

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

# Terri Parsell Hilmey: O. Park to Beantown and back

Following high school, many of Orchard Park's brightest and most creative minds are often the first to leave.

Not all of them leave by choice, with some forced to look outside of Western New York for their career.

However, Terri Parsell Hilmey is one Orchard Park High School graduate who cannot wait to return.

Currently, she and her husband, Peter, live in Williamsville, with their 5-month-old daughter, Elsie. But Hilmey said the family is eagerly anticipating a move back home.

"We want to get back to Orchard Park," Hilmey said. "I've always lived in Orchard Park."

In fact, her family has been in the Orchard Park area for almost 150 years. Hilmey has fond memories of hearing her grandmother tell tales of the town's past, of horse and buggies and dirt roads.

"Grandma used to remember all that stuff," Hilmey said. "It was great listening to her."

Hilmey also has wonderful memories of her own childhood in Orchard Park, and her time in the Orchard Park Central School District. She graduated in 1984.

"I really liked Orchard Park High School," she said. "I got a really good education there."

Hilmey said the quality of courses at the school gave her a step up in college, especially the college-level mathematics and science courses.

Also a great benefit were her teachers, many of whom stand out in her mind, such as geometry teacher Jack Greenan.

"He was wonderful," Hilmey said. "He was a very entertaining teacher."

Another favorite was her Latin teacher, Mrs. Bates. Hilmey remembers doing plays and other fun activities in the class. "She was awesome," she said.

Hilmey received a bachelor's degree in English and history at Pine Manor College, located near Boston, Massachusetts, in 1988.

Two other students from Orchard Park, Jane Laks and Beth Zalinke, were among the State police report

...from page 45 month, and 26 of those probes resulted in charges of some kind.

The September report shows that patrol troopers logged 45,174 miles as part of patrols.

Only one license suspension-revocation order was executed, and police also recorded rendering 50 assists to various motorists.

Tuesday's statistics were released by Troop A Zone Two Commander Mark A. Koss, a captain based in Clarence.

500 girls attending the college. In 1990, Hilmey received a paralegal certification from Northeastern University.

"I continued to work in law firms around Boston until I



**THE JOURNEY** of Terri Parsell Hilmey, pictured here with her husband, Peter, has taken her from Orchard Park to Boston and now, to Williamsville. She is an active volunteer with the Junior League of Buffalo.

moved back home," she said.

In June of 1999, Hilmey moved back to Orchard Park to live with her elderly grandmother. Moving from the city of Boston back to the area of her youth was a major change.

"It was tough at first," Hilmey said. "Ultimately it turned out to be the greatest thing."

Until May of this year, she worked as a legal secretary for New York State Supreme Court Justice Donna Siwek. Working deeply in the courts system

...from page 42 Reigel said that the town so far has expressed a willingness to examine the proposal.

"They were very receptive to me at the work session," he said.

While a location has yet to be finalized, Reigel said the most likely spot would be in the Clinton Street-Transit Road area on the west side of Elma.

"We're definitely going to focus on that area," said Nolan.

According to Nolan, a major positive with that area is that the project might be able to tie into West Seneca municipal sewer lines.

Nolan said other sites in Elma would simply not suit senior housing.

"It wouldn't make sense," said Nolan. "It would be a very expensive project ... This is better."

brought Hilmey a new respect for the law.

"It was really eye-opening," she said. "I have a lot more confidence (in the court process) after working in the legal system."

Working for Siwek made an unexpectedly large impact on her life.

"I met my husband, which was the ultimate bonus," Hilmey said.

Hilmey's husband is Siwek's cousin. Siwek introduced the couple to each other, and the rest was history.

"We ended up dating for a year," she said. The couple married in June 2003.

Peter Hilmey graduated from the University at Buffalo and Canisius College, where he received a master's in business administration. He currently works for ADT in Rochester.

Much of Hilmey's time is devoted to her daughter, but she is still finding time for a variety of interests.

"I'm writing a book," she said, classifying it as part of the now-popular "chick-lit" genre.

Hilmey said she cherishes the countless creative and artistic people of Western New York.

"A lot of the really committed, talented people stay here," she said.

