

COUNTY OF ERIE,
NEW YORK

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Legislators and students show appreciation for veterans.
- County Parks could be the perfect place to host your next family event.
- Salary returned to community through donations.

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News from Legislator

Kevin Hardwick

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



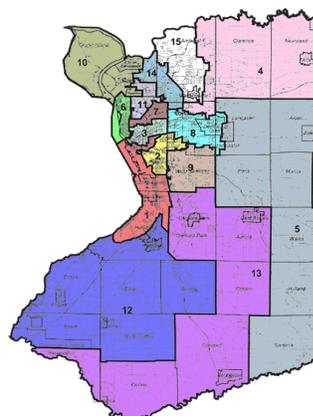
MARCH 2011

Redistricting Underway - 4 seats to be removed

The Advisory Committee on Reapportionment has been meeting to draft a plan that would remove four districts in the Erie County Legislature.

In November voters decided to reduce the size of the Legislature from 15 to 11 districts. An advisory committee is required by charter to develop, and formally submit, a recommendation on how to decrease the Legislature.

Minority Leader John J. Mills announced his appointees on February 9: **Ms. Martha**



Lamparelli, Mr. Emilio
Colaiacono, Mr. Jorge S. de
Rosas, Mr. Jonathan S.
Hickey, Mr. Brian Wittmeyer,
and **Mr. Brian R. Biggie.**

Recent census numbers show that many suburbs increased in population while the City of Buffalo dropped 10%. Other areas also reported a loss in population, including the Town of Tonawanda and City of Tonawanda.

These figures will be used to draft the final plan, which is expected sometime in May.

For information about the redistricting process or to comment, please visit the Website, www.erie.gov/legislature.

Securing for rodent control funding

In response to concerns from constituents and community leaders, Legislator Hardwick suspended in a resolution at the March 24, 2011 session from the County Executive's Office designating \$70,000 for rat and vector control. The item was voted on during the April 14, 2011 session and approved.

"The funding will be applied immediately and will directly address the issue of rodents in residential and commercial

areas," Legislator Hardwick said. "There was some hesitation among my colleagues who wanted to unnecessarily hold the item, but I pushed for this vote to be taken today and not delay the implementation of these crucial funds any longer. We need to step up and respond to the concerns coming from municipalities and our constituents."

2010 surplus funds were allocated for the program, and

this action will not create a new fee or tax. Through this one-time allotment, municipalities will have the resources to properly transition from utilizing county services to managing their own rat and vector issues.

Legislator Hardwick added that the funding allotment transitions the program and provides the tools that municipalities need to address individual rodent issues and improve the quality of life for residents.

Valentines created for area veterans



St. Stephen Students created Valentine's Day cards for veterans.

Legislator Hardwick thanks the hundreds of students and staff members from his district that participated in "Valentines for Veterans" in February 2011.

Students from St. Stephen School, New Life Christian School, Kaegebein Elementary, Huth Road Elementary, Holmes Elementary, Fletcher Elementary and Mullen Elementary created handmade cards for patients at the VA Hospital.

Organized by Legislator

Hardwick and his colleagues in the Legislature's Republican Caucus, "Valentines for Veterans" was a special way for students and legislators to show area veterans that they remember them and thank them for their service.

"I am very appreciative of the students for their hard work and thank them for taking the time to let our veterans know we remember them and value their service. This has been a great event for the students,

and myself, as we take time to say thank you to those most deserving," Legislator Hardwick said.

This year marked the VA Hospital's 33rd annual observance of National Salute to Veteran Patients.

Cards were also donated to Jammies for GI's program, an organization dedicated to supplying wounded troops with personal items left behind when they were evacuated from a war zone.

Reserve a County Shelter, Campsite today!



The gazebo at Isle Park is available for rent for special events.

Legislator Hardwick reminds residents that Erie County's Parks have dozens of shelters in a large variety of sizes available for rent.

Visit the County Park's Website at www.erie.gov/parks to review the availability at each of the parks.

To make a reservation, complete the electronic request online or download an

application and mail it to Erie County Parks and Recreation, 95 Franklin Street, Room 1359, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Reservations can also be made by calling 858-8355 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Legislator Hardwick, who has rented facilities for his own events, highly recommends checking out the gazebo

available for rent at Isle View Park located at 796 Niagara Street. Also consider Ellicott Creek Park located at Niagara Falls Boulevard and Ellicott Creek Road, both are in Tonawanda.

Consider one of the many shelters for your next reunion, event or party.

Camping is also available at the County's Sprague Brook Park.

Visit Legislat Hardwick's newly designed Website at www.erie.gov/legislature



Visit the Legislature's New Website!

In February the Erie County Legislature launched its new, user-friendly Website. Visitors can easily locate and contact their Legislator, find information about meetings and sessions, read the most recent news releases and flip through photo reels highlighting events from the community.

The new site presents

pertinent information in an easy to follow format and is a great tool for anyone who needs information about the Legislature.

Each month the Website features Legislator Hardwick's monthly column.

