



UNIVERSITY DISTRICT UPDATE

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS | SHOSHONE PARK | BAILEY | KENSINGTON

April 2023, Issue No. 13



A Message From Council Member Wyatt

Dear University District friends,

As some of you may be new to our newsletter, we want to extend a warm welcome to our newsletter. This is our 13th issue, and we are excited to share the latest news and events happening in our neighborhood.

In this month's newsletter, we want to remind you about our upcoming University District Community Breakfast; this is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and learn more about what's happening in our community. There is also a small update on the smoke & vape shop legislation, as well as, other community news, notices, and events!

We hope you find this information helpful, and we look forward to seeing you at the University District Community Breakfast. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us.

Your friend, 



RASHEED N.C. WYATT
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MEMBER

Email: rwyatt@buffalony.gov

Phone: (716) 851-5165

Office: 65 Niagara Sq., Rm. 1508

Legislative Matters In Our Community

		
The City of Buffalo NY		
Agenda Item 23-332		
Tabled Mar 28, 2023 1:00 PM		
R. Wyatt - Letter to Governor Hochul Calling for a Comprehensive Preventative Approach to Impending Evictions in Buffalo		
Information		
Department: Category:	Common Council Miscellaneous	Sponsors:
Attachments		
Printout		
Body		
Dear Governor Kathy Hochul,		
I hope this letter finds you well. As a Council Member of the University District in Buffalo, I am writing to express my concern regarding the impending eviction crisis in our area, specifically in the 14215 zip code. While New York State has strict rules regarding evictions, recent data shows that evictions are back in action, with over 19,956 total city and district court warrants of eviction filed in 2022, compared to only 5,026 in 2021. Erie County, which includes Buffalo, has the most evictions in the state, with 2,743 eviction warrants issued so far this year.		
As you know, Buffalo is one of the poorest cities in the nation, with nearly three in ten of its residents living below the poverty line. Homeownership is weak, and in East Buffalo, more than half of renters spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing. This situation has resulted in many landlords struggling to collect rent, with many tenants unable to pay. Although the New York State Emergency Rental Assistance Program was put in place to help low- and moderate-income tenants pay their rent and utility payments, some tenants have not applied for the program, making it hard for landlords to collect rent.		
It is clear that we need a comprehensive approach to this issue that protects both tenants and landlords. I am therefore calling on the state to allocate funding to support both parties. This will help ensure that tenants are not unfairly evicted from their homes and that landlords are able to collect the rent that is due to them. Furthermore, I am urging you to consider programs such as the rent allowance for public assistance, which has not been increased in 19 years, and to encourage counties to apply for supplement programs that help targeted populations with greater needs pay their rent. I believe that this will go a long way in preventing the eviction crisis from escalating further.		
Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to working with you to find a solution that benefits all parties involved.		
Sincerely,		
Rasheed Wyatt University District Council Member Buffalo Common Council		

I am deeply concerned about the rise of evictions in Buffalo and in the University District. That is why I held a community meeting last month with housing experts and the community and why I am now writing a letter to New York Governor Kathy Hochul calling for a comprehensive preventative approach to tackle these impending evictions in Buffalo.

We need a solution that protects both tenants and landlords and prevents the crisis from escalating further. I look forward to working with Governor Hochul, our state delegation, and other stakeholders to find a comprehensive approach that benefits all parties involved.



Scan the QR code to read my letter to Governor Hochul

Update on Smoke & Vape Shop Legislation

Last month I wrote to our University District community about their concerns regarding the smoke and vape shops in our community, specifically in regards to the smoke & vape shop located at 3168 Main Street.

I wanted to provide an update and let you all know that after the initial filing of this legislation that is aimed to give you and our communities the opportunity for feedback before approval from the City of Buffalo/Common Council, the legislation needed to be altered to increase the fines for those who disobey the new legislation.

For prior context: unfortunately, at this time, smoke & vape shop licensing and regulations are controlled by New York State. This legislation will change that.

A change is coming very soon, please be patient and I appreciate the community members who have stood up and let their voices be heard!

This Past Month in the District



Last month, we held a community town hall to get public feedback on the future of the Bailey-Dartmouth Community Garden. It was amazing to see so many community members from across our district come together to share their feedback and ideas on the future of this beloved garden in memory of Shaquanna Terice Jackson. Thank you all for your valuable input and let's continue to work towards creating a thriving and sustainable community for generations to come.