Today, many know Hilmey as a volunteer with the Junior League of Buffalo, a group dedicated to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities.

A member of the Junior League of Buffalo for six years, she was on the board last year as communications vice president.

Hilmey said volunteering with the Junior League is an inspiring experience.

"You're part of this enormous housing planned in Elma

...from page 42 An application for HUD financing is due in June or July, and Reigel said much legwork and planning remains.

"THERE'S a lot of work to be done before that date," he said, adding that funding from Erie County is also a possibility.

Reigel said the recent town meeting was only the beginning of any possible developments.

"It went well," he said. "My hope is that they'll get back to us and say, 'Yes, there is a need' ... What I would look for from them next is really a support letter."

Nolan said he believes the time is right to tackle the issue of senior housing in Elma.

"I've heard from a lot of seniors saying, 'I'd like to stay in Elma,'" he said. "We need some type of housing for seniors to stay in town."

mous system," she said. "You can actually see bigger things accomplished."

One of the group's largest and most notable events each year is the Decorator's Show House.

"I'm actually doing the public relations for the show house this year," Hilmey said.

This year's house is located at 100 Lincoln Parkway in Buffalo, near the Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

Nearly 100 years old, the historic structure is known as the Century House. The 12,000-square-foot house is known for having three identical, separate floors.

"It was built that way," Hilmey said of the unique locale.

The first step in preparing the house for visitors is a visit from local decorators, who will apply their vision to making the show house as beautiful as it can be.

"We always get a ton of decorators involved," Hilmey said. "We always have more decorators than we have rooms available."

Before work begins, a sneak-peak will allow the public to take a look before the decorators have done their job, fol-

lowed by a black-tie preview party.

The house will open in May to the public, as well as for corporate and private tours.

"It's always beautiful," said Hilmey.

Preparing the show house is not an easy job, but the Junior League volunteers make sure it runs smoothly.

"Everybody is just enthusiastic about it," Hilmey said. "It's a lot of fun"

Last year's show house raised more than \$460,000. The proceeds were given to Haven House, which helps provide safe, confidential services for victims of domestic violence.

Life is very busy for Hilmey, whose path has taken her from Orchard Park, to Boston, and back.

Being home in Western New York has made Terri Parsell Hilmey appreciate the area even more.

"Now that I'm back here as an adult, I have no intention of leaving," Hilmey said.

If you know someone who would make an interesting "Where Are They Now?" send suggestions to The Southtowns Citizen, 6519 East Quaker Street, Orchard Park, NY, 14127, or call 662-0001.



**ELSIE HILMEY**, the daughter of Terri Parsell Hilmey, is a bouncing 5-month-old. She was born in May.

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**SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES**  
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**Question:** What is the significance of Jesus' teaching on the destruction of the temple in Matthew 24:2? **(Part I)**

**Answer:** a. "ye are God's building" (1 Cor. 3:9). b. "...so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (2 Thess. 2:4).

**Comments:** Many today attempt to understand the foretold destruction of the temple by finding the prophecy's fulfillment in the events related to the physical destruction of the Jerusalem temple in 70 AD by the Roman Titus. This view allows many, if not all of the not-so-pleasant prophecies of the Bible, such as the apostasy of the church, to be conveniently swept under the rug of 70 AD - leaving only a glorious, optimistic future for Christ's kingdom on earth. This understanding reflects a serious misreading of the word of God, and adhering to this position is a definite departure from a core doctrine of the Bible itself, *sola scriptura* - i.e., by the Scriptures alone. God never allows for the interpretation of His Holy Word by history books penned by uninspired, often biased men.

The disciples' question preceding the Lord's answer focuses on the sign and timing of Jesus' return ("coming"), and the "end of the world [age]" (Mt. 24:3). 70 AD most certainly did not see the Lord Jesus "coming in the clouds of glory" (Mt. 24:30), and the decisive end of the Old Testament age was most clearly indicated when the "veil of the temple was rent in twain" (Mt. 27:51), already in 33 AD.

This means that Jesus' words regarding the decimation of the temple must refer to events near His Second Coming. Lord willing, this point will be further developed in Part II of this study.

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