

COUNTY OF ERIE,
NEW YORK

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Services available through County
- Recognizing National Police Week
- Helpful guides for fishing and biking available
- Proclamations presented to deserving residents

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News from Legislator

Kevin Hardwick



SUMMER 2011

Why ECC must develop at North Campus

Every time a community college student chooses Niagara County Community College (NCCC) over Erie Community College (ECC) our property taxes go up, as New York State law allows community colleges to charge back the cost of educating students to their county of origin. These costs are then added to the property taxes of the city or town in which the students reside. This problem is particularly acute for Grand Island and the Tonawandas given their proximity to Niagara County.

For every full-time NCCC student from Erie County, we



Rendering of the proposed new academic building at ECC's North Campus.

were charged \$2,460 for a countywide total of \$3,397,170. Chargebacks from NCCC cost City of Tonawanda residents a total of \$382,397 on their property tax bills; Town of Tonawanda taxpayers, \$848,481;

and Grand Island residents, \$481,419.

That is why Legislator Hardwick agrees with the Trustees of ECC that a new academic building should be constructed on the North Campus. The \$30 million building would enable ECC to expand its offerings and keep our students in Erie County.

Hardwick recently voted to authorize bonding for the county's \$7.5 million share of the project stating that, "If we can shave a fraction of the costs of the annual chargebacks from NCCC — which have grown 126.5 percent in the last seven years — we will be way ahead."

Community organizations benefit from donations



Legislator Hardwick presented a donation to Kenmore Kindness to support its summer community dinners on Wednesdays.

Most part-time jobs don't pay \$42,000, plus benefits - Legislator Hardwick has stated this since before taking office in 2010. That is why he has continued to push for a reduction of the Legislator's salary. Unable to garner enough support last year, and delayed by legal procedure that doesn't allow a salary reduction vote during an election year, Legislator Hardwick continues to reduce his own salary by giving a portion of it back to the

community.

He has pledged to donate \$7,500 to organizations and support their efforts. This year he has made donations to the Tonawanda American Little League, Kenmore Kindness and Gastown Sportmen's Club. Additional donations will be announced this summer. Legislator Hardwick praises these organizations for their efforts and positive influence in the community.



Legislator Hardwick speaks to residents at a Town Hall Meeting.

“A community must be willing to invest in itself in order to prosper.”

- Legislator Hardwick stated in his May 2011 column



The 82-year-old fire hall will soon be replaced.

County offers many outreaches

Whether you are a senior, a veteran, a nature lover, etc., there are services available to you from Erie County.

Legislator Hardwick reminds residents to check the County's Website, www.erie.gov, for information. He is also available to share information. Please contact his Legislative Office (**contact information found on page 4**). Information is also available at Legislator Hardwick's District Outreach Meetings and other speaking events.

An important outreach planned by the County this summer is the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day. Residents can drop off accepted items from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20 at Erie Community College's North Campus, enter from Wehrle Drive near Youngs Road. Visit www.erie.gov/environment for a complete list of acceptable items.

Also scheduled is a Rabies Clinic at the SPCA, 205 Ensminger Road, Tonawanda,

from 3-7 p.m. Sept. 7. The rabies vaccine is available to cats and dogs for free.

And don't forget about the beautiful County parks when looking for something to do this summer. Isle View Park at 796 Niagara St. features boat launches, fishing hot spots and paved trails for walking, running, bicycling and roller blading. And Ellicott Creek Park, at Niagara Falls Boulevard and Ellicott Creek Road, has fishing, picnic facilities, and sports fields.

We Must Continue to Invest in Our Future

The second week of every month, Legislator Hardwick's thoughts can be found in the Ken-Ton Bee and Island Dispatch newspapers. His monthly column addresses a wide variety of topics and is full of information that is important to his district.

For example, his **May 2011** column, "We Must Continue to Invest in Our Future," took a look at how to best spend surplus money.

Legislator Hardwick wrote, "A community must be willing to invest in itself in order to prosper. This was certainly the case in 1817 when construction began on 'Clinton's Ditch.' The completion of the Erie Canal helped turn Buffalo into one of the largest and wealthiest cities in America. Judicious investments today can similarly help us recover from the decline of the last half century. Several such opportunities

await action by the Erie County Legislature."

Legislator Hardwick also discussed steps taken to combat the rodent problem in his district (**April 2011**) and encouraged his colleagues to take the politics out of the districting process and approve a map that best serves the people of Erie County (**June 2011**).

To read the columns in their entirety, visit www.erie.gov/legislature/district10.

River Road Fire Company holds groundbreaking ceremony

Legislator Hardwick was honored to participate in River Road Fire Company's groundbreaking ceremony for its new fire hall. Built in 1929, the fire hall is outdated and too small to meet the fire company's needs.

