Silver Alert System Implemented

On June 20, 2011 Legislator Rath, Erie County Sheriff Timothy Howard and Leilani Pelletier from the Alzheimer’s Association, Western New York Chapter held a press conference at the Amherst Center for Senior Services to announce the implementation of the Erie County Silver Alert System. The local law was created to expedite search efforts for missing Alzheimer’s patients or individuals with other dementia related illnesses.

In the event a Silver Alert is issued, the Sheriff’s Office will rapidly disseminate information regarding the missing person to all media outlets. The Alert will include this missing person’s name, age, a physical description of the individual, what they might be wearing, and the last location where the person was seen.

Legislator Rath announces that the Erie County Silver Alert System has been implemented.

All residents of Erie County should call 911 immediately if they believe that someone with Alzheimer’s disease or another related form of dementia is missing.

Silver Alert programs are enacted across the United States but Erie County is only the fifth county in New York to pass such legislation.

Legislator Rath was the sponsor of the law that was unanimously approved by the Erie County Legislature.

“The implementation of the Erie County Silver Alert System is extremely important to our region which has a high rate of residents with Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia,” said Legislator Rath. “By employing this system, we organize the efforts of law enforcement and media outlets to ensure rapid response in the event that a person with dementia is reported missing.”

For information, please contact the Alzheimer’s Association at 1-800-272-3900.

Our Future Investments

During the past few weeks there has been a lot of debate about whether Erie Community College should build a $30-million center for excellence at its North Campus or turn all focus onto the City Campus.

“From day one I have strongly advocated for the new building and development at North Campus. Fifty years without any major renovations or development is too long, and the campus is in need of this building. I support maintaining all three campuses and ensuring that ECC thrives and serves our community well into the future.”

Legislator Rath said.
Elected officials meet to discuss issues

The first Amherst Elected Officials Roundtable was held in May and was attended by representatives from all levels of government. Facilitated by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce and Legislator Rath, the first roundtable was a tremendous success, bringing issues to light that officials from the village, town, state, county and federal level can work on jointly.

“I was very pleased with the progress made during our first meeting and thank all the officials who attended to help address issues currently facing our constituents,” Legislator Rath said.

The group will meet again to revisit some of the major issues brought forward at the first session and prioritize and strategize how to move forward to address these concerns.

The purpose of the Roundtable is to bring officials together to discuss major issues that affect all levels of government and allow officials to work together on how to best resolve the issues.

90 Days of Remembrance

Legislator Rath encourages all eligible blood donors to get involved in the American Red Cross’ “90 Days of Remembrance,” a 12-week long blood drive, which began on June 11 and will conclude on Sept. 11. All current and first-time donors are asked to participate in this event that marks the 10th anniversary of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

During that awful day and those that followed, the American Red Cross stood ready to supply blood to assist those in need thanks to donors. Please commemorate this solemn anniversary by donating and giving the gift of life.

The American Red Cross operates several WNY Blood Donation Centers, including a site at 4267 Transit Road, near Main Street. Hours are: noon-7 p.m. Monday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday; 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday.

Legislator Rath and the Minority Caucus are proudly sponsoring the week of July 24. Legislator Rath encourages all eligible blood donors to get involved in the American Red Cross’ “90 Days of Remembrance,” a 12-week long blood drive, which began on June 11 and will conclude on Sept. 11. All current and first-time donors are asked to participate in this event that marks the 10th anniversary of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Living Legacy Award

Legislator Rath honored to accept the Living Legacy Award, recognizing his family’s commitment to the Salvation Army and its efforts. Serving on the Buffalo Advisory Board since April 2004, Legislator Rath follows in the prestigious footsteps of his father, Edward A. Rath, Jr. who served on the board from 1969 to 2003. Legislator Rath’s grandfather, Edward A. Rath, was also a board member and served from 1951 to 1968.

Legislator Rath thanks the Salvation Army for its service.
Officers Honored during National Police Week

Legislator Rath, along with Legislator Walter, presented a proclamation on Thursday, May 19 to the Amherst Police Department in recognition of National Police Week. Accepting the proclamation were Chief John Askey and Captain Stephen McGonagle. The Legislators thank every member of the department for their dedicated service. A portion of the proclamation read: “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.”

The Legislature also recognized the Erie County Sheriff’s Office and New York State Police during the May 12, 2011 Legislative Session.

Hot Spot Fishing Maps, Bicycle Route Guides Available

The 2011 Hot Spot Fishing Map and Bicycle Route Guide are now available through Legislator Rath’s office. To request a free copies, please contact his Legislative Office at (716) 633-0617 or email edward.rath@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. 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 repair and rental shops, and information about how to “Recycle-A-Bicycle” and receive a tax deductible receipt. For information visit www.gbnrtc.org.

Community Photo Gallery

The Williamsville Farmers Market features great vendors every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on East Spring Street through October.

Legislator Rath recognized the Amherst Symphony Orchestra on its 65th anniversary. Steven Thomas and Anthony Latona accepted a proclamation on April 10, 2011.

Legislator Rath proudly inducted Hutchinson Hose Fire Company President Jimmy Olivieri and Chief Chris Petrie during the installation dinner on May 14, 2011.
Dear Neighbor,

As your Erie County Legislator, I am happy to provide you with my Summer 2011 Newsletter. This newsletter can be a valuable tool for staying up-to-date on issues happening in County government. I hope you find the information useful.

Erie County is a busy place throughout the year. Later this month the Legislature will hold its mid-year budget hearings and meet with every department head and commissioner to better understand their funding needs. We also continue to juggle the redistricting and downsizing issue, and rest assure I am committed to bringing you smaller government and fair representation.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me. It is a pleasure representing the Town of Amherst and Village of Williamsville.

Sincerely,

Residents honored at Legislative Sessions

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

- **Main-Transit Fire Department** for 75 years of service to the community.
- **Williamsville Girl’s Ice Hockey Team** on its inaugural season.
- **Satish K. Tripathi**, named president of the University at Buffalo.
- **Janine Tramont**, presented the Small Business Advocate of the Year Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.
- **Business First**, presented the President’s Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.
- **e3 Communications**, presented the Small Business of the Year Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.
- **Irishman Pub & Eatery**, presented the Revitalizing Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.
- **Russell Salvatore**, presented the Award for Excellence from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.
- **Tactus Technologies**, presented the Innovation Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.
- **Bocce Pizzeria**, presented the Sponsor’s Award from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.
- **CCS Oncology** for opening its new state-of-the-art clinic in Williamsville.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Milton**, and **Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Louise Kehoe**, both couples celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Arthur and Maureen Hufnagel**, and **Mr. and Mrs. Patrick and Sheila Cunningham**, both couples celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.
- **Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Rosenthal** on celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary.
- **Maxine Radosevich**, recognized for her commitment to the community.
- **Charles Nicholas Herr** and **Jonathan Richard Kapus** on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout
- **Marlene Roll**, recipient of the Susan B. Anthony Award from the Interclub Council of WNY
- **Ray Kollidas** on the grand opening of Milos Restaurant in the Village of Williamsville.
- **Buffalo & Erie County Public Library**, on 175 Years of outstanding service to the community.
- **Dr. Howard Smith** on his retirement as superintendent of the Williamsville School District.
- **Clarke Academy School of Dance**, reaching its 25th anniversary.
- **Roger Paolini** on his retirement as school librarian and drama director of Williamsville South High School.
- **The Erie County Department of Senior Services** for 40 years of dedicated service.
- **Linda Cimusz** on her retirement from the Williamsville School District.
- **Rotary Club of Buffalo** for 100 years of service to the WNY community.