

Onorato Building on agenda

By DAVID L. SHAW
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GENEVA — The new owner of the Onorato Building at 177 Exchange St. has tentative plans to convert all three stories into apartments.

Joseph Prestigiaco of Rochester bought the vacant building from Stephen D'Ana of Victor several months ago. Geneva architect Dan Long will update the city Planning Board on Prestigiaco's plans and site improvements for the building at its meeting Tuesday.

No Planning Board action is required as yet.

The property is in a B-2 zone, meaning first-floor apartments are prohibited. In order for Prestigiaco's plans to become reality, the city Zoning Board of Appeals will need to grant him a variance.

Also on Tuesday's agenda:

- Planners will conduct site-plan and architectural reviews related to AT&T's desire to install a cell-phone tower behind city-owned McDonough Park on Lyceum Street.

- The board will review changes to the Traditional Urban Design D guidelines on sandwich boards proposed by City Manager Matt Horn and city staffers. A Planning Board review and recommendations are necessary before City Council can act on the changes.

If you go ...

What: City of Geneva Planning Board meeting

When: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday

Where: Public Safety Building, 255 Exchange St.

Horn will discuss the changes.

- An architectural review for an exterior elevator proposed for the west side of 68 Castle St. downtown will be discussed.

The Centennial Building, as it's called, is owned by David Bunnell. Bunnell wants the elevator to serve upper-floor businesses and apartments.

Earlier, Bunnell had proposed a car port off Castle Street on the west side of the building as part of the elevator project. Those plans have been shelved temporarily.

- Andrew and Rossana Shanklin, who want to convert their duplex home at 41-43 N. Main St. into an owner-occupied bed-and-breakfast, will make a presentation.

The Planning Board will conduct public hearings on each proposal.

Copies of each application are available for public inspection at the Engineering Office on the third floor of City Hall, 47 Castle St., between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Brutal, yet beautiful



Spencer Tulis / Finger Lakes Times

The recent frosty weather left a crystal-like image on a window of a vacant building on Exchange Street in Geneva.

Waterloo resident targets Seneca Co. IDA

By DAVID L. SHAW
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WATERLOO — A Waterloo resident delivered some harsh words to the Seneca County Industrial Development Agency during the public comment portion of Tuesday's county Board of Supervisors meeting.

Brian Preston, a frequent critic of the agency, asked the board to disband the IDA and requested that its executive director resign.

"I want to talk about fairness and accountability," Preston said. "It's been reported that the Cayuga Indian Nation does not pay its fair share of taxes, owing some \$1.2 million over six years, but in 2012, the IDA handed out \$4.5 million in tax breaks — yet the county had a net loss of 460 jobs."

He called the IDA the "Good Old Boys Club," saying tax breaks for wealthy companies that can afford to pay their fair share is wrong.

Preston appealed for Executive Director Robert Aronson's resignation, and to close the IDA down because of a lack of accountability.

"You should lower taxes for all, not a select few who are profitable," Preston said. "All the taxes they don't pay, others have to pay."

Preston asked board chairman Bob Hayssen, R-Varick, and IDA board member Don Earle, R-Seneca Falls, if they would be willing to comment publicly on "the double standard on property taxes." Hayssen and Earle did not rule out the possibility, but said they weren't prepared to comment at last night's meeting.

Referring to a recent newspaper column by state Sen. Mike Nozzolio, R-54 of Fayette, criticizing the Cayugas for not paying taxes, Preston said "you can substitute the IDA for the Cayuga Nation in talking about unfair taxes."

Also addressing the board last night was retired Waterloo teacher John Patti. Patti spoke about Seneca Meadows Landfill.

Patti said the landfill does a "pretty good job" with recycling, but it needs to make more of an effort to separate recyclables from the waste stream, rather than burying it with other household waste. He said the landfill should follow the example of the city of Canandaigua, which requires haulers to separate recyclables from the trash they pick up or face a penalty.

He added that the landfill should provide for more composting.

Patti handed out small plastic bottles of a granular substance called milorganite.

"It is made by the city of Milwaukee, Wis., from compost and made into fertilizer, which they sell all over

the country," Patti explained. "I bought this at the local Country Maxx."

Waterloo Library staff members Cyndi Park and Brandi Rozelle talked about a partnership with the landfill on a program called "A Greener Community." They said the library is working with the landfill to help people improve how they reduce, reuse and recycle.

Park and Rozelle also announced a program called "Pushing the Limits" that will take place at 6 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month, from February through May. Each session will include reading a book on an environmental theme, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

The board also heard from Seneca County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jeffrey Shipley on fourth-quarter tourism activities. The Chamber is the county's official tourism promotion agency.

In other business Tuesday:

- **COURTHOUSE:** The board authorized John Snyder Architects of Ithaca to retain Paradigm Environmental Services of Rochester. The latter company evaluates existing boilers, heat-pump piping and miscellaneous materials in the old sheriff's office and county jail in Waterloo for asbestos and other hazardous materials.

The cost will not exceed \$5,000 and will allow the final design of the courthouse project to proceed.

