

News from Legislator John J. Mills



PROUDLY SERVING THE 11TH DISTRICT

ANGOLA, BOSTON, BRANT, COLLINS, CONCORD,
EDEN, EVANS, FARNHAM, GOWANDA, ORCHARD PARK,
NORTH COLLINS, SARDINIA, SPRINGVILLE



Spring 2012

Protecting the agriculture community



During an Agricultural Tourism tour in Erie County, Legislator Mills discussed the importance of supporting farms and agriculture businesses.

Erie County is home to a vast farming industry, including vineyards, dairy farms, and thousands of acres of vegetables and fruit. Much of Legislator John Mills' district is rural, housing agricultural businesses.

How farmers operate their business was recently threatened when the U.S. Department of Labor

proposed policy changes that could have prohibited teens from working the family's farm. New regulations would have removed much-needed employment opportunities for youths by prohibiting teens from engaging in such simple tasks. The language in the proposal was broad enough it would have prohibited teens from common chores like carrying firewood, collecting eggs or shearing sheep.

Legislator Mills discussed the issue with the Department of Labor's proposal in his May 2012 column, available to read at www.erie.gov/legislature/district11.

More than just threatening the farming industry, the federal government again

attempted to impose regulations that would harm small business operations.

"Once again, the federal government put forth a policy without purpose, threatening more harm than good. Those that proposed the changes obviously did not apply common sense, and their ineptness forced farmers and members of the agriculture community to take time away from their jobs to fight this ridiculous policy. It should not be the citizens' responsibility to demonstrate a 'public outcry' to prevent the government from intruding into their family business," Legislator Mills said.

Fortunately, the proposal was removed from consideration last month.

New York State Basic Corrections Academy Graduation



Congratulations to Orchard Park resident, Michelle LeVine, who recently graduated from the New York State Basic Corrections Academy. LeVine has earned the rank of deputy and will be assigned to the Erie County Holding Center. Joined by Undersheriff Mark Wipperman and Jail Superintendent Robert Koch.

Special points of interest

- COUNTY SERVICES
- TOUR COUNTY'S PARKS
- LIBRARY FUNDRAISERS

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Springville hosts clinic

4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, at the Springville Fire Company, 405 W. Main St., Springville.

“THERE ARE A LOT OF ISSUES BEFORE THE COUNTY THAT RESIDENTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSING THEM IN DETAIL,” SAID LEGISLATOR MILLS.

County offers free rabies vaccinations

Legislator Mills announces that the County has released the schedule for 2012 free rabies clinics for dogs, cats, and ferrets.

Organized by the Erie County Department of Health, in partnership with the Niagara Frontier Veterinary Society and the SPCA, serving Erie County, the clinics are scheduled on the following days:

- 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, at the Springville Fire Company, 405 W. Main

St., Springville

- 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 30, American Legion Post #1041, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo
- 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5, SPCA, 205 Ensminger Road, Tonawanda
- 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12, Clarence Highway Garage, 6185 Goodrich Road, Clarence
- 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19, West Seneca Highway Garage, 39

South Avenue, West Seneca (off Union near NYS 400)

The following requirements must be met in order to receive the rabies vaccination: pets must be at least 3 months old; and proof of previous rabies vaccination must be provided to receive a three-year certificate; otherwise a one-year certificate will be issued. All dogs, cats and ferrets must be restrained using a leash and/or pet carrier.

County issues discussed at town and village meetings

Legislator Mills is attending the board meetings of the 15 towns and villages in his district on a rotating schedule to provide updates to board members and attendees on county issues.

“My new district is the largest geographically, approximately one-third of the landmass in Erie County. In order to reach residents of every boundary, I have been touring the district to meet with residents in their

hometowns. There are a lot of issues before the County that residents need to be aware of and I am looking forward to discussing them in detail,” Legislator Mills said.

Legislator Mills will arrive before the beginning of each meeting and stay through the duration to meet with constituents before and after.

Having attended meetings in Sardinia and Evans, he will attend the Boston Town

Board meeting on Wednesday, May 16; Town of Collins on Monday, June 4; and Town of Orchard Park on Wednesday, June 6.

The schedule is announced on Legislator Mills’ website, www.erie.gov/legislature/district11. Individual meetings can also be scheduled at a time and location that is convenient to residents.

Among the issues discussed are infrastructure repairs and budget projections.

Mark your calendars - Guided walks through County Parks

Erie County will once again hold its Guided Walks in County Parks Program. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and attendees are lead on a picturesque walk through the county’s beautiful parks.

Walks will be held on the following days:

- May 19 - Chestnut Ridge
- June 2 - Como Lake
- June 9 - Akron Falls
- June 16 - Emery
- June 23 - Times Beach Nature Preserve
- June 30 - Sprague Brook

Information on how to get healthy and stay healthy will be available at each of the walks. Health screenings, including blood pressure and BMW readings will be conducted free of charge.

For additional information, contact the Parks Department at 858-7226 or visit www.erie.gov/parks.



Take a guided walk through Chestnut Ridge Park on Saturday, May 19.