To view the new Website, please visit www.erie.gov/legislature.



Legislator Hardwick participated in Mayors for Meals at Kenmore-Tonawanda Meals on Wheels on March 23, 2011. He joined volunteer Dale Meldrum to deliver meals to those in need.

Legislator Hardwick Gives His Salary Back



Legislator Hardwick visited the Kenmore-Tonawanda Meals on Wheels on Monday, Jan. 10, 2011 to observe the day-to-day operations of the busy program. Serving approximately 250 residents, Kenmore-Tonawanda Meals on Wheels has grown tremendously. The need for their service has increased greatly over the past 10 years and in response, Legislator Hardwick donated \$1,000 to the organization as part of his pledge to donate \$7,500 of his annual Legislative salary to community groups. "I am proud to support this

Legislator Hardwick donated \$1,000 to Meals on Wheels

worthwhile organization and was interested to learn more about their service and how we as a community can continue to support them," Legislator Hardwick said.

In 2010, Legislator Hardwick kept that pledge and presented donations to 18 groups, including youth sports leagues, senior centers, emergency services and Veterans posts. He also donated \$850 to the City of Tonawanda Fire Police to fund the purchase of three radios that will greatly assist the department during emergencies. The presentation was made during the Dec. 21 City of Tonawanda Board meeting. The Fire Police used

the donation to purchase a Kenwood "Model 3180," UHF Handheld Transceiver which employs the latest technology and will enable the user to scan multiple frequencies at once.

"This donation is among the most important and critical I have made. I am honored to be able to help this great association and keep members safe while responding to emergencies," he added.



Legislator Hardwick donated \$850 to the Fire Police.

Proclamations given to exceptional residents

Members of the community are honored during each Legislative session. During the months of January, February and March the following individuals or groups were honored:

Mark Basile and Carol Myers, recipients of the Kenmore Mercy Hospital Annual Medical Staff Award.

Bishop Bernard J. McLaughlin for marking the 75th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood.

Grand Island School District for achieving first place at the Niagara County Community College Tech Wars.

Richard E. Berg for his dedication



Legislator Hardwick honors Chris Brownschidle of Troop 510 on Grand Island for on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

to community and scholarship.

Beverly Kinney and Toni Antenelli for their service on the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Elizabeth A. Schriber, recipient of the 25 Years of Service Award from Erie I BOCES.

Christopher Gallant, recipient of the 2010 Professional Achievement Award from Buffalo State College's Communications Department.

Grand Island Fire Department and Fire Chief **Greg Butcher** for a heroic rescue.

Edward A. Johnson, named Vice President for Financial Affairs at D'Youville College.

Pat Domin for 30 years of dedicated service on the Erie County Board of Elections.

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Erie County's vision: Erie County will be a world-class community where People want to live, Businesses want to locate and Tourists want to visit.

I am excited to launch my quarterly newsletter and bring you information from the County Legislature. In an effort to save taxpayer dollars this newsletter is only e-mailed as to not waste paper or postage.

There is a lot happening in District 10 and around Erie County that residents need to be made aware of so I thought this newsletter was a great opportunity to send information. You can also stay up-to-date through our recently redesigned Website at www.erie.gov/legislature. Also, watch for columns and news in your local newspaper.

Sincerely,

Proclamations given to exceptional residents

(Continued from page 3)

Dorothy Young honored for celebrating her 100th birthday.

Tonawanda Warriors Bowling Team for winning the ECIC Division 4, Section 6 Crown.

Tonawanda Warriors Varsity Basketball Team for winning the ECIC Division 4, Section 6 Crown.

Erie Niagara Sunrise Exchange Club on its 25th anniversary.

Cory McGregor and **Jordan McGregor** on their performance at NYS Public High School Athletic Association State Wrestling Championship.

Tonawanda High School Cheering Team for its dedication to the sports teams of Tonawanda.

Aubrey McCoy of Girl Scout Troop No. 1019 on receiving the Girl Scout Silver Award.



Legislator Hardwick honors Jonathan Grenda of Troop 510 on Grand Island for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

James T. Klock and **Russell Certo**, recipients of the 2010 Grand Island High School Distinguished Alumni Award.

Ralph C. Lorigo on receiving the Anthony M. Castiglia Achievement Award from the Italian American Leadership Council.

Grand Island Golden Age Center for its celebration of Members' Golden Anniversaries.

Kimberly M. McMahon on being appointed as Benefits Administrator for the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce.

Carolyn M. Konopski on being appointed as Administrative Director of the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce.

Grand Island Girls Varsity Basketball Team for its Outstanding Season.

Kathryn Boutet, Justine (Helen) Call, Jenna Cardone and **Jen Banker**, recipients of Student of the Month honors from the Grand Island Rotary Club.

Stephanie D. Martin recognized for her retirement as Director of Finance and Administration of the United Way of the Tonawandas.

Beverly Federspiel recognized for her service as Director of the City of Tonawanda Public Library.

Dorothy Young honored for celebrating her 100th birthday.