Next Steps: The landscape architect firm will take this feedback to develop a plan for the garden with my office, the city, and our community stakeholders, along with the family of Shaquanna Terice Jackson, and then move forward with construction set to begin this summer!

Last month, I once again teamed up with Lovejoy District Council Member Bryan Bollman collaborating with our community food store owners, City of Buffalo Permits & Inspections Office, our E-District Buffalo Police, and the University community for our annual Food Store Licensing Renewal meetings where this is an open forum to listen to the feedback from our residents when it comes to the stores in our districts.



Year after year, we hold these meetings between our community and the store owners to ensure that we're all working together towards a common goal!

I want to extend a sincere thank you to the community for their valuable input during our food store renewal licensing meetings!



NFTA Metro University Rail Station project is complete

Sleeker and safer! The panel liner replacement project at University Rail Station is complete.

The University Rail Station project started in December 2022 and caused the station to close early during the week but is now operating back to normal.

Check it out the next time you're taking the train!



Family Dollar (Bailey & Lisbon) is back open



I am pleased to report that Family Dollar on Bailey & Lisbon is back open!

It has been closed since the Christmas Blizzard but after working with, and being in constant communication with representatives from Family Dollar, we made sure they knew how important this location was to the community

Join Council Member Wyatt for our next community breakfast meeting of 2023!



UNIVERSITY DISTRICT COMMUNITY BREAKFAST MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH



9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3330 MAIN ST, BUFFALO NY, 14214**

USE ENTRANCE ON NIAGARA FALLS BLVD SIDE



COUNCIL MEMBER
RASHEED N.C. WYATT
UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

Topics of Discussion:

- Shoshone Updates/Park Investments
- Bailey Streetscape
- Dartmouth Garden
- District Infrastructure
- Smoke & Vape Shop Legislation Update

RSVP BY CALLING OUR OFFICE AT 716-851-5165

FeedMore WNY Farmers Truck at Westminster School Every Wednesday Morning

Stop by Westminster Community Charter School (24 Westminster Ave) from 9AM-10AM on Wednesdays and shop for your local fruits and vegetables from FeedMore WNY. Cash, Credit, SNAP and Double Up Bucks accepted.



Honoring a Trailblazing University District Entrepreneur - Annette Watts

I am incredibly proud and honored to have had the opportunity to recognize Annette Watts, the owner of Ann Rhods Tailoring, for Women's History Month. Annette is a true trailblazer in the Bailey-Kensington neighborhood, where she has been a constant presence for nearly 30 years. As a master seamstress, Annette began her career by creating one-of-a-kind clothing for her customers, before transitioning to an alterations business. Her dedication to providing quality and affordable services to her customers has greatly contributed to her community.



Annette is not only a successful entrepreneur but also a community leader who embodies the spirit of entrepreneurship and dedication to her neighborhood. It is an honor for the Buffalo Common Council to recognize Annette Watts for her unwavering commitment to her community and her tireless efforts to uplift those around her.

Celebrating National Read Across America Day at Westminster Community Charter School

Earlier last month, I had the honor of speaking with two classes of amazing, bright-minded, and smart 3rd grade students at Westminster Community Charter School about the importance of reading and how it can shape their future. It's inspiring to see how much these young learners already love books and the excitement they have for exploring new stories!



Black History Month Celebration at Buffalo Schools ECC #82

An unforgettable day I had at Buffalo Schools ECC #82 celebrating Black History Month last month with some of the most talented young performers I've seen! From the kids' door decorating contest to the amazing orchestra and singing performances, I was blown away by the talent and creativity of these students. Proud to be part of a community that supports and empowers our youth to shine!

I also want to give a show of appreciation to the hardworking teachers and staff at PS 82 who put on an amazing Black History Month celebration for the students and families. It was clear that these educators have poured their hearts into creating an inclusive and inspiring environment for their students. Thank you for all that you do to uplift and empower the next generation!



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!



CALL 716-851-5165 WITH ANY QUESTIONS!
WWW.UNIVERSITYUNITEDFESTIVAL.COM

UNIVERSITY UNITED FESTIVAL PARADE 2023

The University United Festival Community Parade is BACK for 2023 and we can't wait to see you there. Don't miss your chance to be part of this amazing celebration of diversity and togetherness. Register now and let's make this parade one to remember:

<https://universityunitedfestival.com/past-parades/>



CALLING ALL FOOD, MERCHANDISE, AND INFORMATIONAL VENDORS!

