

letters

to the Editor



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Meals on Wheels needs support from community

I want to respond to the recent Bee Heard piece about Meals on Wheels' funding.

I should begin by saying that I cannot speak for Amherst Meals on Wheels, a program managed out of your local senior center. Our program, Meals on Wheels for WNY, covers the vast majority of Erie County — including Williamsville and Clarence.

Any program that receives part of its funding from the Older Americans Act (as MOW-WNY does) is prohibited from doing any “means

testing” with clients.

We can ask for a voluntary contribution; however, people receive the meals and lifesaving service whether they are able to contribute or not. Our “all-in” cost for a two-meal unit is \$11.42 a day (food, production, lights, heat, social work, registered dieticians, etc.).

Our suggested voluntary contribution is \$7 per day for the two nutritionally appropriate meals. Our average actual contribution is \$2.07 per day. The more effective MOW-WNY is at serving the vulnerable in need, the larger the potential funding gap we face. This is very different than the idea of a sliding fee

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Meals on Wheels

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scale, which by its very nature means that you are assessing clients' financial means.

MOW-WNY is one of thousands of programs that receives part of its budget from the Older Americans Act. This funding is just one piece of a complex puzzle, but it is an extremely important piece. We also work tirelessly to diversify revenue and to aggressively raise funds to ensure availability of services.

Programs throughout the nation are not all as fortunate; it is not uncommon to see long waiting lists and a discontinuation of service when funds are depleted.

Despite the work we've done locally to make our program strong, make no mistake — a severe cut in federal funding would have a significant impact on local programming and its availability to those in need.

Tara A. Ellis
President and CEO
Meals on Wheels WNY

as a village trustee and mayor over a period of years. Bass was a member of the Akron Fire Department, several terms as chief

His funeral was held 4, on his 93rd birthday. funeral procession through the Village of on its journey from church to the cemetery stood on the sidewalks with their hands over hearts to honor a man who was certainly part of the greatest generation.

Thomas V.
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Akron

Free college a political move

I couldn't agree more with David Sherman's column last week's Bee; sports

I live in East Aurora and we are looking at a 10% increase in our school taxes, no small part from the loss of aid and less aid.

It just seems fittingly ironic — we're cutting school electives and programs that somewhat lessen the