



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATOR EDWARD A. RATH, III

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Contact – Jessica L. O’Neil, Communications Director, (716) 858-8808

Legislator Rath provides additional funding for Amherst community organizations

*Supports Jewish Community Center’s Cultural Arts programming, Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village,
The Village Cooperative Market of Williamsville & American Legion Post 1672*

(ERIE COUNTY, NY) – Erie County Legislator Edward A. Rath, III is pleased to announce that the 2018 Erie County budget will include funding for several key organizations located in Amherst. Approved at the Dec. 7, 2017 session, Legislator Rath secured a significant investment for the community.

“After reviewing the proposed budget, I recognized a need to make adjustments to benefit the communities in my district and want to thank my colleagues for their support. I focused on funding a variety of organizations, all of which provide a great service to Amherst and beyond,” said Legislator Rath. “I believe these investments will have a positive impact throughout the year.”

The largest investment that Legislator Rath secured was an additional \$23,000 for the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village, bringing the organization’s 2018 total to \$33,300.

“This is incredible and a major statement of support for those organizations who do so much to raise the quality of life in Erie County! BNHV humbly thanks County Executive Poloncarz, Legislators Rath, Loughran and the other Legislators for seeing our potential as we continue to grow and develop our world-class history museum, historic village and farmstead, cultural and event center and educational campus. So much is possible because of Erie County support, what a legacy our leadership is leaving for our community. Our more than 24,000 visitors, historic farmstead animals, and over 40,000 artifacts thank you,” said Herbert Schmidt III, Executive Director of the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village.

Legislator Rath requested an additional \$7,500 for the Jewish Community Center’s cultural arts programming for a total of \$10,951.

“The generous support received from Erie County to our cultural arts programs will help to make our Jewish Repertory Theatre, Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival, Book and Arts Fair, community art galleries and music programs available to a wider Western New York audience. We are proud of the high quality, life enriching programs we offer to all ages and cultures in the community, who enjoy being entertained, engaged and educated while participating in social activities in a welcoming community center setting. Many thanks to the county and Legislator Ed Rath, for understanding and recognizing the value these varied cultural programs bring to people year round,” said Richard Zakalik, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo.

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Funding was also allocated for American Legion Post Alfred J. Jurek Post 1672 to support veterans' services.

"Our veterans' posts are incredibly important to all our veterans and their families. This funding will help Post 1672 in North Amherst continue to serve the specific needs of veterans right in their own community," said Legislator Rath.

A new organization receiving funding this year is The Village Cooperative Market of Williamsville, which will receive \$7,000 in support of its mission, thanks to a joint request from Legislators Rath and Tom Loughran.

"The Village of Williamsville's comprehensive plan calls for a more walkable community. The Village Board has been hard at work implementing infrastructure improvements and traffic calming measures to achieve that goal. It is my belief that The Village Cooperative Market of Williamsville will serve residents and visitors alike by providing a walkable grocery store and a destination for shoppers seeking a community experience. We are very grateful to Legislators Rath and Loughran for their willingness to invest in this community endeavor," said Village of Williamsville Trustee Al Yates.

Additional organizations in Legislator Rath's District receiving funding are: Akron Community Band, Newstead Historical Society, Clarence Museum, Rock the Barn, American Legion Post 838 (Clarence), American Legion 900 (Akron) and the Clarence Concert Association.

The additional funding was added into the 2018 budget while also decreasing the property tax rate for the fourth consecutive year.

For information or assistance, please contact Legislator Rath's Legislative Office at (716) 858-8676 or email edward.rath@erie.gov.

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