

COUNTY OF ERIE,  
NEW YORK

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Chestnut Ridge Park improves energy efficiency.
- Monthly columns discuss important issues.
- Honoring local law enforcement.
- Proclamations presented to outstanding residents.

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# News from Legislator

## John J. Mills



SUMMER 2011

## Summer fun in Erie County

On July 1, 2011 Chestnut Ridge Park hosted the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra for the second year and thousands attended this great event.

"I was there several hours before the start of the show and people were already showing up with their lawn chairs," Legislator Mills said. "It was an event that residents looked forward to and greatly enjoyed."

If you missed the show, you can catch the BPO at Akron Falls Park at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 30.

Another Chestnut Ridge Park highlight was the Fishing Clinic, which was attended by hundreds of young fishermen and women. It was a tremendous success, Legislator Mills said.



He reminds residents to take full advantage of all the parks have to offer. From camping to disc golf

**The Chestnut Ridge Conservancy (top photo) prepares for the BPO Concert held July 1, 2011. The June 25, 2011 Fishing Clinic (left photo) drew a great crowd to the park's lake.**

courses, there is something for everyone at one of the County's parks. Visit [www.erie.gov/parks](http://www.erie.gov/parks).

## Hot Dog Roasts to benefit libraries

Legislator Mills is hosting his 5th Annual Hot Dog Roasts to benefit the libraries in his District.

He uses his minority leader stipend to fund the roasts and 100% of the proceeds are donated to the libraries. In the past four years he has raised more than \$17,000.

Fundraisers for the Aurora Public Library and Collins Library were held in June and were tremendous successes.

Additional fundraisers will be held on the following days:

- 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4 at the Concord Library, 18 Chapel St., Springville.
- 11 a.m.– 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19 at the Orchard Park Library, 4570 South Buffalo Street
- 11 a.m.– 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20 at the West Falls-Colden Library, 1966 Davis Road, West Falls.



**Hot Dog Roasts draw a crowd to support the library! Hot Dogs are still only \$1!**

Stop out at the events and show your support! Call 655-5650 for additional information.

# Improvements at Chestnut Ridge Park



Upgrades underway at Chestnut Ridge Park.

Legislator Mills announced that the Erie County Legislature, during its Thursday, April 28, 2011 session, approved the replacement of Chestnut Ridge Park Casino's outdated heating system. By upgrading the heating system the County will generate cost savings and improve energy efficiency.

"The current system is over 40 years old and no longer functioning properly. This is the best time to tackle this

project; maintenance costs on the old system have been excessive," Legislator Mills said. "Last year the County completed substantial work to the roof and windows at the Casino and greatly improved energy efficiency. This is the next step to maintaining this wonderful asset, while being mindful of tax dollars spent on utilities."

The total cost of the project is \$200,000 and is being paid for

through Parks Capital Funding. Work is expected to begin summer 2011.

"Investing the necessary funds to maintain quality parks services is a priority of mine. Improvements made at Chestnut Ridge, and throughout the County's parks system, have provided residents with a place they can enjoy and take pride in," Legislator Mills added.

*"In Erie County government, there is a relatively new theme being followed: 'promises made; promises kept.'"*  
- Legislator Mills, April 2011 Column

# State of the County is Strong

Every month Legislator Mills addresses a topic in his column, which is printed in several local newspapers. He utilizes this space to share pertinent information with residents, keeping them up-to-date on the happenings in the Erie County Legislature.

For example, in April 2011, Legislator Mills responded to the County Executive's State of the County speech, and was

pleased to report that the state of county is strong.

Legislator Mills wrote, "In Erie County government, there is a relatively new theme being followed: 'promises made; promises kept.' This is an idea that my colleagues in the Minority Caucus and I have embraced as a way of doing business to deliver the reforms residents deserve. During this legislative term, I have seen

improvements made that will leave a lasting legacy of smaller, more efficient government."

Then in May 2011, he discussed the value of the improvements made in the County parks and how money was spent wisely. In his most recent column, June 2011, Legislator Mills discussed the ongoing budget process. To read these columns, visit [www.erie.gov/legislature/district13](http://www.erie.gov/legislature/district13).



