

News from Legislator Lynne Dixon



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



Summer 2012

Past, Present and Future Budget Concerns

The Erie County Legislature concluded its mid-year budget hearings in July and the discussions brought to light issues that the Legislature will have to deal with. In the next several months, the Legislators will have to not only review the 2012 budget but plan ahead to 2013.

"The mid-year budget hearings brought forward some concerning news of a possible deficit, but with this information, we have to focus



Properly funding the Sheriff's Office and other necessary services is a priority during the budget process.

on balancing the county's budget. That starts with taking every possible opportunity to save money and reduce wasteful spending," said Legislator Dixon.

She pointed to a distinct opportunity to save nearly \$3 million. Legislator Dixon and a majority of the Legislature support the control board conducting borrowing that is necessary to operate government and finance capital projects. She also supports refinancing existing bonds to save an estimated \$1.5 million.

"We all agree that the borrowing has to be done, what the majority of the Legislature and the County Executive and Comptroller disagree on is who should borrow, the county or control board," said Legislator Dixon. "At this time I think it is



A press conference was held July 18, requesting the County Executive save taxpayer money and borrow through the control board.

prudent that we borrow through the control board and utilize its higher bond rating and lower interest rates."

Legislator Dixon noted that the county's elected officials have a responsibility to act appropriately with taxpayer money while providing necessary services.

Anyone with any questions or concerns is encouraged to contact Legislator Dixon's office at 858-8671.

VALER4Valor Committee supports veterans

During its July 12, 2012 session, the Legislature approved the creation of a committee charged with ensuring that veterans receive the federal benefits they earned. The VALER4Valor Committee will be comprised of Legislators

and members of the community. Legislator Dixon said, for example, only 30 percent of veterans utilize federal and state educational benefits available.

"There are many more benefits available to our veterans than they are

aware of. This committee will help to connect those who served with the agencies that can assist them," said Legislator Dixon.

Anyone with questions can contact Legislator Dixon's office for more information at 858-8671.

Special points of interest:

- SUMMER READING PROGRAM AT LIBRARY BRANCHES
- NEW MEMORY CAFÉ IN LACKAWANNA
- CITIZENS RECOGNIZED

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Libraries host Summer Reading Program events

Legislator Dixon has partnered with the Buffalo and Erie County Central Library to remind kids and parents that the 2012 Summer Reading program is underway.

The program has two themes, "Dream Big, Read!" for kids and "Own the Night," for teens. Two highlights of the Summer Reading Program are, Read Down Your Fines and Battle of the Books. Every 15 minutes of reading counts toward a library buck to be used for overdue fines.

The 14th annual Battle of the Books is Saturday, Aug. 4 and is a trivia competition with approximately 35 teams.

Legislator Dixon took part in the Summer Reading announcement in June, along with her Legislative colleagues, the storybook character Maisy and students from Enterprise Charter School.

Events are planned at each of the branches throughout the summer - for info, visit www.buffalolib.org.



Local Branch Highlights!

- Dudley Branch—Mid-Day Movie Madness - 2 pm Aug. 9
- Hamburg — Summer Movie, "The Lorax" - 7 pm Aug. 17
- Lackawanna — Summer Party! 11 a.m. Aug. 9
- Lake Shore — Book Sale - 10 am Aug. 23

"THIS FUNDING WILL SUPPORT CENTERS THAT PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING STRUCTURED PROGRAMS FOR OUR YOUTH."

Lackawanna, South Buffalo youth programs receive funding

Legislator Dixon was pleased to announce that Summer Primetime funding for several youth centers in Lackawanna and South Buffalo was approved during a recent session. The funding will be used to offer a variety of programming and provide youths with recreational activities during the upcoming summer recess.

The following programs serving Lackawanna and South Buffalo will receive funding:

- Access of WNY - \$10,000

- Valley Community Association - \$10,000
- Willie Hutch Jones Sports & Education - \$10,000
- Seneca Street Community Development - \$8,000
- Lackawanna Sports & Education - \$7,500
- Seneca Babcock Community Association - \$6,000
- Old First Ward Community Association - \$5,000

"This funding will support centers that play a critical

role in the community by providing structured programs for our youth," Legislator Dixon said. "During the summer months, families need programs such as these to give their children a place to go and participate in constructive activities."

Legislator Dixon also noted the approval of funding for county-wide organizations, including Greater Niagara Frontier Council – Boy Scouts; Be-A-Friend - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Erie County; WNY United Against Drugs & Alcohol Abuse; and Young Audiences.



Find Legislator Dixon on Facebook

Legislator Dixon posts updates on County Legislature items, community events and information on Facebook. To become her "friend," search "Legislator Lynne Dixon." Legislator Dixon is also looking for groups, businesses and organizations with pages, invite Legislator Dixon to "like" your page.

Photo Gallery



The Hamburg High School Women's Softball Team was honored by Legislator Lynne Dixon during the July 19, 2012 session in recognition of their outstanding season. Pictured, from left, are: Coach Lisa Palma, Audrey Weiss, Sarah Mertowski, Madeline Medina, Legislator Dixon, Megan Medina and Kailee Ramaekers.



