

COUNTY OF ERIE,
NEW YORK

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Dedication to infrastructure maintenance in Erie County is recognized.
- County's Sugar Shack increases production in 2011.
- Parks continue to make improvements.

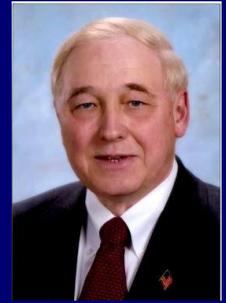
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News from Legislator

John J. Mills

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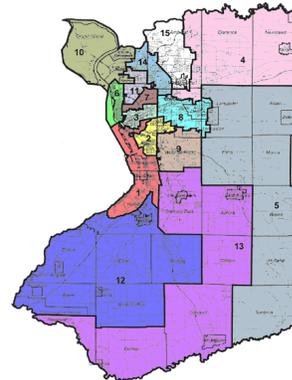
MARCH 2011

REDISTRICTING UNDERWAY

4 SEATS TO BE REMOVED

Erie County Legislature's Minority Leader John J. Mills was proud to announce his appointments to serve on the Advisory Committee on Reapportionment to develop, and formally submit, a recommendation on how to decrease the Legislature from 15 members to 11, and re-draw 11 district lines. The announcement of appointees was made February 9.

Legislator Mills appointed a designee to serve in his place - **Ms. Martha Lamparelli**, a City of Buffalo resident who is very active in the Western New York community. Legislator Mills also chose to appoint the following individuals: **Mr. Emilio Colaiacovo, Mr. Jorge S. de Rosas, Mr. Jonathan S.**



Hickey, Mr. Brian Wittmeyer, and Mr. Brian R. Biggie.

"These six individuals represent the best of Erie County. Together, they share knowledge of the Legislature, downsizing, the law and our community. I have every confidence that they will do an outstanding job developing a recommendation on

reapportionment that fully respects the taxpayers," said Legislator Mills.

The committee began meeting in March and received the census numbers on March 24, which will help in drafting the new districts. A final plan is expected the end of spring.

Residents can comment on redistricting at public hearings:

- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 12 at ECC City Campus Auditorium.
- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 13 at ECC North Campus, K Building Lecture Hall, Room 100.
- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14 at ECC South Campus Auditorium, Building 5.

Mills elected Minority Leader for 2011

Legislator Mills was unanimously re-elected as the Minority Leader of the Erie County Legislature's six-member Republican Caucus. He has held the post since 2007.

"I want to thank my colleagues for their support and I look forward to leading our Caucus into another great year. Last year our Caucus was able to

accomplish a lot and saw reform initiatives implemented in Erie County," Minority Leader Mills said. "This year our members will be called upon to increase efficiencies, implement cuts, and ensure that taxpayers of Erie County are not faced with a tax increase in the coming years. We must also continue to provide

necessary services and I believe this Legislature, the Minority and Majority Caucuses can work together in the best interest of the residents."

The Republican Caucus confirmed the appointment during the reorganizational meeting held earlier this year.

Legislator Mills receives APWA Award



County Executive Collins honored Legislator Mills at the APWA banquet.

Legislator Mills was honored during the Western New York Branch of the American Public Works Association's annual awards banquet held Feb. 10, 2011 at Protocol Restaurant. Legislator Mills was selected to receive the Association's 2011 Elected Official Award which recognizes a governmental leader for their positive impact on public works programs, services, or

policies through distinguished public service and commitment.

Throughout his tenure, Legislator Mills has worked closely with the Erie County Department of Public Works to ensure road projects were completed in a timely and cost efficient manner.

"I want to thank the American Public Works Association for this honor

and the County's Public Works Department for nominating me," Legislator Mills said. "It has been an honor working with Commissioner Jerry Sentz and his crew on several projects in my district. I look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Erie County by allocating the appropriate funds to provide safe roadways and bridges."

