



Town of Amherst plans 9/11 ceremony

The Town of Amherst will hold its 21st anniversary "9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance" at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, at the Amherst Memorial Hill Grove. The grove is located along the Ellicott Creek Trailway, seven-tenths of a mile from the entrance at North Forest Road (between West Klein Road and Maple Road).

A living memorial to the victims of the 9/11 attacks, the grove consists of an American flag, a monument and 120 trees surrounding a memorial bench. Two pathways that traverse the grove form a memorial ribbon. A stone wall offers seating that faces the monument and the trees and thereby permits visitors an opportunity to stop and reflect upon the lives of those who perished. There will be a special tribute in memory of Leonard Castrianno, who passed away this year. Castrianno was the driving force behind the creation of the Amherst Memorial Hill Grove and a founding member of the 9/11 commemorative committee. He lost his son Leonard in the attack on the World Trade Center north tower.

"Americans must remember the civilians, firefighters, police officers and dedicated flight crews who died on that terrible day," said Councilmember Deborah Bruch Bucki, chairperson of the 9/11 commemoration. "The ceremony will specifically honor 27 individuals who either lived in or had a familial or professional connection to Amherst and Western New York." The Town of Amherst will provide limited transportation to the grove from the Ellicott Creek Trailway parking lot, located on North Forest Road. Some seating is available at the site, but participants are encouraged to bring lawn chairs if they wish. The ceremony is open to the public, will last no more than one hour, and will be held rain or shine.

For more information, contact Deborah Bruch Bucki, Amherst councilmember, via email at dbucki@amherst.ny.us or 716-631-7013.

