to the residence and took without permission, the copper piping. Damages to residence are at an undetermined amount at this point.

Riverside

April 8, 2014

Tonawanda St. – Victim reports that four males approached him asking to buy marijuana. When the victim said no, they struck him in the head.

April 9, 2014

Ontario St. – Complainant reports for convenience store that he manages that black male entered store and took 15 cans of energy drink and passed all points of purchase without paying.

Tonawanda St. – Complainant reported to 911 that she was being beaten by her boyfriend. When officers arrived on scene she denied placing the call. After officers verified with 911 about the call, complainant/defendant admitted she lied about it.

April 11, 2014

Gorton St. – Officers observed a red car weaving and driving to the far left. Upon initiating a traffic stop, defendant failed all field sobriety tests.

April 14, 2014

Holmes St. – Complainant reports that while he was out of town, unknown person(s) gained access to the residence via the side door. Taken was a laptop computer, wedding ring and engagement ring.

New Police Vehicles Hit the Streets

Mayor Byron Brown, Police Commissioner Daniel Derenda, along with members of the Buffalo Police Department rolled out the new black and white Chevrolet Tahoe police vehicles. 12 of the 49 new vehicles hit the streets this week.

"Public Safety continues to be a top priority in Buffalo, and these newly designed black and white Police vehicles are just another way we are improving the safety of our neighborhoods through increased visibility," said Mayor Brown.

The Tahoe two wheel drive police pursuit vehicle (PPV) provide a combination of utility, safety, performance, and a low

life-cycle cost. This vehicle is built to be versatile for a range of tasks. The new design follows the nationwide trend of going back to the traditional black and white color design for local law enforcement.

"I believe that with these new state of the art vehicles we will see an increase in public safety," said Police Commissioner Derenda. "These new vehicles are just the start of the process of replacing our current fleet."

There is currently no plan to change the existing fleet to black and white. As the new Tahoes arrive, the oldest and/or most worn marked vehicles in the fleet will be retired.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 United nations

5 Hat (Prof.)

9 TV personality (Abbrev.)

12 Pearl

13 Former makes

14 Caric lead in

15 Honesty of purpose

17 Changed oil

18 Sweden rush of wind

19 Glossy alternative

21 Earth tone

24 Apiece

25 Hammer's target

26 As one

30 Web address

31 Melodist

32 Anger

33 Individuality

36 Error

38 Very dry, as champagne

37 Cock and bull

38 Figure of speech

40 Suitor

42 — canto

43 Nightstick

48 Ailing

49 Love god

DOWN

2 Cranberry territory

7 Faces of Dr. —

3 Discoverer's cry

4 Bat

5 Vast areas

6 Way out

7 Encountered

8 "Moby-Dick" narrator

9 Popular country singer

10 Coagulate

11 Walking stick

16 Bear hair

20 Performance

21 Burden

22 Give a darn

23 Backwoods dweller

24 "Zounds!"

26 Hit the horn

27 Yoko of music

28 Great Lake

29 Agents for school

31 Hitched a ride

34 To and —

35 Pasta toppings

37 Has permission

38 Sacred Egyptian bird

39 Farmer's home?

40 Rorschach picture

41 Differently

44 401(k) alternative

45 Fond du — Wis.

46 GB member

47 Foundation

Solution on Page 11

Armed Forces Tribute Day

The Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Military Park and the Buffalo Bisons have teamed up to raise money for the re-decking of the USS Little Rock, the nation's only guided missile cruiser open to the public, docked at the Naval Park at Canalside.

Fifty percent of special advance ticket sale proceeds for the Bisons' Saturday, May 17th game against the Lehigh Ironpigs will benefit the Naval Park, helping defray the cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars in critical repairs needed on the USS Little Rock.

For a discount advance-only ticket price of just \$10, baseball fans can enjoy an afternoon Bisons game starting at 4:05 pm, and a pre-game ceremony celebrating all branches of our Armed Services starting at 3:30 pm. Contact Talisa King at 716-715-4980.

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RE-ELECT

DR. BARBARA NEVERGOLD

BUFFALO SCHOOL BOARD





PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST AND FOREMOST

Buffalo's public schools are making progress and School Board Member Dr. Barbara Nevergold is part of the reason. As President of the Board, Dr. Nevergold helped spur an increase in graduation and attendance rates, all while overseeing a decrease in total suspensions. She is committed to continuing the progress we've made.

