

COUNTY OF ERIE,  
NEW YORK

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- See what community groups' efforts were supported in 2011.
- Free program could help save accident victims' lives.
- Resident input sought during budget process.

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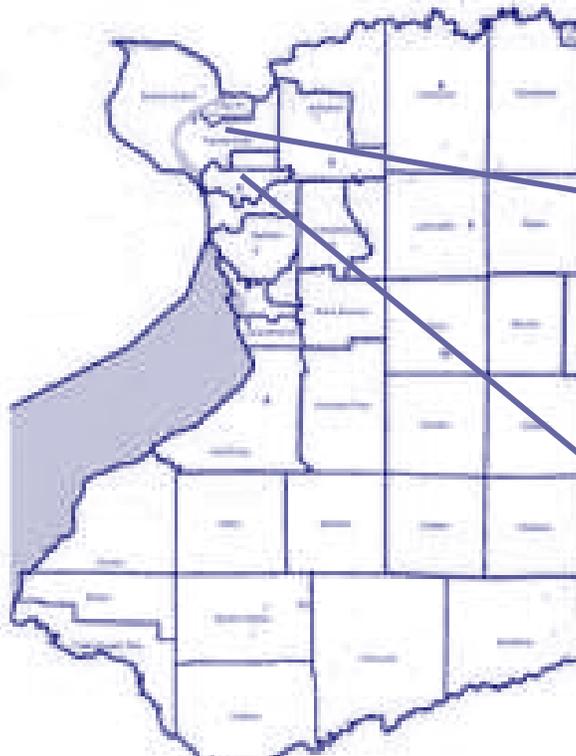
# News from Legislator

## Kevin Hardwick

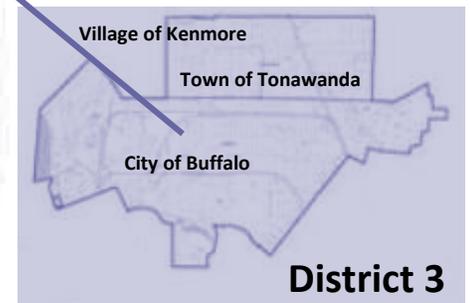
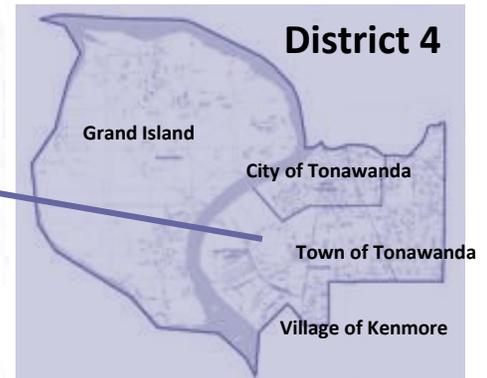
WINTER 2011 - 2012



### New Legislative Districts take effect



Maps available at [www.erieboe.com](http://www.erieboe.com)



More than a year after residents went to the polls and 83 percent said yes to smaller county government, the results will be implemented. The new 11 legislative districts will officially take shape on Jan. 1, 2012.

"It was a long process to get the item on the referendum in November 2010. I joined a bipartisan effort to stop attempts to block the item

from going before the public," Legislator Hardwick. "Obviously myself and my colleagues had the support of the residents of Erie County as the measure was approved overwhelming."

Legislator Hardwick will represent approximately 83,000 residents. His new district, No. 4, includes the Town of Grand Island, City of Tonawanda, and the majority of the Town of Tonawanda, including a portion of the Village of Kenmore. The

southern portion of the Town of Tonawanda and part of the Village of Kenmore is located in the new 3rd District, represented by Legislator Lynn Marinelli.

Anyone with questions about which new district they reside in can contact Legislator Hardwick at 858-8672.

The new map reflects population information collected during the 2010 census.

# Community Groups' efforts supported



Legislator Hardwick presents donations in the community.

Legislator Hardwick continued give back to the community, donating a portion of his salary to organizations located within his district. Since taking office in 2010, Legislator Hardwick has donated more than \$13,000 of his salary.

He met with several organizations to discuss their individual needs and offered his support with their efforts. Donations were presented to:

- ◆ Mount St. Mary's Academy's Guardian

Angel Fund

- ◆ Friends of Grand Island Memorial Library
- ◆ Miracle League of Grand Island and WNY
- ◆ City of Tonawanda Senior Center for a Wii game system and 42-inch flat screen TV
- ◆ Boys & Girls Club of the Northtowns
- ◆ Buffalo and Erie County Public Library System's

Bucks for Books program

"I gained a lot by presenting these donations to the various groups and meeting with representatives to discuss each organization's mission," Legislator Hardwick. "Each cause is greatly deserving of support and I am happy to be blessed with the ability to give back."

Legislator Hardwick has also supported Meals on Wheels, Senior Centers, military organizations and youth sports.

*The Yellow Dot program helps drivers involved in auto accidents by making healthcare information easily accessible to emergency responders.*

## Yellow Dot, Vial of Life Programs Approved

The Legislature recently approved a resolution to make Yellow Dot and Vial of Life programs available to County residents who choose to participate. Erie County is again leading the effort for helping its residents and joins only a few New York counties who operate the Yellow Dot and Vial of Life programs. The Yellow Dot program helps drivers involved in auto accidents by making healthcare information easily accessible to

emergency responders. A yellow sticker on the rear windshield of a car signifies that a folder in the glove compartment contains the driver's photo, medications, allergies, contacts and other information.

Similarly, Vial of Life program is designed to protect individuals in need of medical assistance at their homes. Vial of Life participants place a decal on their front doors, alerting emergency responders

of a packet of medical information on the home's refrigerator door.

