

22 Chateau Terrace (Continued from page one)

The criteria includes the property being associated with the lives of individuals or of people or of events significant in the national, state or local history. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, a period or a method of construction and because of a unique location or singular physical characteristic, it represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood.

Swartz said that 22 Chateau Terrace is part of the College Hill – Chateau Terrace development, a 20th century residential subdivision accessed via Main Street in Snyder.

According to Swartz, the residence at 22 Chateau embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Craftsman-style residence in the circa 1920-1940s. Common features of the Craftsman style include low pitched gable (triangular) roofs, overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and beams, patterned window panes and a covered or enclosed front porch.

“The landmark status applies to the shell, not the inside of the house,” Supervisor Brian Kulpa said. “We will leave it to them [Historic Preservation Commission] ultimately and the building department to protect the structure.”

Residents in the area said that even though the 22 Chateau Terrace property was designated a Blue-Rated Property, meaning it was being considered for historic preservation, and was recommended for historic preservation by the commission, Benderson has allowed the property to deteriorate because it plans to demolish it to make way for the proposed development.

Benderson demolished the garage on the property without permission recently and some residents said that the electrical service was removed from the property within

the last week.

The board meetings, which have become increasingly chaotic and tense with residents shouting from the audience and disrupting the proceedings, had to be paused after Shelly Schratz demanded the board tell the audience how they would vote on a resolution while the public hearing was still going on. Board member Jacqueline Berger said that she wanted everyone to stop mentioning God because there were different religions. This was met with boos and yelling from the crowd causing the recess in proceedings.

“I take an exception with people thinking they know how we are going to vote,” Kulpa said. “We never discredited our HPC and we follow the State Historic Preservation Office standards.”

Resident Mary Beth Glose criticized how Benderson handled the issue.

“Benderson has been calling the shots,” Glose said. “They have blindsided us at every turn. They are not transparent. I feel more betrayed by my town board, who we elected. You are not to be depended upon to protect a neighborhood.”

Other residents agreed.

“Benderson is going against the law,” Christina Coyle-Lenz said. “They have shown they are an unreliable steward of a historic property. They should rebuild, per preservation quality, the garage on that property.”

Kulpa said that the Amherst police and code enforcement officers had been watching the property after the garage was taken down without permission.

“The Town of Amherst has done nothing to thwart Benderson at all,” Bob Drdul said.

Local law firm specializes in senior services

by **KATIE SKOOG**
Reporter

Hurwitz Fine P.C., a multidisciplinary law firm based in Buffalo and established in 1977, offers a variety of senior services for the local elderly population to help them prepare for their future.

The firm has a division that specializes in estate planning, which includes health care planning, long term care planning, creating trusts and wills, tax planning, powers of attorney and more. They have been working on estate planning and senior law matters for more than 30 years.

Over the years, Hurwitz Fine P.C.’s headquarters have remained in Buffalo with an office branching out to Amherst, located at 5500 Main St. They started out with four lawyers and have now grown to 60 across New York State and Connecticut.

Melissa Pezzino, who recently joined the firm as special counsel in their estate department, has been doing estate planning for 19 years.



Pezzino

“One of the things that we like to do is make sure that the individual themselves is protected,” she said. “We want to balance their own interest and their own financial needs with their desire to pass on a legacy to their children.”

The firm’s health care planning involves creating living wills and health care proxies. These allow someone to make their own decisions for medical treatment and

to designate someone to make these decisions for them if needed.

Pezzino said having a health care proxy and power of attorney are very important in the case of being “incapacitated.” If these aren’t set in place beforehand, a guardianship proceeding will have to be brought to court for someone to act on behalf of the individual. These proceedings can be expensive and complex, she said.

The financial aspect of estate planning is preparing wills and trusts to determine who will inherit property, money and more.

“Estate planning and just being able to guide people and help them make informed decisions and prepare for their future – I think that’s really important and people tend to feel a sense of security once that’s done,” Pezzino said.

Pezzino encourages clients to keep their documents in order, which includes having a clear and updated will, keeping a list of assets and liabilities and having beneficiaries designated on accounts, such as insurance policies and retirement plans. She recommends reviewing these documents every five years or if a major life event occurs.

Hurwitz Fine attorneys are aware that everyone’s situation is different and works to accommodate this. When clients come in, Pezzino makes sure their documents are prepared in order to have a quick turnaround time of one to two weeks.

Aside from helping people plan for their lives and end of life, Hurwitz Fine P.C. helps with the probate process, which distributes estate assets after someone dies.

“That’s [the probate process] when they’ve lost someone,” Pezzino said. “If we handle that correctly and we make that process go smoothly for them, it can definitely bring a sense of closure for them. I think it’s really rewarding to be able to help someone who is going through the grieving process.”

For more information or services, visit hurwitzfine.com or call their Buffalo office at 716-849-8900.



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News Brief

Hospice and Palliative Care Buffalo’s annual spring bouquet sale will run from March 4 through 8 at several public sites and participating florist shops in Erie County – visit HospiceSpringBouquetSale.com for locations.

Standard bouquets cost \$14. Large tribute bouquets cost \$35 and contain 30 stems of premium flowers, and for every tribute purchased, a standard bouquet will be delivered to a current Hospice patient. Proceeds go toward Hospice and Palliative Care Buffalo’s mission to help expand access to services and enrich program offering to enhance quality of life for patients and to provide support for their loved ones.

For more information, visit the website or call the Hospice Foundation at 716-989-2010.