That east wing of the courthouse is slated for renovation and remodeling into offices for the district attorney and backup 911 center.

- **WASTEWATER:** Supervisors approved a change to the State Environmental Quality Review Act process for upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant in Willard; it serves Seneca County Sewer District No. 1.

Rather than being an unlisted action, as called for in a March 6, 2013, resolution, the change moves it to a Type II action, exempting it from the SEQR process.

The change was requested by Larsen Engineers so the county can apply for a loan of up to \$400,000 from the state Environmental Facilities Corp. revolving loan fund. The deadline to apply for that loan is Feb. 3.

Dundee man fighting larceny charges

Pretrial hearing dates set to determine what evidence can be used against him

YATES COUNTY COURT

By MIKE HIBBARD
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PENN YAN — Pretrial hearings have been scheduled in the case of a Dundee man accused of making about \$4,000 in fraudulent debit card purchases.

In Yates County Court Tuesday, Judge W. Patrick Falvey set Huntley and Sandoval hearings for Feb. 6 in the case against Eduardo Burtes.

A Huntley hearing reviews the manner in which police obtain statements and evidence from a defendant and whether they can be used at trial. A Sandoval hearing determines which portions of a defendant's criminal record can be addressed by the prosecution if the defendant testifies at trial.

In January 2013, county Sheriff's Office investigators charged Burtes, 47, with third-degree grand larceny, a class D felony. He was arrested following an investigation into multiple purchases using a bank debit card. Specifically, investigators said Burtes made an online purchase

and bought items at a Syracuse shopping mall totaling more than \$3,900. According to police, Burtes executed the transactions after telling his bank in Penn Yan the card was lost, and he had been reimbursed by the bank.

Last month, Burtes rejected an offer from the district attorney's office to plead guilty to a lesser charge of fourth-degree grand larceny, a class E felony, and be sentenced to 1-3 years in prison, along with \$3,950 in restitution.

Assistant District Attorney Megan Peter is prosecuting the case. She noted Burtes has a criminal history and is currently on probation for unrelated charges.

Local attorney Tiffany Sorgen is representing Burtes.

In other county court action Tuesday:

- Rosemary Pepper, 38, of Jerusalem, pleaded guilty to fourth-degree grand larceny.

She will be sentenced March 18 to five years of probation and up to six months in jail, with the possibility of less jail time or community service. Pepper will have to pay about \$10,500 in restitution to the state Department of Labor.

Pepper admitted that between July 2012 and January 2013 she claimed unemployment benefits, using a computer, for her husband while he was working. Pepper said she did it without her husband's knowledge.

"I knew we were not entitled to that money," she said. "I knew it was wrong."

- Theodore Brazie, address unknown, was sentenced to 1-3 years in prison after admitting he violated terms of his probation. Brazie had been placed on probation in 2010 following a conviction for aggravated driving while intoxicated under Leandra's Law.

Brazie admitted drinking alcohol while he was on probation, but asked Falvey not to sentence him to prison. Brazie's attorney, Public Defender Ed Brockman, noted Brazie successfully completed drug court and had no criminal history prior to the DWI arrest; completed community service, including carpentry work on a Habitat for Humanity house; and is supporting a wife and two children.

"In our opinion, locking him up for three years won't help him or his family," Brockman said.

Falvey wasn't swayed.

"It's time for you to know better," the judge said. "You can't drink. You and alcohol don't mix."

POLICE BEAT

Presumed innocent until proven guilty

ONTARIO COUNTY

GENEVA — Tyler A. Kerr, 23, of Genesee Street, was charged Saturday by city police with seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance and fifth-degree criminal possession of marijuana following a traffic stop.

Kerr also was charged with failure to signal 100 feet before a turn, unauthor-

ized stickers and obstructed license plate.

GENEVA — Julio Cesar-Delfin, 56, of Lewis Street, was charged Saturday by city police with second-degree assault.

DWI

The following individual was charged with driving while intoxicated:

- Kassandra K. Hosmer, 23, of Lafayette Avenue, Geneva, by city police early Saturday morning; also charged with improper left turn, failure to turn as required and failure to comply.

The DWI charge is aggravated because police said

her blood alcohol content was at least 0.18 percent.

AUO

The following individual was charged with aggravated unlicensed operation:

- Jamie L. Knight, 46, of Main Street, Geneva, by city police Saturday; also charged with passing a red light, failure to signal 100 feet before a turn, obstructed driver's view and unlicensed operation.

- Michael E. Iversen, 35, of Rilands Road, Seneca, by Geneva police Friday; also charged with driving an uninspected vehicle.

PETTY LARCENY

The following individual was charged with petty larceny:

- Leanne Labadee, 46, of Ogden Street, Penn Yan, by Ontario County deputies Monday; accused of stealing an item from the Dollar General on Route 96 in Manchester.

She was issued an appearance ticket to Manchester Town Court.

- Christopher LoTemple, 16, of Rose Street, Geneva, by city police Sunday; also charged with possession of alcohol by a person under 21.

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