

Welburn falls from tree

By Maureen McGuinness

GUILDERLAND — Town councilman William Welburn will be unable to participate in budget meetings having been hospitalized over the weekend for back injuries.

Welburn fell out of a tree while looking at some branches at his home. His injuries include a compressed vertebrae, a cracked vertebrae, a torn back muscle, a sprained ankle, and a torn thigh muscle.

"I wasn't doing anything I shouldn't have been doing," he said.

Welburn said he may be released from St. Clare's Hospital over the weekend, but will be confined to bed rest. He will also have to continue wearing a

back brace for at least three months.

"I have to take it day by day," he said. "But I won't be around for the budget."

Welburn attended the first budget session last week before the accident. Welburn advised department heads on price ranges for computers in order to reduce department budgets where new equipment was requested.

Dean's list

ALTAMONT — Jeremy T. Spohr of Altamont was named to the Dean's list at St. Michael's College for the 1990 Spring semester.

Jeremy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Spohr.

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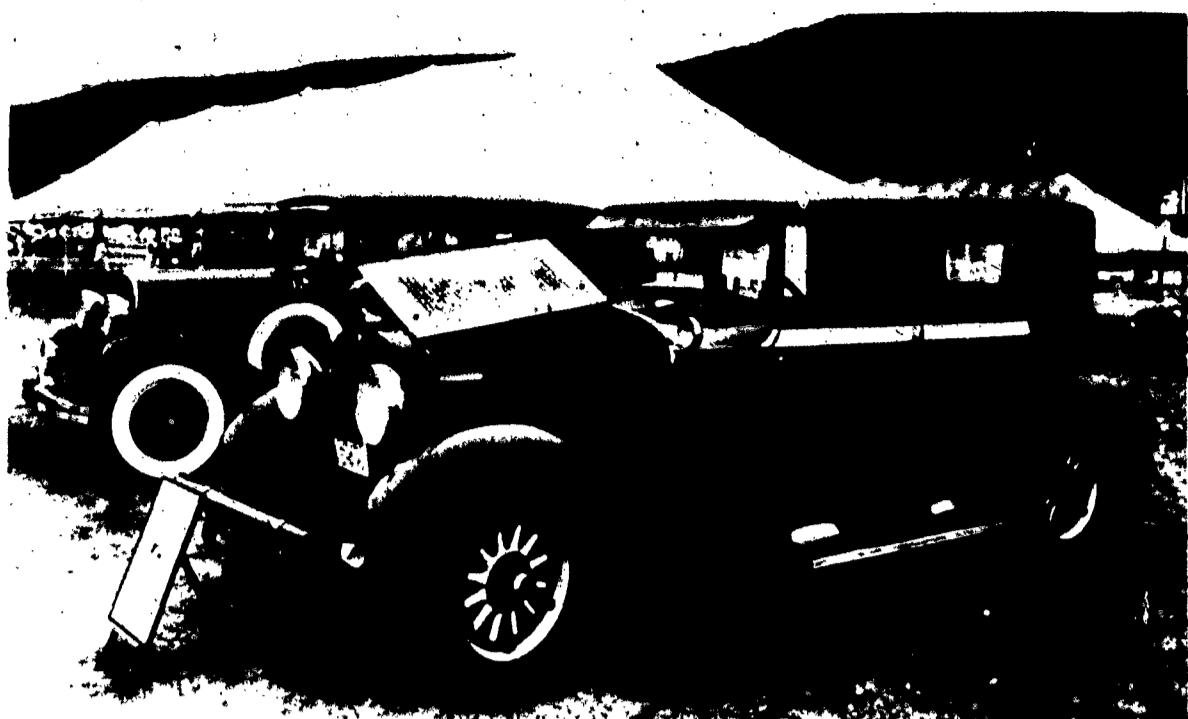
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The Enterprise — Jim Gardner

"Mafia Staff Car." So says the sign on this 1928 Hudson, exhibited by H. Johnson of Altamont and on display Sunday at the annual Altamont Senior Citizens' car show at the Altamont Fairgrounds. Behind it stands a 1929 Chrysler.

Variance OK'd despite drainage worries

By Maureen McGuinness

GUILDERLAND — The zoning board of appeals last Wednesday approved plans by Basha Associates Engineering Corporation to expand the regional engineering office that is currently being built near the Watervliet Reservoir, despite fears that runoff from the site would pollute the water supply.