The resolution approving the implementation of the programs was forwarded to the Department of Senior Services, which will educate the public about these free programs, and create the decals and distribute them to those who wish to participate. For information, contact the Department of Senior Services at **858-8081**.



A new Air-I landing pad will be installed in late January and will make take off and landing safer for the pilots.

## Funding benefits public safety improvement

Necessary funding for a new state-of-the-art landing pad for the Erie County Sheriff's helicopter was approved during a recent Erie County Legislature session. The new \$31,000 landing pad will provide a safe takeoff and landing surface for the Sheriff's "Air-1" helicopter, which is piloted by Captain Kevin Caffery and Tactical Flight

Officer Arthur Litzinger and located in the Town of Evans. The new 'HELIWAGON' is a remote controlled takeoff and landing dolly that will replace the 40-year-old dolly currently being used.

"This Sheriff's helicopter responds to numerous crisis situations during the year and is successful in locating and saving many residents who

were in extreme danger. I am proud to support this expenditure and the Sheriff's Office efforts in protecting the residents of Erie County," Legislator Hardwick said. "In addition, we are saving taxpayer dollars by choosing to replace the landing pad instead of refurbishing the current pad, which is outdated and would cost twice as much to repair."

# 2012 Budget Adopted, Tax Increase Avoided



Before Legislator Hardwick cast his vote for the 2012 budget he met with residents in the City of Tonawanda and Town of Grand Island to hear their thoughts. This was in addition to the Legislature's

**Resident input is vital to the budget process.**

public hearing where many people attended to comment on how tax dollars should be spent. "The two roundtable discussions afforded me the opportunity to meet directly with residents to hear their thoughts about the budget," Legislator Hardwick. "The events were great successes as I gained a different perspective."

The 2012 budget totals \$1.4 billion and will not raise the tax rate. County Executive-Elect Mark Poloncarz proposed additional cuts and spending to the budget. After discussing these proposals, the County Legislature approved the revised budget at its budget meeting on Dec. 6. The new budget will take effect on Jan. 1, 2012.

It is expected that a surplus from 2011 will be realized and the Legislature will have to work with the County Executive to consider how that can best be utilized.

**"This project will also greatly**

**reduce the amount of stormwater discharge and, as a result, decrease flooding,"**

**- Legislator Hardwick**

## Grant will greatly decrease stormwater discharge

Legislator Hardwick announced that the County has received a grant that will allow for the reuse of 2 million gallons of rainwater and positively impact the environmental conditions in Tonawanda.

During a recent session, Legislator Hardwick supported the implementation of a \$626,000 grant, awarded by the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation for the Western New York Stormwater Coalition: Rainwater Harvesting Installation

Project.

The grant will be used to install large rainwater cisterns at the Tonawanda Highway Garage and the Tonawanda Senior Center. The collected water will be used for various outdoor projects, such as street sweeping, vegetation watering and truck cleaning.

It is expected that the five cisterns, including additional sites in East Aurora, Lackawanna and Orchard Park, will collect 2 million gallons of

useable water per year.

"By collecting and reusing rainwater, the local municipalities will save on the cost of purchasing water. This project will also greatly reduce the amount of stormwater discharge and, as a result, decrease flooding, erosion and pollutants," Legislator Hardwick said. "This is an excellent grant that the county is fortunate to have received. This is a system that is being used around the country and has been very successful."

### Winter Activities Guide Available

The Erie County Parks System features a variety of free activities for visitors during the winter months.

To learn more about the parks and what activities each has to offer, please request your free copy of the Winter Activities Guide by emailing Legislator Hardwick at [kevin.hardwick@erie.gov](mailto:kevin.hardwick@erie.gov) or call 858-8672.

The County Parks are great for downhill skiing in Emery Park, ice skating in Akron Falls Park, and sledding and tobogganing in Chestnut Ridge Park.

### HEAP Outreaches scheduled

Legislator Hardwick announces that three HEAP Outreaches will be held in his district in February. All outreaches are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be held on the following dates:

- Thursday, Feb. 2 at the Grand Island Golden Age Center, 3278 Whitehaven Road
- Tuesday, Feb. 7 at Town of Tonawanda Senior Center, 291 Ensminger Road
- Tuesday, Feb. 28 at the City of Tonawanda Senior Center, 33 Main St.

HEAP is a federally funded program to assist residents with their heating bills. HEAP is available to all income eligible households. For additional information, call the HEAP Hotline at 858-7644.



## 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.

**H**appy New Year! I hope that 2011 was a prosperous and healthy year for you and your loved ones, and that 2012 is even better.

I am looking forward to the new year as I begin my second term with the Erie County Legislature. It also marks the beginning of my tenure as representative of the new 4th District. It is an honor to be able to continue serving my constituents, and all the residents of Erie County. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

## Proclamations presented at Legislative sessions

Members of the community are honored during each Legislative session. The following individuals or groups were recently honored:

**Evan Shaw** of Boy Scout Troop No. 630 for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**Ascension Industries, Inc.**, named the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawanda's Business of the Year for 2011.

**Ryan Erwin**, named to Business First's "40 Under 40."

**Kathleen Rustowicz**, named Grand Island Chamber of Commerce Youth Ambassador for 2010-2011.

**Sydney Dudish**, named Grand Island Chamber of Commerce Youth Ambassador for 2010-2011.

**Michelle Moore**, nominated to the 2012 U.S. Olympic synchronized swimming team.



Peter Fogle, David Abrahamian and Michael Shaw of the American Legion Band of the Tonawandas accept a proclamation from Legislator Hardwick at the Oct. 27 session. They were recognized for winning its 18th National Championship.



Matthew Mondoux for his commitment and devotion to raising awareness and funds to Fight Lou Gehrig's Disease. Mondoux walked 350 miles from Grand Island Veterans Park to Yankees Stadium to raise funds.