"This is very exciting news for the River Road Fire Company,

which has one of the oldest operating fire halls in the area," said Legislator Hardwick. "It has been a struggle, but finally the day is here and the new fire hall will soon be a reality and a service to the residents and businesses."

Congratulations to the River Road Fire Company!



Legislator Hardwick says a few words at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Police Departments Honored



Legislator Hardwick presented a proclamation to City of Tonawanda Police Chief John J. Ivancic at the May 17, 2011 City of Tonawanda Board Meeting, in honor of National Police

Honoring Tonawanda's bravest.

Week. "National Police Week was created to honor the officers in our communities who selflessly devote their time and often put themselves in harm's way to protect us from those that challenge the moral fabric of our society through criminal activity and disobedience,"

Legislator Hardwick stated in the proclamation.

Proclamations were also presented to the Erie County Sheriff's Office, the New York State Police, and Grand Island, Town of Tonawanda and Village of Kenmore Police Departments.

Legislator Hardwick thanks the officers for their dedicated service.



Hot Spot Fishing Maps, Bicycle Route Guides Available

The 2011 Hot Spot Fishing Map and Bicycle Route Guide are now available through Legislator Hardwick's office.

To request free copies, please contact his Legislative Office at (716) 873-3438 or email kevin.hardwick@erie.gov.

The fishing guide offers useful information on local fishing tips and

list of consistent areas to find a good day's fishing; list of Erie County charter captains and campsites; major boat launch sites and marinas; and regional fishing clubs and Websites of interest. For map updates, please visit www.erie.gov/hotspot.

The Bicycle Route Guide includes a full-color map of designated routes in Erie and

Niagara counties, as well as a detailed map of downtown. It also features a list of bicycle dealers, repair and rental shops, and information about how to "Recycle -A-Bicycle" and receive a tax deductible receipt.

For information about the Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council, please visit www.gbnrtc.org.

Call 873-3438

or email

[kevin.hardwick](mailto:kevin.hardwick@erie.gov)

@erie.gov to

receive copies

of these

helpful guides.

Community Photo Gallery



Legislator Hardwick joins officials and other participants for the Grand Island Fourth of July Parade. What a great event to celebrate our country's freedom.



Honoring a longtime Red Cross volunteer. You can do your part by donating blood now through Sept. 11 during "90 Days of Remembrance" and honor those we lost.



Legislator Hardwick congratulates MacKenzie, the third grade Flag Day essay contest winner at Holmes Elementary School.



Contact Legislator Kevin Hardwick

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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.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

There is a lot going on in Erie County right now. Decisions are being made concerning everything from repairing roads and bridges to the future of our libraries. That is why it is so important that citizens stay informed and make their feelings known. As your representative in county government, I take my responsibility to represent you very seriously. If you have questions or concerns regarding any county issue, I want to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or e-mail. You can also write me at the Legislative Chambers, 92 Franklin Street, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Together, we can make Erie County an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Residents honored at Legislative Sessions

Members of the community are honored during each Legislative session. During the months of April, May and June the following individuals or groups were honored:

Jon Roth, recipient of the 2011 Athletic Administrator of the Year Award.

St. Stephen's Parish Plays, Community Theatre Group, named Organization of the Year by the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce.

Todd and Danielle St. Onge, owners of Island Deli & Meat Market, named the Business of the Year by the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce.

Sherry Bradford, named Civic Person of the Year by the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce.

Tom Kanaley, named Business Person of the Year by the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce.

Lynn Ortiz, named Educator of the Year by the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce.

Maxine Radosevich, recognized for her commitment to the community.

Cheryl Lepsch, recognized during National Volunteer Month for her dedication to "Jammies for GI's."

Historical Society of the Tonawandas, recognized for marking its 25th anniversary.

Matthew Baglio, Alexander Fumerelle, and Thomas Knab, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Pat Shaw, named Community Service Person of the Year by the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce.

Marlene Roll, recipient of the Susan B. Anthony Award from the Interclub Council of WNY.

Patricia Bacon, retired as City of Tonawanda Assessor after many years of service.

Jane Soluri, recipient of the Clara Barton Award from the American Red Cross.

Robert H. Gregg, recipient of the Honorable Mention Award in the Watercolor Division at the 54th Annual Allentown Art Festival.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, marked 175 Years of outstanding service to the community.



Legislator Hardwick presented a proclamation to Miracle League of Grand Island and WNY President Teresa Hooper at the groundbreaking ceremony held April 15, 2011 for its Barrier Free Baseball Field.



City of Tonawanda Mayor Ronald Pilozzi was honored at the June 30, 2011 Legislative Session for being selected as a NYS Veterans Hall of Fame Honoree.