

# News from Legislator Edward Rath



PROUDLY REPRESENTING DISTRICT 6  
AKRON, AMHERST, CLARENCE & NEWSTEAD



Summer 2012

## Road project benefits residents, businesses



Legislator Edward A. Rath was joined by Village of Akron and Town of Newstead officials at the beginning of summer to announce the reopening of John Street in the Village of Akron.

"I am pleased to officially mark the reopening of John Street, and thank the residents and businesses for their patience while this important project was underway. I am happy to announce Phase 1 is complete," said Erie County Legislator Edward A. Rath. "As a Legislator, I am responsible for your tax

dollars and how they are utilized. It is crucial that we appropriate funding for projects to maintain roads and bridges and ensure the safety of our residents. This is a major first step in reconstructing John Street before transferring ownership to the Village of Akron."

The \$984,500-project began in the fall of 2011 and was completed June 9, 2012. The complete reconstruction of John Street, from Cedar Street (Route 93) to Bloomingdale Avenue, stretched approximately .33 miles. The project included

drainage work, as well as improving curbing and driveway approaches. New asphalt pavement with striping completed the project. The project contractor was Accadia Site Contracting, Inc. and designer/inspection was LiRo Engineers.

This project is the first of two phases to reconstruct a portion of John Street and Bloomingdale Avenue. The second phase includes an additional .5 miles of work. Once Phase 2 is complete, the Village of Akron will take over the full length of both roads from the county.

## Uncovering Medicaid fraud

Legislator Rath announces that the Legislature approved three grant-funded positions to target Medicaid fraud. Totalling more than \$200 million

annually, Medicaid is a major expense and a major issue for the county, Legislator Rath supports this plan of attack to better control expenses associated

with fraudulent claims.

"There are issues and with this manpower, my hope is to greatly reduce waste," Legislator Rath said.

### Special Points of Interest

- SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAMS
- TURNING A TRAGEDY INTO A TEACHING MOMENT
- STUDENTS REPRESENT ERIE COUNTY IN STATE COMPETITION

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## Libraries host Summer Reading Program events



Audubon Branch's summer picnic was very well attended.

Legislator Rath has partnered with the Buffalo and Erie County Central Library to remind kids and parents that the 2012 Summer Reading program is underway.

"There are still some great events planned during the Summer Reading Program, and the many events held

earlier this summer were very well attended. It has been a great summer for the library branches," said Legislator Rath.

The program has two themes, "Dream Big, Read!" for kids and "Own the Night," for teens. Two highlights of the Summer Reading Program are, Read Down Your Fines and Battle of the Books. Every 15 minutes of reading counts toward a library buck to be used for overdue fines.

Events are planned at each of the branches throughout the summer - for info, visit [www.buffalolib.org](http://www.buffalolib.org)



### Local Branch Highlights!

- Audubon—Glenn Colton Concert - 1:30 pm Aug. 15
- Clarence—Tops Cooking School - 10:30 am Aug. 16
- Clearfield—Niagara University Repertory Theatre—1:30 pm Aug. 22
- Newstead—Family Movie Friday - 2 pm Aug. 17

## Support for an Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Monument

"THIS MEMORIAL IS IMPORTANT TO OUR COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE, AND THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS."

Legislator Rath has supported a request to the County Executive to allocate funding for a an Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Monument, commemorating the soldiers who lost their lives serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The cost of the memorial would be funded through the cultural

fund. Legislator Rath is asking that no new funding be added for 2013 to cover this cost but that funding be aligned to support this one-time request.

"It is only fitting that we support this request. Our soldiers sacrifice so much to protect our country. This

memorial is important to our community, especially members of the service, and their family and friends," said Legislator Rath.

In another Legislative matter, the Legislature also created the VALER4Valor Committee to connect veterans with the benefits they are entitled to.



Demonstrating how to use an AED machine.

## Legislator Rath honors Citizen of the Month

Legislator Rath recognized Annette Adamczak of Newstead for her commitment to educating the community, especially youth, about CPR and AED training. In honor of her efforts, Legislator Rath named Annette Adamczak the July 2012 Erie County Legislature Citizen of the Month, presenting her a

proclamation during the July 12, 2012 session. She has trained more than 2,000 youths.

"We are fortunate to have Annette in the community; her expertise is an asset. Every time she trains someone in CPR, she is making Erie County safer,"



Legislator Rath. "I want to not only recognize her dedication, but thank her for efforts."

## Historical military sites receive necessary attention

Legislator Rath announces, as co-chairman of the Niagara Erie Regional Coalition, that funding has been allocated to improve monuments at significant military sites in Western New York.

