

Dealership seeks financial help from IDA

Bill Cram Chevrolet is proposing \$3M project

By DAVID L. SHAW
dshaw@fittimes.com

SENECA FALLS — The public is invited to comment on the Seneca County Industrial Development Agency's plan to provide financial assistance to the new Bill Cram Chevrolet building.

A public hearing on the IDA's financial package to the dealership will occur at 10 a.m. Jan. 27 in Town Hall at 81 W. Bayard St.

The business is proposing a \$3 million project. Its current showroom will be demolished to make way for a new Rite Aid drugstore to the east of the dealership. The initiative also includes construction of a new showroom, sales department, parts department, a drive-through service line, business offices, parking and related site improvements on the west side of the property, along with equipment and machinery.

Cram officials have sought IDA assistance, saying the project will allow them to retain 30 jobs and create as many as 10 new positions.

Bill Cram Chevrolet has been located at its Routes 5&20 site since 1973.

The IDA proposes acquiring a leasehold interest, or title, to the dealership and the new facilities and equipment. It will then lease the facility back to the dealership so Cram can operate its business. At the end of the lease, the company will purchase the facility from the IDA or the lease will be terminated.

The IDA plans to offer a Payment In Lieu Of Taxes, or PILOT, agreement to lessen property taxes for some period of time, provide an exemption from paying sales taxes and provide an exemption from having to pay a mortgage recording tax.

A representative of the IDA will be

at the hearing to present a copy of the dealership's application, explain the incentives and accept any written and oral comments from those in favor or opposed to the financial assistance.

At the Jan. 5 IDA Board of Directors meeting, Amy Cram of the dealership said the IDA aid is essential to the project, which General Motors backs. If all goes well, she said they would break ground in the next few weeks and the project would be completed in 6-8 months.

If the public raises no significant issues, the financial assistance package could get final approval from the board Feb. 2.

AT&T expands local service along Rt. 14

By JIM MILLER
jmiller@fittimes.com

GENEVA — AT&T has activated seven mobile broadband cell sites along the Route 14 corridor, bringing faster download speeds to residents and motorists.

The new sites cover Huron, North Rose, Savannah, Sodus, Sodus Point and Route 14 between Geneva and Lyons.

"You don't want to focus on your completion of broadband only in main areas — call it Rochester, heart of Buffalo," said Ben Marcello, AT&T's director of upstate sales. "There's still an insatiable drive and urge for consumers to have faster connections everywhere."

The work took about two months. There are some new towers, while other sites involved modifying existing towers.

Marcello said he didn't know how much AT&T spent on the project, but new towers can cost as much as \$300,000.

"There's billions and billions spent across the world every year to continue to fulfill consumers' demands," Marcello said. "Every sight's got to be touched."

The expanded service won praise from state Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-54 of Fayette.

"Expanding and enhancing New York's mobile broadband network brings home the benefits of broadband access to many consumers who are relying more and more on wireless technology to access the Internet," he said in the AT&T press release announcing the new sites. "This kind of investment is essential to keeping New York competitive."

The Wayne County and Route 14 sites were activated earlier this month.

"More than ever before, consumers look to wireless communications to stay in touch with family, friends and business colleagues," Robert Holliday, vice president and general manager, AT&T Upstate/Western New York, said in the press release. "As part of these local communities, we're always looking for new opportunities to provide enhanced coverage as a way to help drive the local economy."

Neighborhood markers popping up in the city

By DAVID L. SHAW
dshaw@fittimes.com

GENEVA — Some street signs in two city neighborhoods already sport unique identifying markers on top. Others will be getting them soon.

In addition, the Hildreth Hill and Castle Heights neighborhoods will feature larger "gateway" signs with their name, logo and tagline.

Representatives of the two neighborhoods participated in a branding exercise with the Geneva Neighborhood Resource Center and students in Professor Mary M o h a n ' s Communications 341 class at State University College at Geneseo. The class features a component in which students develop branding and marketing plans for communities, neighborhoods and downtown business districts.

Hildreth Hill and Castle Heights neighborhood organizers gained ideas for logos, websites, event and other activities.

Last summer, GNRC interns from Hobart and William Smith Colleges refined the logos and developed a neighborhood signage plan.

Castle Heights and Hildreth Hill residents finalized their logos and tagline selections in votes conducted during their annual summer picnics. Each picked from three choices.

The tagline for Castle Heights is "Live - Stay - Grow," while Hildreth Hill opted for "Home is where the Hill is."

The cost of the street-sign identifiers and gateway signs was included in the city's 2011 Public Works Department budget.

GNRC spokesman Eric Ameigh said the two neighborhoods began organizing actively early in 2010.

As the Historical North, City Central, Washington Park, Arbors and Western Gardens neighborhoods get organized, the sign program could expand into those areas, Ameigh said.



Robot face-off



Submitted photo

Students from Elizabeth Cady Stanton Elementary School in Seneca Falls recently fielded a team in the Finger Lakes Lego Robotics competition at Pal-Mac High School.

Local fire departments receive federal grants totaling \$400k for equipment

Finger Lakes Times

Several local fire departments will use federal grants totaling nearly \$400,000 to buy communications equipment.

The Dundee Fire Department will receive \$46,693, which it will use to buy 37 high-band pages and 42 radios.

