



Assemblywoman  
**Crystal D.**

**Peoples-Stokes**



Summer 2016

## Community News

Assemblywoman Peoples-Stokes just concluded a very successful legislative session in Albany and is eager to continue her work back home in the district.

### Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It's summer time and the weather will make for great days at MLK Park, Delaware Park, or Canalside. It's also time for my post session report to you on the progress I've been making as your State representative in the Assembly.

I'm proud to say that the 239<sup>th</sup> legislative session concluded and the result is an increase in much needed resources for Buffalo. Specifically, it included increases for healthcare, education, and economic and workforce development funding. This letter details bills that I was the prime sponsor of that passed the Assembly and are awaiting the Governor's signature.

Sincerely,

Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes

## LOOKING FOR WORK?

In May 2016, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that he would expand the highly successful Unemployment Strikeforce model originally launched in the Bronx in 2014 to include Western New York. The new Western NY Employment Strikeforce is now ready to assist businesses and local job seekers in Buffalo, Lackawanna, and Niagara Falls, helping residents find job opportunities in their communities.

The Department of Labor will work with local training providers, community based organizations and clergy to offer a wide array of employment and supportive services to help area residents find jobs so they are better able to support their families and find their place in the new economy.

Locations in Our Community:

### Delavan Grider Community Center

Monday- Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
877 E. Delavan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14215

### Gloria J. Parks Community Center

Monday & Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
3242 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14214

## Fruit Belt

An agreement on the Fruit Belt pilot residential parking permit system in the City of Buffalo was reached; legislation (A7574E) passed both houses and is awaiting possible action by Governor Cuomo. The bill will benefit Fruit Belt residents, visitors, and employees of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus. It would allow the city of Buffalo to authorize and implement a pilot residential parking permit system.

The Fruit Belt Neighborhood Solar Partnership is a voluntary opportunity for most residents of the Fruit Belt Neighborhood to reduce their electric bill through the free installation for up to 100 homes in the Fruit Belt neighborhood of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on their homes. It is led by National Grid and will introduce concentrated solar power into an urban setting to determine if this new model of energy distribution contributes to grid efficiency.

## Parkside Improvements

The City of Buffalo Department of Public Works started on a \$600,000 infrastructure project in June. Motorists should anticipate some traffic and lane restrictions in and around the Parkside and Florence intersection as the project unfolds. Travelers are being encouraged to use Main Street as an alternative to Parkside. This is a traffic calming and roadway safety project. The result will bring traffic to a bend and reduce traffic to a single lane.



Assemblywoman Peoples-Stokes secured \$175 million in statewide funding for community schools in the 2016 New York State budget. Superintendent Kriner Cash established the New Education Bargain with Students and Parents, and community schools are a key component in the strategic plan. Strong community schools will be established in each quadrant of the City of Buffalo to serve students and families in their neighborhoods. Buffalo schools district will receive roughly \$12 million for community schools. Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes and Buffalo Public School Superintendent Dr. Kriner Cash cut the ribbon on the new Community School at Marva J Daniel Futures Academy #37.



In April, Governor Cuomo came to the Buffalo Science Museum to announce multiple transportation and infrastructure projects that Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes was instrumental in securing, including \$6 million in funding for NYSDOT to conduct an environmental and design assessment covering the Kensington Expressway (State Route 33). The next project was \$30 million to expedite the initial construction phase of converting the “Scajquada Expressway” into an urban boulevard. The original Humboldt Parkway, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, was a grand tree-lined boulevard that connected Humboldt Park (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Park) with Delaware Park. The construction of the Kensington Expressway in the 1950s and 1960s resulted in the removal of the historic Olmsted-designed parkway. Also announced was \$4 million for a \$22.3 million City of Buffalo project that will return vehicular traffic to additional sections of Main Street in downtown Buffalo.



The Western New York Workforce Development Center, is a new hub that will focus primarily on training for careers in the advanced manufacturing and energy sectors. The center will inhabit a 100,000-square-foot building at 683 Northland Avenue. In addition to the Western New York Workforce Development Center, the Buffalo Urban Development Corporation (BUDC), in partnership with Empire State Development and the City of Buffalo, has acquired multiple properties in the Northland Avenue Belt Line Corridor for industrial and commercial redevelopment.



The FY 2017 Budget includes the longest and most comprehensive Paid Family Leave program in the nation. Paid Leave will be funded entirely through a nominal payroll deduction on employees. Benefits will be phased-in beginning in 2018 at 50% of an employee’s average weekly wage and capped at 50% of the statewide average weekly wage. The FY 2017 Budget includes a historic increase in the minimum wage, ultimately reaching \$15 an hour for all workers in all industries across downstate. For upstate workers the minimum wage will increase to \$9.70 at the end of 2016, then another .70 each year after until reaching \$12.50 on 12/31/2020 – after which will continue to increase to \$15 on an indexed schedule to be set by the Director of the Division of Budget in consultation with the Department of Labor.