Fundraisers to Benefit District 11 Libraries

Legislator Mills announces the schedule for his 6th annual Hot Dog Roast Fundraisers. Money raised during these events benefit the libraries hosting the roast.

The stipend granted to Legislator Mills as minority leader is used to pay for supplies and equipment so 100% of the proceeds are donated.

To date, Legislator Mills has raised more than \$20,000 for programming, materials and other library purposes.

2012 HOT DOG ROAST SCHEDULE

Hot dog roasts will be held on the following days:

- July 14, Collins Public Library
- July 18, Eden Library
- July 19, Hulbert Library of the Town of Concord
- July 27, Angola Public Library
- July 30, North Collins Library
- August 16, Boston Free Library
- August 17, Orchard Park Public Library
- August 25, West Falls - Colden Community Library

Hot dog roasts are held rain or shine



Plan on attending and support your local library. Hot dog and a bottle of water is \$1 and Italian sausage and water is \$2. Best deal in town!

Open and Transparent Government

The Erie County Legislature has revised its website, www.erie.gov/legislature, to make all session, committee and other Legislative items available for easy review by the public.

"Government is here to serve the people and the best way that is achieved is

by adhering to open and transparent sharing of information," Legislator Mills said.

With the upgrades made to the website, residents can now easily locate all items being considered, this includes appointments, local laws, bonding proposals, and anything the

legislature votes on. It also lists non-voting items, such as letters received by the legislature. Full disclosure is achieved on the Legislature's revised website, and anyone who has any questions about an item, is encouraged to contact Legislator Mills at (716) 858-8850 or john.mills@erie.gov.

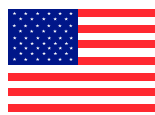
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Business owners 'Thank a Vet' - How to get involved

Legislator Mills has partnered with County Clerk Christopher Jacobs is asking business owners to get involved in "Thank A Vet" as a way for our county to recognize the service and sacrifices made by our local veterans.

Under the "Thank A Vet" discount program, eligible veterans will receive a photo identification card obtained from the Erie County Clerk's

Office that identifies them as an honorably discharged veteran. Participating county merchants will agree to honor the card by providing holders with a discount on purchases or services. Involvement in the program is beneficial to businesses that will undoubtedly realize increased traffic and sales. Each



merchants name, logo, address and discount particulars will be displayed on the Erie County's official website and each participating business will receive a decal to proudly show their support of our Erie County veterans.

To view the online form for "Thank A Vet" discount program, visit www.erie.gov/clerk. For more information about the program, call 858-6985.

We are now a quarter of the way through the year and the Legislature has already faced some challenges. I can assure you that I am dedicated to keeping the County on the right track, which includes continuing to reduce debt and spending, while pushing Albany to implement mandate relief.

Earlier this year I stood strong with my colleagues in the Minority Caucus against borrowing to pay a \$7 million lawsuit settlement. I believe paying that amount in cash was the best option for the county. It is such decisions that will keep Erie County out of debt and in a better economic position for tomorrow.

I am always interested in hearing from you. Please contact my office with any questions of concerns.

Sincerely,



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Proclamations Presented to Outstanding Individuals, Groups

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

- Collins Center Fire Company** on its celebration of 120 years of service from 1892-2012
- Gordon Holden**, Boy Scout Troop No. 230, on obtaining the Rank of Eagle Scout
- Gowanda Mayor Richard Klancer** on his 10 years of outstanding service to his community & on his election to the Cattaraugus County Legislature
- Village Locksmith**, named the Small Business of the Year by the Evans-Brant Chamber of Commerce
- Lads Pet Supplies**, named Large Business of the Year by the Evans-Brant Chamber of Commerce
- Joseph M. Pisarski**, named

- Citizen of the Year by the Evans-Brant Chamber of Commerce
- Boys & Girls Club of Lake Shore**, named the Not-for-Profit of the Year by the Evans-Brant Chamber of Commerce
- Jay's Hilltop Bistro**, given the Emerging Business Award by the Evans-Brant Chamber of Commerce
- Kim's Shear Expressions**, given the Emerging Business Award by the Evans-Brant Chamber of Commerce
- Sallywags Restaurant**, given the Special Perseverance Award by the Evans-Brant Chamber of Commerce
- Lake Erie Beach Volunteer Fire Company**, given the Project of the Year Award by the Evans-Brant Chamber of Commerce
- Florence Kirkner**, honored for her 65 years of service on the National Ski Patrol

- Patrick Plunkett**, elected the United Irish American Association's Honorary Grand Marshal for the 2012 St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Joseph Karb**, recipient of the Outstanding Social Studies Middle School Teacher Award for 2012 by the NYS Council for the Social Studies
- Jordan Levy**, recognized for his work with the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation
- Zachary Steever**, recipient of the Gowanda Area Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Youth Award for 2012
- Heaven Scent/Copy Central**, recipient of the Gowanda Area Chamber of Commerce Business Award for 2012
- Doris Jones**, recipient of the Gowanda Area Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award for 2012



Mary Beth Dreyer, Public Health Educator for Upstate NY Regional Poison Center, was presented a proclamation recognizing the 50th anniversary of National Poison Prevention Week, March 18-24.