Our festival is a celebration of all things Buffalo and the University District, and we want to showcase the best of our community with your help. Spots are filling up quick, so head to our website now for more information and to apply to be a vendor. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to be a part of one of Buffalo's top tier festivals!



ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023

***BECOME A VOLUNTEER AT THE FESTIVAL
AND HELP OUT THIS GREAT, FREE,
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL!***

<https://universityunitedfestival.com/volunteer/>

WWW.UNIVERSITYUNITEDFESTIVAL.COM



You are cordially invited to...

UNIVERSITY SENIOR DINNER DANCE

*Hosted by University District Council Member
Rasheed N.C. Wyatt*

SATURDAY

APRIL

29

5:00PM - 8:00PM

The Venue

GLORIA J. PARKS
COMMUNITY CENTER
3242 MAIN ST,
BUFFALO, NY 14214

55+
FREE
ENTRY

The Events

CATERED DINNER
50/50 DRAWING
PHOTOBOOTH
RAFFLE PRIZES
MUSIC BY DJ SLIM

RSVP REQUIRED 716-851-5165

EVENTS AND SCHEDULE

Upcoming Events

Monthly E District Police Meeting with Chief Menza

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month (6PM)

Ken-Bailey NHS 995 Kensington Avenue. Buffalo NY 14215

University District Community Breakfast Meeting

Saturday, April 15, 2023 (9AM-12PM)

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3330 Main St., Buffalo NY, 14214

University District Senior Dinner Dance

Saturday, April 29, 2023 (5:00PM-9:00PM)

GLORIA J. PARKS COMMUNITY CENTER

3242 Main St, Buffalo, NY 14214

SAVE THE DATES!



**SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023
&
SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023**

**UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, SOUTH CAMPUS
ROTARY FIELD (BUFFALO, NY)**

APRIL COMMON COUNCIL MEETINGS

APRIL 2023

Council Meetings

2PM

Held in Council Chambers

April 4
April 18

Committee Meetings

Civil Service - 9:45AM

Finance - 10:00AM

Community Development - 1:00PM

Legislation - 2PM

Held in Council Chambers

April 11
April 25

All meetings are live-streamed via Zoom on the Buffalo Common Council Facebook page (facebook.com/BFLOCC)

For more information:
buffalony.gov/CommonCouncil



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OTHER MEETINGS:

Police Oversight- April 12 at 11AM*

* Meeting date and time subject to change

Filing an Item

FILING DEADLINE:

Thursday at 2:00PM before each regularly scheduled Buffalo Common Council Meeting

The Common Council considers "items" during committee meetings and Council meetings.

Example(s): Trailblazing Sign Request, suggestive legislation, letters regarding issues.

Public can submit through the Clerk's office, calling Central Staff Office (716)-851-5105, or emailing councilstaff@buffalony.gov



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Request to speak at a Committee Public Hearing

[WWW.BUFFALONY.GOV/SPEAK](https://www.buffalony.gov/SPEAK)



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For more information about the Buffalo Common Council visit
www.buffalony.gov/CommonCouncil

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Buffalo City Hall:

**University District
Council Office**
(716) 851-5165

**E. District Police
Station**
(716) 851-4416

**Erie County Health
Department COVID
Hotline**
(716) 858-2929

**University District
Community
Development
Association**
(Homeowner Assistance)
(716) 832-1010

**Erie County Health Department
Rodent Control**
(716) 961-6800
After Business Hours:
(716) 961-7898



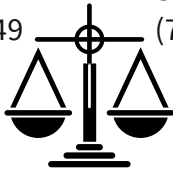
Your Representatives:

**U.S. Congressman
Brian Higgins**
(716) 852-3501

**NYS Senator
Timothy Kennedy**
(716) 826-2683

**Erie County
Legislator April
Baskin**
(716) 895-1849

**Assemblywoman
Crystal Peoples-
Stokes**
(716) 897-9714



Need help Get Answers.

CALL 2-1-1

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211 connects you to local agencies that
can assist with:

**FOOD, HOUSING, UTILITY ASSISTANCE,
CLOTHING, MENTAL HEALTH,
DISABILITIES, PREGNANCY,
EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH CARE,
SUBSTANCE USE, FREE TAX PREP**

Call 211 or 888-696-9211

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Google Play



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