"It will give us the needed equipment to upgrade the communications for our fire department and also for the emergency squad ambulance," Dundee Fire Chief Ray Miller said in a press release.

The Victor Fire Department, the Fishers Fire District, the Farmington Fire Department and Victor Farmington Ambulance will receive \$343,962 for six radios for their stations, 30 mobile radios for all vehicles and 86 portable radios.

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., announced the funding earlier this

month.

"This funding will help equip the [departments] with the tools necessary to save lives," Gillibrand said in a press release.

The money was allocated through the Federal Emergency Management Administration's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

"These public safety agencies provide emergency services to the Towns of Victor and Fishers and respond to over 3,700 calls each year," said Joe Murphy, assistant chief of the Victor Fire Department. "The combined population protected by these agencies is more than 26,000, which is nearly 25 percent of the entire population of Ontario County. Without this grant, it would take several years, along with an increase in property taxes, to purchase this required equipment."

POLICE BEAT

Presumed innocent until proven guilty

ONTARIO COUNTY

HOPEWELL — Jessica C. Arundel, 25, of 90 E. Main St., Victor, was arrested by county sheriff's deputies Wednesday for second-degree offering a false instrument for filing and fifth-degree welfare fraud.

Deputies said Arundel submitted an application for benefits to the Ontario County Department of Social Services Dec. 21 that contained false information regarding her available resources. Arundel said she had no resources when she had more than \$100 in her possession. As a result, she was improperly given emergency housing.

She was arraigned and sent to the Ontario County Jail on \$250 bail. She will answer the charges later in Hopewell Town Court.

HOPEWELL

Leighanne M. Attridge-Kuchinik, 22, of 372 E. Union St., Newark, was arrested by county sheriff's deputies Tuesday for first-degree attempting to promote prison contraband.

Deputies said while she was incarcerated in the Ontario County Jail, Attridge-Kuchinik directed her mother, Joanne Attridge, to pass a controlled substance, six suboxone strips, to her during a visit. Joanne Attridge was apprehended as she attempted to enter the controlled area of the jail to visit her daughter.

Attridge-Kuchinik was arraigned and sent back to the jail on \$10,000 bail or \$20,000 bond. She will answer the charge later in Hopewell Town Court.

Joanne Attridge was arrested Dec. 3 for her involvement in the incident. Deputies said the investigation is continuing into possi-

ble additional charges.

CANANDAIGUA — Eric D. Rosato, 28, of 80 South Ave., Palmyra, was arrested by city police Jan. 8 for first-degree criminal contempt and fourth-degree criminal mischief.

Police responded to a domestic dispute at 129 Saltonstall St. Rosato allegedly destroyed a cell phone and jewelry box of a person with an order of protection against him.

He was arraigned and sent to the Ontario County Jail on \$1,500 bail. He will answer the charges later in Canandaigua City Court.

SENECA COUNTY

WATERLOO — A motorist was issued three tickets following an accident Wednesday on East Main Street.

Village police charged Kayla M. Porter, 21, of 1850 Nine Foot Road, Waterloo, with following too closely, no seatbelt and unlicensed operator. Porter suffered minor injuries in the accident.

She will answer the charges in Waterloo Village Court.

YATES COUNTY

DUNDEE — Richard C. Covert, 23, of 2666 Cemetery Road, Reading Center, was arrested by county sheriff's deputies Wednesday for second-degree attempted assault, a felony.

Deputies said Covert attempted to injure a Dundee resident with a dangerous instrument during a fight on Highland Drive in Dundee Oct. 26, 2011.

He was arraigned and sent to the Yates County Jail on \$4,000 bail and \$8,000 bond.

Covert will answer the charge Feb. 8 in Starkey Town Court.

DWI ARRESTS

The following individual was charged with driving while intoxicated:

■ Claude R. Giguere Jr., 42, of Panama City, Fla., about 12:24 a.m. Friday by Yates County deputies on Underhill Hill Road, Middlesex.

You and a friend are invited to our
Winter Wonderland Open House

Enjoy our Hot Chocolate Bar and special treats sure to warm you as you enjoy the musical talents of "The Swooners", the areas most popular jazz group.

Please RSVP by January 18th

Save The Date

Saturday,
January 21st
2:00-3:30 p.m.

681 High Street, Victor, NY 14564
(585) 924-7043 ■ www.LegacyRochester.com

Mortgage rates

Look for the weekly real estate resource on Thursdays

	30-YEAR FIXED				15-YEAR FIXED				ADJUSTABLE 1-YEAR			
	HIGH	POINTS	LOW	POINTS	HIGH	POINTS	LOW	POINTS	HIGH	POINTS	LOW	POINTS
Commonfund Mortgage Corp.	3.875	0	-	-	3.25	0	-	-	1.5	0	-	-
Finger Lakes Federal Credit Union	3.875	0	-	-	3.25	0	-	-	3.125	-	-	-
Lyons National Bank	4.0	0	3.625	3	3.25	0	2.875	3	-	-	-	-
Premium Mortgage Corp.	4.0	-	-	-	3.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seneca Falls Savings Bank	4.0	0	-	-	3.5	0	-	-	-	-	-	-

Deed transactions are listed on Page 1C