At the Buffalo Transportation/Pierce Arrow Museum with Founder and Executive Director, James Sandoro. The restorations are truly amazing. For information on this great museum, visit www.pierce-arrow.com.



Legislator Dixon talks with students at the Buffalo Central Library during a program kick-off event. The students shared with her why they love visiting the library, as well as what they planned to do this summer.



Legislator Dixon honored Lackawanna Firefighters Rick Chmielowiec and Ron Shul for their actions when a routine EMS call turned dangerous and life threatening for all those involved.

County adds grant funded positions to battle Medicaid fraud

Legislator Dixon announces that the County will add three grant-funded positions to help combat issues associated with Medicaid fraud.

A Medicaid Anti-Fraud Task Force was created to

investigate potential fraud. The cost of Medicaid in Erie County has risen to more than \$210 million annually and is the single largest expense for taxpayers.

"We have to be thorough when it comes to spending

taxpayer money and any potential savings will benefit the entire county. We know that there are issues and fraud does occur. This task force will uncover issues so we can correct them," said Legislator Dixon.

Free Memory Cafe gatherings

Legislator Dixon announces that OLV Senior Neighborhood is hosting Memory Cafe, a new project offered through the Erie County Caregiver Coalition.

Memory Cafe is where family caregivers and their memory impaired loved ones can gather for shared fun activities. Refreshments are provided and friendships will be made in a low stress, dementia friendly setting. Events are free.

OLV Senior Neighborhood, located at 55 Melroy Ave.,



Lackawanna, will host Memory Cafe gatherings from 2 to 4 p.m. on the following dates: Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13.

Also planned is Movie Matinee at OLV, at 2 p.m., on the following dates: Aug. 18, Sept. 22, Oct. 20 and Nov. 17.

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.

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PROUDLY SERVING THE 9TH DISTRICT



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It has been said that small businesses are the backbone of any community. I couldn't agree more and we are fortunate to have so many outstanding businesses located within the district that I have the privilege to represent. To ensure there is an open-door policy, I will soon launch my "25 Businesses in 25 Days" tour to visit with business owners and employees throughout Hamburg, Lackawanna and South Buffalo. Not only do I plan to learn all about these businesses, their challenges and history, I will share information from the Legislature on what can be done and has been done to support business growth and development.

While 25 businesses is just the tip of the iceberg, I foresee this endeavor as a launching pad to continue open communication with all businesses in my district and throughout Erie County. From restaurants to industrial factories, I am always available to listen to any business' concerns and help in any way I am able should an issue arise. Please follow my business tour on Facebook as I promote these great pillars of our community.

Sincerely,

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

Proclamations presented to outstanding individuals, groups



Hamburg High School Women's Lacrosse Team was honored at the July 19, 2012 session for its outstanding season. Pictured, from left, are: Amanda Obenshain, Legislator Dixon, Megan Mikolajek, and Katie Miller.

At every session, the Erie County Legislature honors individual's and groups' accomplishments with proclamations. The following recipients were recognized:

Veronica Federiconi on the 10th anniversary of Arts Work at Autistic Services & in recognition of April as Autism Awareness Month

Bruce Benson, of Hamburg, for being recognized as Educator of the Year by the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce

Daniel M. Boody, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer of District Council No. 4, International Union of Painters & Allied Trades, on his retirement

The Greater South Buffalo Chamber of Commerce award recipients: **Tony Scaccia**, Longevity Award; **Fran Desiderio**, Chamber Ambassador; **Mercy Hospital**, Business of the Year; **William "Bill" Conroy**, Community Service Award; **South Buffalo News/Front Page Group**, Business of the Year Award (Small Business); **Theresa Schuta**, Educator of the Year Award; and **Mark J.F. Schroeder**, Founders' Award

Daniel Chiacchia, recipient of the 2012 Commitment to Education Award

Sheriff's Deputy Elizabeth Fildes for her tireless commitment to combat human trafficking

Benny Kirkland for bravery in apprehending a suspect immediately following a fatal hit-and-run crash he witnessed

Joseph Carubba and **Carubba Collision** for their dedication to the community

Hon. Dick Smith, recipient of the Carubba Collision - Profile in Courage Award

Hon. Louis P. Violanti for being awarded the 2012 Thomas M. Cooley Law School Distinguished Alumni Award

Binational Alliance on the 10th anniversary of Doors Open Niagara and launch of the War of 1812 Binational Peace Garden Trail

Ann Swan for her exemplary public service

Nicholas Danyluk, Evan Taylor, Peter Weiss and **Christopher J. Wittmeyer** for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Hamburg High School Women's Lacrosse Team, Women's Softball Team and **Men's Lacrosse Team**, honored for winning sectional titles

Rev. Lawrence E. Burns on the 50th anniversary of his ordination

Bill Nye for 30 years of service as supervisor of Recreation and Parks for the Village of Hamburg

Frances Guzzo, Amanda Murray, Amanda Vetter, Katherine Vetter and **Paul Wujek** on receiving the Anthony M. Castiglia Memorial Award.

Lexington Co-op for its 40th anniversary