DR. BARBARA NEVERGOLD'S PLAN FOR OUR SCHOOLS

- ✓ Achieve Fiscal Stability
- ✓ Engage Parents and Stakeholders
- ✓ Expand Universal Pre-K
- ✓ Increase Innovative Programs for English Language Learners

VOTE

MAY 6TH

DR. BARBARA NEVERGOLD

BUFFALO SCHOOL BOARD

How to Stain Your Wood Deck

With the long-awaited arrival of spring, it's high time to ready your wooden deck for the summer fun ahead. Tackling the project sooner rather than later is smart for a couple of reasons.

"Not only is it more comfortable to work in springtime temperatures, but deck stain forms the most durable, long-lasting finish in mild weather," says Debbie Zimmer, paint and color expert at the Paint Quality Institute. "So, there's little sense in delaying this project."

Begin by assessing the condition of your deck to make sure it's structurally sound. If you see any rotting or damaged boards, carefully replace them before doing anything else.

Next, remove any loose paint or stain either by scraping and sanding the surface, or by treating it with a commercial deck

conditioner, then power washing the entire deck with plain water. If you are changing the color of your deck, be sure to remove all of the old coating.

With the prep work finished, the fun begins as you plan the color and appearance of your deck. This is where you need to know a few basic facts about deck stain.

For starters, deck coatings are available in solvent-based and water-based (latex) formulations; however, the latter offer some big advantages. Water-based stains dry more quickly, are relatively odor-free, and offer simple cleanup with plain soap and water. Most importantly, these stains have better resistance to weathering. Both types of stain are available as clear finishes and in an array of attractive colors.

If you are thinking about applying a clear fin-



Be sure to choose a top quality coating and the right tools for your wood deck staining project.

ish to show off the natural appearance of the wood on your deck, be aware that these coatings offer very limited protection from the sun's UV rays – so little, in fact, that you will likely have to reapply your coating every year.

For longer-lasting protection, consider applying a pigmented stain. They come in two types: "semi-transparent" stains, which help protect

the wood without hiding its grain or texture; and more heavily pigmented "solid-color" stains, which show the texture, but not the grain. Semi-transparent stains typically need to be reapplied every 18 months or so, while solid-color stains can last three to five years.

Regardless of the type of stain you prefer, it's extremely important that you choose a top quality coating. That's because a deck stain is subject to enormous stress. Not only is it exposed to all types of weather – from strong sunlight to standing water, snow and ice – but it also must endure physical abuse from foot traffic, as well as abrasion from patio furniture, planters and playthings.

So, how can you spot a high quality deck stain? According to Zimmer, you should zero in on a water-based stain made with 100% acrylic. "Top quality

100% acrylic latex water-based stains are extremely tough and durable. Many of these coatings even contain special ingredients that help prevent mildew from forming, so they are a great option for any deck."

You can apply your deck stain with spray equipment, a long-handled roller, or with a brush. However, if you use a roller or sprayer, you should "back brush" while the stain is still wet – going back in and brushing the stain – to help it penetrate the wood. When applying 100% acrylic latex stain, allow it to dry several hours and apply a second coat to get the best protection for your deck. Of course, always follow the directions on the can label. Whatever type of stain you use, don't delay. We're in peak season for deck staining!

For more information on deck stains, visit blog.paintquality.com.

-School Board Elections are Tuesday, May 6th- Vote for Change. Vote for Leadership.

LARRY QUINN

for School Board
transparency | accountability | change

Change

Buffalo spends \$27,000 per student: more than the tuition at any private school. Yet 80% of Buffalo Public Schools are failing schools. We need a complete makeover. How?

Parent Choice

Parents have the right to send their children to schools that are succeeding, not failing. We need to promote community based schools where parents have a say in how their schools are operated.

New School Board

The status quo has created generations of failure. We need new leaders on the school board to replace the current members. We also need to give the Parent's Council a seat at the table.

Accountability

Parents and children have a right to information. We have to end secret hires, secret budget details and political sleight of hand. The Board's actions have to be fully transparent.

www.quinnforschoolboard.com

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First Niagara.....	201 Amherst Street
M&T Bank.....	788 Tonawanda Street
Nickel City Bottle Return.....	2209 Niagara Street
Northwest Buffalo Community Ctr.....	155 Lawn Avenue
Riverside Cafe.....	Tonawanda Street
Riverside Marketplace.....	740 Tonawanda Street
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