Legislator Mills presents a check for \$757 to Aurora Library Director Robert Alessi. The funds were raised during the annual hot dog roast and will be used to purchase new large print fiction books.

## Mark Your Calendar!



Looking for great community events planned this summer? Check out the Community Calendar on my Website, [www.erie.gov/legislature/district13](http://www.erie.gov/legislature/district13).

There you will find information about library programs, town and village events, and more.

There is always room for additional postings, so send Legislator Mills your event information and it will be included in the Community Calendar.

Email the time, date, place and other pertinent information to [jmills13@erie.gov](mailto:jmills13@erie.gov).

# Honoring Erie County's bravest



Legislator Mills presented a proclamation to the Erie County Sheriff's Office at session on May 12, 2011 in honor of National Police Week.

**Members of the Erie County Sheriff's Office are honored.** "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 Mills stated in the proclamation. Proclamations were also presented to the New York State Police, Village of Springville Police Department, Village of Gowanda Police Department, Village of East Aurora Police Department, Town of Aurora Police Department, Orchard Park Police Department.

**Reminder -**  
 A Free Rabies Clinic will be held from 3-7 p.m. Sept. 21 at ECC South Campus's Building No. 7— Maintenance Garage.

## Hot Spot Fishing Maps, Bicycle Route Guides Available

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

To request free copies, please contact Legislator Mills' Legislative Office at (716) 655-5650 or email [jmills13@erie.gov](mailto:jmills13@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](http://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](http://www.gbnrtc.org).



**Contact**

**Legislator Mills at 655-5650 or email [jmills13@erie.gov](mailto:jmills13@erie.gov) to receive copies of these helpful guides.**

## Community Photo Gallery



Legislator Mills and Pat Keem, along with Explore and More Board Member Pete Anderson roasted hundreds of hot dogs on May 15 and raise money to support the Museum.



Legislator Mills joins Carol Hutton, Town Clerk; Fred Piasecki, Highway Superintendent; and Philip Marshall, Town Justice, for the 2011 Orchard Park Fourth of July Parade.



Aurora Library Director Robert Alessi demonstrates how to use one of the new self-scanners. Legislator Mills applauded the program's efficiency.



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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.**

**T**hank you for taking the time to look through my Summer 2011 Newsletter. I hope you find the information provided interesting and worthwhile.

We have been very busy at the Legislature with no signs of slowing down before the budget process kicks into full gear this fall. It will be difficult, but I am committed to passing a 2012 budget that reduces spending and holds the line on taxes.

Many of you are probably aware that we are in the middle of redistricting, which has a unique challenge this time - downsizing from 15 to 11 members. I have been disappointed in some of the tactics used during this process but have continued to represent your best interests throughout the process.

If you have any questions about the information discussed in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

## Residents honored at Legislative Sessions

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

**Andrew Colton Nason**, member of Troop No. 524, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

**Keith Ayers**, First Assistant Chief of the North Collins Volunteer Fire Company, honored for his heroism and risking his life battling a fire in Morton's Corners.

**Morton's Corners Volunteer Fire Company** for 65 years of dedicated service to their community.

**Orchard Park Bee Community Newspaper** for 25 years of Publication.

**Tree Board of East Aurora** for Celebrating Arbor Day at East Aurora High School on Friday, April 29, 2011.



**A proclamation was presented to East Aurora High School Principal Dr. James L. Hoagland on April 29, 2011 in recognition of the school's celebration of Arbor Day.**

**Maxine Radosevich**, recognized for her commitment to the community.

**Gowanda Police Officer Jen Alessi**, recipient of the General Douglas MacArthur Youth Award.

**Aurora Adult Day Services** for marking its 20th year of operation.

**Sara Kemmerer**, named National Honor Society's 2011 Teacher of the Year.

**Sister Diane Swanson** on her retirement as principal of St. Bernadette's School after 44 years in education.

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

**Mark Simson**, of Boy Scout Troop No. 285, for obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

**Buffalo & Erie County Public Library**, marked its 175th Anniversary.

**Kelsey Cole**, recipient of the Orchard Park Boys & Girls Club 2011 Youth of the Year Award.

**Andrew Basista**, member of Boy Scout Troop No. 230, on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout.