

News from Legislator Lynne Dixon



PROUDLY SERVING THE 9TH DISTRICT
BLASDELL, HAMBURG, LACKAWANNA & SOUTH BUFFALO



Spring 2012

County requests creation of Land Bank to address vacant properties



Vacant buildings are an issue across Erie County and if created, the Land Bank would help municipalities deal with the issues associated with these structures.

In April, Legislator Dixon joined her colleagues in the Legislature to unanimously approve a resolution that pushed forward a request to New York State to allow the creation of a Land Bank in Erie County. Encompassing all cities, towns and villages, the proposal for a Land Bank would allow all municipalities to benefit and

attack vacant property issues.

“Not one community in my district is immune to the issues associated with vacant properties, which plagues our cities, towns and villages. The First Ward in Lackawanna is among the many areas affected by a growing number of abandoned buildings that stands to benefit from the Land Bank,” Legislator Dixon said. “Taking action to create the Land Bank is a step in the right direction to alleviate a major problem and get properties back on the tax roll.”

Legislator Dixon added that she shares the concerns of town and village officials

that the board will focus on the City of Buffalo, which has the most vacant properties, approximately 64 percent of current tax liens but only 11 percent of assessed value of liens. She spoke about the issue with her colleagues in the Legislature at a recent session.

“It is very important that the board remain fair when considering what properties to invest in. Every community in Erie County has vacant properties and should receive equal consideration from the board when it decides how to use Land Bank funds,” Legislator Dixon added.

The County is still waiting state approval.

Special points of interest:

- 3RD ANNUAL PROM DRESS DRIVE A SUCCESS!
- VISIT COUNTY PARKS
- THANK A VET PROGRAM

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Hamburg Meals on Wheels & Mayors for Meals



Legislator Dixon once again took part in Mayors for Meals, an annual Meals on Wheels program that promotes awareness of this tremendously important service by taking elected officials on routes with volunteers and talking with clients. As a Board Member for Meals on Wheels, Legislator Dixon understands the importance of public awareness and thanks everyone who participated with her at the Hamburg site.

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3rd Annual Prom Dress Drive a Success!

Legislator Dixon organized her 3rd annual Prom Dress Drive, collecting hundreds of amazing gowns. The dresses were distributed for free to high school girls to help defray the cost of prom during Shopping Days held at Hamburg High School in April.

“Thank you to the community for once again coming through and donating hundreds of gorgeous dresses. We had a lot of



girls choose great dresses and are now excited as their prom approaches,” Legislator Dixon said.



A big thank to Urban Valet for once again cleaning all the dresses.

Guided walks through County Parks

Erie County will once again hold its Guided Walks in County Parks Program. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and attendees are lead on a picturesque walk through the county’s beautiful parks.

Walks will be held on the following days:

- May 19 - Chestnut Ridge
- June 2 - Como Lake
- June 9 - Akron Falls
- June 16 - Emery
- June 23 - Times Beach Nature Preserve
- June 30 - Sprague Brook

State, Federal issues continue to plague County

Legislator Dixon thanks the numerous residents who signed her online petition urging New York State to takeover Medicaid costs. The cost of Medicaid to the county is more than \$200 million and NYS continues to require counties to pay for non-mandated services. The signatures were forwarded to the Governor and state leaders.

In another issue, Legislation Dixon heeded the concerns of employees and residents and lobbied to save the United States Postal Service’s William Street Processing Facility. Legislator Dixon has encouraged federal leaders to do everything possible to save the facility and hundreds of jobs. It is her hope that a renewed effort could result in the facility’s continued operation in Buffalo.

Business owners ‘Thank a Vet’ - How to get involved

Legislator Dixon partnered with County Clerk Christopher Jacobs to ask business owners to get involved in “Thank A Vet” as a way for our county to recognize the service and sacrifices made by our local veterans.

Under the "Thank A Vet" discount program, eligible veterans will receive a photo identification card obtained from the Erie County Clerk’s

Office that identifies them as an honorably discharged veteran. Participating county merchants will agree to honor the card by providing holders with a discount on purchases or services. Involvement in the program is beneficial to businesses that will undoubtedly realize increased traffic and sales. Each merchants name, logo, address and



discount particulars will be displayed on the Erie County's official website and each participating business will receive a decal to proudly show their support of our Erie County veterans.

To view the online form for Erie County's "Thank A Vet" discount program, visit www.erie.gov/clerk. For more information about the program, call the Erie County Clerk’s Office at (716) 858-6985.