In 1988 the company's plans to build an office complex were approved. Included in the plan was a pond that would hold runoff water. The new plans call for a detention area instead of the pond. The pond would also be used by the fire department if an emergency ever emerged.

Board member Edmund Luzine questioned the change from pond to retention area. He said if the original plans utilized the pond to prevent runoff in the reservoir, what would prevent runoff now? He said that the construction currently underway was approved with the pond, and so the pond should still be required.

Former owner of the property Emerson Van Patten raised questions concerning water on the site. He said considerable excavation would be needed to prevent storm water from running into the Reservoir. He also pointed out that the nearest fire hydrant was located across the street and originally the pond was to serve as back up in an emergency.

Building inspector Donald Cropsey said the fire department required a hydrant on the property before the issuance of a building permit but he didn't know if the fire department knew that there would no longer be a pond.

The company presented plans to modify construction currently under way. The applicant requested permission to build a third building on the site because they would like to have all of the construction done at one time. The third building will be used for recreational use. A parking variance was also needed because only 30 are being provided, while 69 more are needed. Tom Bates who represented the company explained there would only be 18 employees on the site but there would be space left to accommodate future parking.

Despite Luzine's and board member Frank Tavanni's reservations, the board voted to approve the project on several conditions. The drainage retention area will be constructed first to prevent construction runoff in the Reservoir. A town

designated engineer would also be appointed to make recommendations on the drainage. A letter must also be submitted from the city of Watervliet saying they do not have an objection to the project despite its proximity to the water supply.

Van Patten asked, "How many unanswered questions must exist to prevent approval?"

Board chairman Tim Sheehan told him that the concerns were not significant enough to warrant continuing the case. "They're a well known engineering firm," he said. "I doubt they would pollute the city's (Watervliet) water or our own."

Fuller Road Synagog

Rabbi Israel Rubin's case to build a 55 foot by 28 foot addition to a home that is used for religious services on Fuller Road was continued. The condition of Shabbos House must be improved before the case comes before the board again on Oct. 3.

Board members described the site as being run down, and neighbors complained about garbage that is left outside of the house.

The board learned that a family of five is living in the dwelling. When the special use permit was issued 14 years ago, the structure could not be used as a home, even though it was in a residential neighborhood. Tavanni, who remembered granting the original permit, said, "The house lost its residential status when it was granted the special use permit."

Rubin explained that due to vandalism it was decided there would be a caretaker on the premises. Sheehan said there

was no problem with that, but the board should have been notified.

Neighbors said that while there was to be no parking on the property, there had been school buses parked in the yard. They also said the exterior of the house was in need of repairs.

Rubin said there were plans to clean up the site before renovations begin.

The case was continued to allow the building department time to inspect the structure. There were also concerns over a family living in the building.

Ruth Selliger who lives in the building said that she would find a better way to dispose of the garbage so that it wasn't offensive. Rubin added that they wanted to be good neighbors and did not mean to cause any problems.

VIP Day care

The board conditionally approved Gail Acker's plans to convert the former Jehovah Witness building on State Farm Road into a day care center and medical office building. Acker must develop an outdoor play area at the site.

Board members said that it would help Acker's business to have the play area because many day care centers offer outdoor space for children. The board was motivated by its concern that the children would eventually play in the parking lot. Engineer John Oddy who represented Acker agreed that a 45 foot by 80 foot enclosed play area would be placed in the rear of the parcel.

Abrams focuses on milk bias

ALBANY — Attorney General Robert Abrams announced on Aug. 30 that he has commenced investigating the possibility of legal action against the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts to strike down laws in those states that discriminate against milk produced in New York.

Abrams said that a 1987 law that abolished the arcane and monopolistic milk licensing laws in New York authorized him to sue to overturn anti-competitive milk marketing statutes in other states.

Earlier this year, Abrams won a decision opening New Jersey's milk markets to New York dealers. The Attorney General's office had filed suit in 1988 against New Jersey's anti-competitive milk market-

ing laws. The U.S. District Court, ruling in that case, issued a first in the nation landmark opinion that established the authority of a state Attorney General to represent the agricultural interests of the state in obtaining free access to markets in other states.

Abrams' suit is based on a complaint by the Dairylea Cooperative Inc., headquartered in Syracuse, and seeks to overturn laws that prohibit the sale of New York milk in the two states unless a milk processing plant and all the farms that supply the processor have been inspected by Massachusetts or Connecticut officials. The requirement represents a duplication of the inspections conducted by New York inspectors.