Sugar Shack Tours Run Through April 15



Get an up close look at how maple syrup is made.

Erie County has opened the Sugar Shack at the Forestry in Sardinia for tours. The Bureau of Forestry will be giving group tours of the Sugar Shack and Sawmill through April 15, Monday - Wednesday and weekends 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

See how pure maple syrup, lumber, and various wood products are made. Tours are free, open to the public, and perfect for school-aged children. Please call 858-7037 to reserve your time. The Sugar Shack is located on Genesee Road near Warner Gulf Road, in the Town of Sardinia.



Parks Commissioner Jim Hornung explains the process to Legislator Mills.

Reserve a County Shelter, Campsite today!



The Commissioners Cabin at Chestnut Ridge Park can be rented for \$150

Legislator Mills reminds residents that the 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 Mills, who has rented facilities for his own events, highly recommends checking out the shelters at Chestnut Ridge Park,

Emery Park and Sprague Brook Park. Sprague Brook also has camping sites available for rent.

The Commissioners Cabin at Chestnut Ridge Park is one of WNY's best kept secrets - and includes a beautiful view of the lake located on park grounds.

Consider one of the many shelters for your next event.

Another great winter season for the County parks



This past winter was great for those who love various outdoor snow and ice activities.

In December 2010, Erie County Executive Chris Collins, Legislator Mills and Parks Commissioner Jim

Legislator Mills announces free activities at parks. Hornung held a press conference at Emery Park to highlight the many winter activities open to Erie County residents.

Downhill skiing, sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating and tobogganing were some of the activities offered for free once again in many of the County parks.

“Erie County works very hard to ensure the parks are maintained

and safe for residents to use. With rising costs around every corner, I am proud we can still offer downhill skiing, ice skating, sledding, and other winter activities free of charge in beautiful settings,” Mills said.

For the first time, Legislator Mills distributed a free Winter Activities Guide to inform residents of all the activities available in the parks.

Legislator Mills is now looking forward to enjoying spring and summer in the parks.

Winterfest a Huge Success

On Jan. 30, 2011 hundreds of residents gathered at Erie County’s Chestnut Ridge Park for Winterfest. Legislator Mills congratulated Parks Commissioner Jim Hornung and his staff for presenting a wonderful, free event for the residents of Erie County.

Legislator Mills was honored to serve as a judge of the Snow

Sculpture Contest. Many wonderful entries were considered and in the end three talented groups were honored in the following categories: Tallest Snowman, Most Creative, and Funniest.

For information about other events planned by the County’s Parks Department, please visit www.erie.gov/parks.



Legislator Mills congratulates the winners of the Tallest Snowman Category during the County’s 2011 Winterfest.

Seedling pick-up day is April 16

Just a reminder, if you ordered trees and shrubs, wildflower seed mixes, and seedling packets during the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation’s Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale, items will be available for pick up on **Saturday, April 16** at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg. For information, call 652-8480 ext. 5.



The Erie County Legislature’s Minority Caucus remains committed to reform.



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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.

Thank you for your interest in Erie County Government. I am pleased to once again send out this newsletter to share information with you.

The Legislature recently launched a new Website, which features an easy to use map, interactive community calendar, news releases, and a photo reel of the groups and residents I meet around the District. Please visit the redesigned Website at www.erie.gov/legislature.

This has been an extremely busy term and I look forward to continuing my efforts to reform Erie County government throughout this next year.

Residents honored at Legislative Sessions

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:

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

Kristine Jaeger, teacher at Colden Elementary, recipient of the New York State Art Teacher's Association's Art Education of the Year Region I Award.

Francis Gernatt for 30 years of service to the Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors .

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



Legislator John Mills presented a proclamation to **Lee Ainsworth-Mahaney** who recently retired as Director of the Aurora Library. The library welcomed new director Robert Alessi (second from left) during a reception held March 3. Library Board Trustees and Aurora Supervisor Jolene Jeffe are also pictured.