

News from Legislator Edward Rath



PROUDLY REPRESENTING DISTRICT 6
AKRON, AMHERST, CLARENCE & NEWSTEAD

Fall 2012

Changes to proposed 2013 budget necessary to avoid tax increase



Legislator Rath reviews the proposed 2013 budget in preparation of providing amendments to eliminate the tax increase.

The 2013 budget process began on Oct. 15, when the County Executive released his \$1.4 billion budget proposal with a tax increase.

“The proposed 2013 budget is now in the Legislature’s hands and I assure you that my colleagues in the Minority Caucus and I are working diligently to eliminate the proposed tax increase. I think asking property owners for an additional 3.4 percent is inappropriate. We can do better,” said Legislator Rath.

The Legislature will conduct budget hearings Nov. 13-15 with department heads and commissioners, followed by the public hearing on Monday, Nov. 19 (see *article below for information about participating in the hearing.*)

The Legislature then has the opportunity to amend the proposed budget. The County Executive maintains the right to veto any changes, which can be upheld or overridden by the Legislature. This all takes place in December, leading up to the final budget vote in mid-December.

While the budget process is lengthy, one issue was immediately evident and that is the rising cost of fringe benefits. Noting a \$17 million increase from 2012 to 2013, Legislator Rath sent a letter to the

Legislature’s Chairwoman, requesting a budget hearing with New York State Comptroller’s Office, a representative from the Labor Health Care Management Fund, the Erie County Comptroller and the commissioner of the Erie County Department of Personnel to examine the true cost of fringe benefits.

“Fringe benefit costs are a significant cost to taxpayers and I think it is only appropriate that these professionals and officials provide the Legislature with an accurate and independent explanation as we prepare to amend and vote on the proposed 2013 budget,” said Legislator Rath.

Legislator Rath continues to work with his colleagues to find ways to save taxpayers money.

Make your voice heard - comment on proposed budget

Legislator Rath reminds residents that there are opportunities to comment on the County Executive’s proposed 2013 budget, which includes a 3.4 percent tax increase.

An online survey asks residents for their feedback about the budget proposal.

To complete the survey, please visit www.erie.gov/legislature/district06 and click on the top news story, or [CLICK HERE](#). To request a paper copy, please contact Legislator Rath at (716) 858-8676.

Residents can also voice their opinion at the public hearing,

scheduled for 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19 in Legislative Chambers, 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, Buffalo.

Residents can also submit their statement in writing and send to Legislature Clerk, 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, Buffalo, NY, 14202.

Special points of interest:

- BUSINESS TOUR PROMOTES DISTRICT 6 COMMERCE
- RABIES CLINICS WELL ATTENDED IN 2012
- YELLOW DOT PACKETS AVAILABLE

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Business Tour Promotes District 6 Businesses

Legislator Rath completed a business tour this past summer, visiting with business owners and employees throughout his district.

“Meeting the owners and employees who are the

foundation of our community and hearing firsthand their successes and trials, exceeded what I had anticipated,” said Legislator Rath. “We are fortunate to have so many great businesses here in Akron, Amherst,

Clarence and Newstead and I am happy to partner with them at any opportunity to help them thrive.”

If you own or operate a business and would like to meet with Legislator Rath,

please contact him at 858-8676 or by email at edward.rath@erie.gov. Businesses with Facebook pages are encouraged to contact Legislator Rath to share their information through his social networking page.

The following businesses were included in Legislator Rath’s tour:

<p>Akron/Newstead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akron Bugle Akron House Restaurant Akron Music Studio Akron Optical Bank of Akron Ford Gum I R Squared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Jean’s Child Care Niagara Specialty Metals Perry’s Ice Cream <p>Amherst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corner Bakery Café Dash’s Markets Graser’s Florist Niagara Produce 	<p>Clarence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarence Center Café Clarence Center Childcare and Preschool Creative Essence Gerties Restaurant Get Heeled Shop Kreher’s Farm Fresh Eggs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McDuffies Bakery Messaro Cleaners Milherst Construction Specialized Care for Avian and Exotic Pets The Perfect Gift Yours Truly Gift Shop
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Tour of Kreher’s Eggs prompts Legislature resolution

During his tour of Kreher’s Eggs in the Town of Clarence, Legislator Rath learned of an important amendment currently being considered by Congress that would greatly benefit the local business. In favor of the proposed amendment, Legislator Rath sponsored a resolution that supports the passage of the House of Representatives and

Senate laws to level the playing field by requiring all egg producers across the nation meet the same demands concerning the environment and condition of their facilities. “Kreher’s is an outstanding operation and is one of the largest egg producers in the northeast. I think, while government regulation of our

food industry is important for all consumers’ safety, we must not hinder food producers ability to deliver food to tables across the nation through unfair regulations. I strongly encourage our local delegation to advocate for the passage of the amendments and protect animals, consumers and businesses,” said Legislator Rath.

