



Assemblyman Sean Ryan

Year-End Update / December 2013

**A
Successful
Year
for
Buffalo,
Lackawanna
and
Hamburg**



Progress Along the Waterfront

This year saw many positive steps forward for the continued transformation of Buffalo's inner and outer harbors. This summer over 800 events were held at Canalside, an unthinkable number just a few short years ago. Work continues to move forward on the historic canals project, and HARBORCenter at Canalside. On the outer harbor, a new state park at Gallagher Beach is set to take shape, and I am pushing to create even more public parks and spaces along the outer harbor. The transformation of our waterfront continues each and every day.



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I am proud to say that great things have been happening all around the 149th District. Earlier this year, New York State passed yet another on-time and balanced state budget. For the first time in over thirty years, New York has passed on-time budgets for three years in a row. This year's state budget also included significant reforms for Industrial Development Agencies, nearly one billion dollars in new education aid, a three-year extension of the middle-class tax cut which was passed last year, lower tax rates for manufacturing companies, an extension of the historic tax credit, and a long overdue increase in the minimum wage.

I've also been busy this year working to make a difference on important issues in the 149th District. In October, I co-hosted a Summit for Smarter Schools at Kleinhans Music Hall with a bipartisan group of my colleagues in the State Assembly and Senate. At the Summit, we heard from parents, educators, experts, and community members about the impact the Common Core and excessive testing is having on students in Western New York. Over 2,500 people attended to learn about what needs to be done to implement smart education reform for New York State.

In Buffalo, I secured \$400,000 for the Buffalo Zoo's new polar bear exhibit, allowing our polar bears to stay in Buffalo. The polar bears at the Buffalo Zoo have attracted national attention, and have helped to increase attendance and awareness of the zoo. A thriving Buffalo Zoo is an economic catalyst for Buffalo and all of Western New York. I also passed legislation to increase funding for the cleanup of Scajaquada Creek, to ensure that progress on this important issue continues.

In Lackawanna, I worked to secure \$10 million in state funding for the Lackawanna Homes project. The state will be making a significant investment to help build new family homes throughout Lackawanna's First Ward. This project will be a game-changer for Lackawanna, and I look forward to the ground-breaking in the spring. In Hamburg, I recently visited a new farm brewery that has opened up thanks to legislation I helped to pass last year. I also recently joined Governor Cuomo to announce over \$150 million in new investment at the Ford Stamping Plant. Thanks to support from New York State, Ford will be making a significant new investment in the plant, and nearly doubling their workforce in Hamburg. I have also been working on water quality issues at Woodlawn Beach to ensure this local and regional asset can continue to be enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year.

As you can see, great things are happening for all residents of the 149th Assembly District. I will keep working every day to ensure that this great progress continues.

Sincerely,

Sean M. Ryan

Assemblyman Sean Ryan

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Investment at the Ford Stamping Plant

I recently joined Governor Cuomo to announce over \$150 million in new investment at the Ford Stamping Plant in Hamburg. Thanks to investment and support from New York State, Ford Motor Company is increasing their commitment to this important facility, and investing millions of dollars in new equipment. Ford will also be adding a third line, and will be hiring 350 new employees. This is terrific news for Hamburg and all of Western New York, and makes clear our state's commitment to advanced manufacturing.



Summit for Smarter Schools

In October, I co-hosted a Summit for Smarter Schools at Kleinhans Music Hall with a bipartisan group of my colleagues in the State Assembly and Senate. Over 2,500 people filled Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo to discuss the new Common Core standards and the impact over-testing is having on students in New York State. At the Summit, we heard from parents, educators, experts, and community members about how the rush to implement the Common Core is negatively impacting our children. We need to re-assess the implementation of Common Core, and work to implement smart reform for testing in New York.



Secured Funding for Polar Bear Exhibit at Buffalo Zoo

In October, I was able to secure \$400,000 in new state capital funding that will be used to fund the construction of the Buffalo Zoo's Arctic Edge polar bear exhibit. The Buffalo Zoo has been working to raise \$18 million for the project, and has already received funding commitments from New York State, Erie County, the City of Buffalo, as well as individuals, foundations, and corporations. When completed, the Arctic Edge exhibit will be a state-of-the-art space for the Buffalo Zoo's polar bears. A thriving Buffalo Zoo is an economic catalyst for Buffalo and all of Western New York. The Arctic Edge exhibit will allow us to keep our polar bears in Buffalo, delivering continued economic benefits.

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A New Farm Brewery in Hamburg

Earlier this year I joined John Russo, and John Russo Jr. to celebrate the opening of their new farm brewery in Hamburg, the Hamburg Brewing Company. Last year, I helped to pass the Farm Brewery legislation which enabled this new brewery to get up and running. More than a dozen farm breweries have been started since we passed the legislation, which creates a new class of small breweries who grow many of their own crops, and can conduct tours and taste-testings.

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Sean Ryan

Serving the 149th Assembly District

Winter 2013



New Housing for Lackawanna's First Ward

In Lackawanna, I worked to secure more than \$10 million in state funding for the Lackawanna Homes project. The state will be making a significant investment to help build new family homes throughout Lackawanna's First Ward. The project, locally sponsored by the Lackawanna Housing Development Corporation, will construct 48 single-family homes, and a community center in Lackawanna's First Ward. The project will be constructed by The NRP Group LLC, with additional funding coming from the City of Lackawanna, and Erie County. Forty-eight new homes and one community center will be built thanks to this project. This project will be a game-changer for Lackawanna, and I look forward to the ground-breaking in the spring.