Valentines for Veterans generates thousands of cards

Legislator Dixon wishes to thank the many school children who participated in this year's Valentines for Veterans program. Thousands of handmade cards were created. Legislator Dixon visited many of American Legion and VFW posts in Hamburg, South Buffalo and Lackawanna to deliver the valentines.

"I am always astounded by their compassion for our veterans and soldiers. Many shared stories with me about family members who serve

our country and understand that honoring our veterans is very important. When I delivered the cards to veterans, I was told by many how great the cards were and they really appreciated being thought of," Legislator Dixon said.

The following schools participated: Our Lady of Victory Notre Dame Academy, Hillery Park Elementary #27, St Mary's of the Lake School, Big Tree Elementary, Lorraine Academy, Southside Elementary, and Olde Time Baptist Academy.



Outreach Meetings planned throughout the District

Legislator Dixon continues to meet with residents throughout her District through Outreach Meetings. To date, Legislator Dixon has met with residents at libraries and town halls, sharing information from the Legislature.

"I am always available to meet with residents to discuss any questions or concerns

they may have, and these outreaches are a great place to begin or continue those talks," Legislator Dixon said.

She also held an Outreach during National Poison Prevention's Weeks' 50th Anniversary to educate families on how to keep their homes safe.

For information on upcoming

District Outreach Meetings, please visit Legislator Dixon's Website at www.erie.gov/legislature/district09.

Information about Senior Services, Social Services, Veteran Affairs, the County Clerk's office and other County departments is available at the District Outreach Meetings.

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- LEGISLATOR
DIXON

Tuition reimbursement for volunteer firefighters

Legislator Dixon announces that Erie County volunteer firefighters now have access to a FASNY grant that allows up to 80 credit hours (an associate's degree) be reimbursed for members who are in good standing.

"This program is a great tool for fire companies to use during recruitment efforts and will benefit firefighters interested in pursuing a degree from ECC," Legislator Dixon said.

To qualify for full reimbursement, students must meet the requirements. For information, contact your fire department.



Nominations accepted for Citizen of the Month award

Legislator Dixon is accepting nominations for the Citizen of the Month Award. Created in January 2012 by the Legislature, the award honors an outstanding citizen from each of the 11 districts. Legislator Dixon's honoree will be recognized in November. To nominate someone for the honor, please call 858-8671 or email lynne.dixon@erie.gov.



Contact Legislator Lynne Dixon

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I have enjoyed my first few months as Erie County Legislator in the 9th District, mainly because it has been such a joy meeting and getting to know you. In that time we have had several meetings with the new county executive and his administration to learn what some of his priorities will be these next four years. We continue to discuss our options on how to best fund the library system, and how to best address the needs and services Erie County taxpayers expect and deserve. I will continue to advocate for infrastructure improvements and hope that the new administration will show its commitment to many of the projects, like Lake Avenue, that are either underway or under consideration. I have always considered it a great honor and privilege to represent you and I want to thank you for that opportunity. As always, should you ever have a concern or issue that needs to be addressed, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lynne Dixon".

Residents, groups honored

Legislator Dixon recognized the efforts of individuals and groups recently:

Jordan Levy for his work with the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation.

ChildPro and Monarch Little Learners Academy, recipient of the Lackawanna Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award.

Rev. Mark E. Blue, named Lackawanna Chamber of Commerce's Person of the Year.

Chris Gable, New York State Bowling Champion – Lackawanna High School.

Blasdell Fire Company Recognized for years of service: Melissa Paulick, 5;

Jeffrey Adrian, 10; John Welch, 15; and Michele Fehmer, 30 years, and also was awarded the Donald Horton Memorial Award for her service.

Scranton Fire Department

Recognized for years of service: Robert L. Paas, 50; Clyde Keller, 45; Vincent Anzalone, 25; Robert K. Paas, 20; and Robert Black, 20. Katie Strnad named Firefighter of the Year; Robert K. Paas recipient of the Service Award; Michael Guadagno recipient of the Clayton Smith Award; Ashley Barberio, named Rookie of the Year; and Mary E. Best and Scott Wilson, both

named EMS Provider of the Year.

Hamburg Village Fire Department

Recognized for years of service: Brian Horwood, 15; Rich Lunz, 15; Mike Crowley, 30; Derk Ryan, 30; and Ralph Spina, 30. Ralph Spina was also named Firefighter of the Year.

Lakeview Fire Department

Recognized for years of service: Michael Lewis, 35; and Eugene Jewett, 20. Elizabeth Mahaffey was honored for Outstanding Service.

David Gwynne, Southtowns Walleye Association member, recipient of the Harry A. Smith Award.



Patrick Plunkett was honored the week of St. Patrick's Day for being named the 2012 Parade Grand Marshal.