TO READ
LEGISLATOR
RATH’S
RESOLUTION,
[CLICK HERE.](#)

Rabies Clinics serves record number of pet owners

The 2012 free rabies clinics administered a record number of vaccinations to dogs, cats and ferrets at six clinics held throughout Erie County.

In total, 5,680 pets were vaccinated.

"I attended the Clarence clinic and was pleased to see that hundreds of residents also attended that clinic to ensure their pets were vaccinated, and as a result,

help keep the community safe," said Legislator Rath.

Legislator Rath thanks the staff and volunteers from the County Department of Health, Niagara Frontier Veterinary Society and the SPCA Serving Erie County for making these clinics huge successes.

The following totals for animals vaccinated were recorded:

North Buffalo Community Center - 505

Springville Fire Company - 698

American Legion Post #1041 - 1,300

SPCA - 1,175

Clarence Highway Garage - 633

West Seneca Highway Garage - 1,369

The 2013 schedule has not been finalized. Legislator Rath will announce those dates when they become available on website and Facebook page, making residents aware of the dates for next year.



Legislator Rath talks with rabies clinic organizers and volunteers about the popularity of these outreaches at the Clarence Highway Garage.

Yellow Dot program now recognized in Erie County

Legislator Rath announces that Erie County is now operating a Yellow Dot program to assist residents involved in an accident or suffering from a medical emergency in their vehicle or residence.

Made possible by the New York State Sheriffs' Association, the Yellow Dot program is simple, yet

lifesaving. Anyone who chooses to participate just needs to place the round, Yellow Dot circle (pictured right) on their driver's side, rear vehicle window or at the entrance of their residence, to alert first responders to the Yellow Dot form (also pictured right) that is stored in the glove compartment or on the refrigerator in the

residence. The form includes pertinent medical information that will assist first responders in treating the patient. In an emergency, every second counts.

To request a copy of the Yellow Dot packet, please contact Legislator Rath at (716) 858-8676 or email edward.rath@erie.gov.



Yellow Dot packets are available through Legislator Rath's office.

Photo Gallery



The Town of Newstead formerly named its town park, "Newstead Veterans Park," unveiling a new sign this past summer. Legislator Rath is pictured with Assemblywoman Jane Corwin and Town Board Member Richard C. Baran.



Buffalo Navy Week, held in September 2012, featured events at Buffalo Naval Park and Lackawanna Gateway Terminal, including tours of the USS DeWert pictured here.



Legislator Rath met with a variety of organizations and associations that promoted their message at this year's Erie County Fair. With a strong attendance total, many fair goers were able to take away important information.



The Audubon Library's summer picnic was a huge success, featuring arts & crafts, activities and a hot dog roast. Information about library events is available at www.buffalolib.org.

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PROUDLY REPRESENTING DISTRICT 6



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Throughout November I will be attending town and village board meetings to provide an update on Erie County issues. I want to thank the officials in those municipalities for allowing me the opportunity to address some issues currently facing the communities I represent. At 8 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 12 I will be speaking at the Newstead Town Board Meeting; 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14 at the Clarence Town Board Meeting; and at 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 19 at the Town of Amherst Work Session. I will also be speaking at a Village of Akron meeting at a time and date to be announced.

I am also always available to meet with constituents at a time and place that is convenient for them. Please contact my Legislative Office to schedule a meeting. Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Proclamations Presented to Outstanding Citizens & Groups



Captain John Kasmer, a resident of the Town of Amherst, was honored at the Oct. 11, 2012 session for his dedication to WNY veterans. Legislators John Mills, Edward Rath and Thomas Mazur presented the proclamation. Mr. Kasmer organized a Veteran's Day Parade, held Saturday, Nov. 10 along Delaware Avenue in the City of Buffalo. Residents lined the street to salute our heroes and welcome them home.



Legislator Rath presents a proclamation to Peter Longo, past President of the New York Restaurant Association's Western New York Chapter, and Christa Hobart, Local Restaurant Week coordinator, officially declaring Oct. 15-21, 2012 as Local Restaurant Week in Erie County. The bi-annual event brings in millions of dollars in revenue to the local economy and is the 3rd largest Local Restaurant Week event in the country.