At the Buffalo Naval Park, LED lighting will be installed on the USS Little Rock, USS The Sullivans and USS Croaker. This investment will replace an antiquated system and reduce operational costs by 80 percent.

This project will improve these attractions, providing an aesthetic lighting system that highlights the importance of these ships. Also, the colors can be adjusted to reflect holidays and events throughout the year, bringing ambiance to celebrations.

The second project will properly illuminate the American Flag at Fort Niagara, a historically significant location.

These projects were approved in anticipation of the bicentennial of the War of 1812. Celebrations kicked off in June, leading up to the highlight of events, Sept. 12-17. Among events planned, the Navy will visit Buffalo with the war ships, USS DeWert and USS Hurricane, Legislator Rath said. Tours and ceremonies will also mark this important historical event. For information, visit the website [www.ourflagwasstillthere.org](http://www.ourflagwasstillthere.org).



Photo of an event at Fort Erie. Photo courtesy of the Amherst & Williamsville NY commemorate the War of 1812 Facebook Group.

## Photo Gallery



Legislator Rath discusses the importance of Hazardous Waste Drop-Off events with Frank Scarpinato, a specialist with Environment & Planning, during the ECC North spring drop-off event.



The Clarence Hollow Farmers' Market celebrated its 10th anniversary in July. The market is open on Saturdays and is located at 10717 Main Street in the Hollow.



The community came together to mark the completion of the Flight 3407 Memorial on Long Street in Clarence Center. Located at the site of the crash, the memorial includes a great deal of symbolism to honor those who lost their lives.



Had a great time celebrating the Fourth of July in Akron and marching in the parade. It is a great community event.

## Buffalo Homeschoolers win Erie County Envirothon

Legislator Rath recognized the accomplishment of the 2012 Envirothon's champions. Buffalo Homeschoolers, consisting of six team members from Amherst and Clarence, were repeat winners, taking first place at the 10th annual Erie County Envirothon held in May.

The Buffalo Homeschoolers team included: Elias Ayoub, 15, of Clarence; Mario Ayoub, 18, of Clarence; Lucas Colón, 15, of Amherst; Abraham Kenmore, 17, of Clarence Center; Eleanor Rummell, 16, of Amherst; and Alanna Sade-Milberg, 18, of Amherst. The team's advisor is Brooke Ayoub.

"I am thrilled to honor this exceptional team of young people. Their dedication and hard work is truly impressive and they represented Erie County well. It is my privilege to recognize their efforts and wish them well as they pursue great endeavors," said Legislator Rath.



The Buffalo Homeschoolers were honored during a reception held in Garrison Park after they returned from the state competition where they placed 7th.

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**L**earning my new district has had one distinct advantage: enjoying many new businesses. From the popular business districts to “best kept secrets,” I have enjoyed finding new places for lunch or dinner, shopping and various services. To promote these great businesses, I will soon be launching my “25 Businesses in 25 Days,” tour. You can follow my tour and learn more about each business I visit by following me on Twitter or visiting my Facebook page.

I am also interested in hearing from businesses or patrons who have a location that should be included in this tour. Obviously 25 businesses is just a small sampling of the great commerce in my district, and I am going to continue meeting with businesses on a regular basis. This is a great opportunity to share information and learn more about what makes Amherst, Clarence, Akron and Newstead unique and thriving.

Thank you for your interest,

Sincerely,

## Proclamations presented to outstanding individuals, groups



**Legislator Rath** commemorates the Clarence Girls Softball League's 40th anniversary by presenting a certificate marking the milestone to **Commissioner Barb Kieffer** during a celebration held July 7, 2012 at Main Street Town Park.

At every session, the Erie County Legislature honors individual's and groups' accomplishments with proclamations. The following recipients were recently recognized:

**Veronica Federiconi** on the 10th Anniversary of Arts Work at Autistic Services & in Recognition of April as Autism Awareness Month

**The Corner Bakery** for opening on Transit Road in Williamsville

**Daniel M. Boody**, Business Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer of District Council No. 4, International Union of Painters & Allied Trades, on his Retirement

**The Binational Alliance** on the 10th Anniversary of Doors Open Niagara & the Launch of the War of 1812 Binational Heritage Peace Garden Trail

**Annette Adamczak**, Erie County Legislature's Citizen of the Month for July



**Legislator Rath** presented a proclamation to Ann Swan, of Clarence, in recognition of receiving the Hilbert College President's Medal for her outstanding contributions to the community. Hilbert College President Cynthia Zane is also pictured at the ceremony.