# 2016 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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## Peoples-Stokes sponsored bills that passed the Assembly.

- A2581A** Peoples-Stokes (MS) – Provides for taxpayer gifts for lupus education and prevention, and establishes the lupus education and prevention fund and outreach program
- A2700** Peoples-Stokes (MS) – Relates to requiring maternity patients and the other parent of a newborn child to be educated in safe sleeping practices
- A2726** Peoples-Stokes (MS)– Requires dialysis center disaster preparedness plans
- A2825** Peoples-Stokes (MS) – Relates to requiring mandated reporters to receive coursework or training regarding the identification and reporting of child abuse and maltreatment
- A3063** Peoples-Stokes (MS) – Creates a permanent environmental justice advisory group
- A3174** Peoples-Stokes – Relates to destruction of personal information stored on copiers, facsimile machines or multi-function devices
- A3382** Peoples-Stokes (MS) – Identifies the criteria the commissioner of environmental conservation should consider in publishing a list of high local environmental impact zones
- A5768** Peoples-Stokes (MS) – Provides that each state agency that maintains a website shall ensure its website provides for online submission of requests for records subject to FOIL
- A7707A** Peoples-Stokes – Relates to prescription drug formulary changes during a contract year
- A10092** Peoples-Stokes – Relates to sealing records for certain proceedings
- A10123** Peoples-Stokes – Relates to the disclosure of the list of practitioners registered to certify patients for the use of medical marijuana
- A10510** Peoples-Stokes– Relates to vendor fees at a vendor track
- A10570** Rules (Peoples-Stoke) – Authorizes cities having a population of between 250,000 and 300,000 to establish a senior citizen longtime resident real property tax exemption

## Peoples-Stokes sponsored bills that passed both houses and are awaiting possible action by Governor Cuomo

- A3072A** Peoples-Stokes (MS)– Creates an education and outreach program for the autoimmune disease known as lupus
  - A7574E** Peoples-Stokes – Authorizes a pilot residential parking permit system in the city of Buffalo
  - A7853** Peoples-Stokes– Relates to adding a representative from WUFO Studios to the Michigan Street African Heritage Corridor commission
  - A8156B** Peoples-Stokes - Relates to the assignment of rights resulting from a land bank's successful tender for property to the foreclosing governmental unit
  - A9176** Peoples-Stokes - Relates to authorizing the Erie county medical center corporation to enter into agreements for the creation and operation of a health care delivery system network; repealer
  - A9762** Peoples-Stokes– Relates to awards for burial expenses of crime victims
  - A10095** Peoples-Stokes – Directs the director of the division of minority and women's business development to provide for the minority and women-owned business certification of business entities owned by Indian nations or tribes
  - A10108** Peoples-Stokes – Relates to extending the authority of the department of environmental conservation to manage fish
  - A10296** Peoples-Stokes – Clarifies the definition of “restricted period” for purposes of disclosure of state contracts
  - A10688** Rules (Peoples-Stokes)– Relates to participation by state agencies in a system used by the comptroller to compile vendor responsibility information
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# 2016 Fall Information

**National Fuel submitted a filing to the New York Public Service Commission on April 28th, seeking a service fee increase of approximately \$5.75/month for the average residential customer, not effective until April 2017.**

To Submit comments to the Public Service Commission, call 1-800-335-2120, and reference Docket # 16-G-0257.



**Park Pride is critical in keeping our historic Olmsted Parks beautiful.**

From picking up trash, cleaning litter, or clearing invasive plants, we can all play a role in keeping our parks in pristine condition.

## YEAR ROUND TOURISM

Visit **Buffalo Niagara**  
[www.visitbuffaloniagara.com](http://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com)

**The Buffalo Science Museum Daily Activities**  
716-896-5200

**The Colored Musician Club Daily Activities**  
716-842-0969

**The Nash House Daily Activities**  
716-856-4490

**Gloria J. Parks Community Center**  
3242 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14214 • 716-832-1010

**North Buffalo Community Center**  
203 Sanders Road, Buffalo, NY 14216 • 716-874-1647

## New York State Health Marketplace

**The Essential Plan:** A new health plan designed for low-income New Yorkers who do not qualify for Medicaid or Child Health Plus. It costs \$20 per month or is free if you meet the income guidelines, while offering the same essential benefits. Call 1-855-355-5777 for more information.

## Free Wills and Estate Planning Workshop

**Intake: Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**  
10 a.m. to 12 noon

**Execution: Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**  
10 a.m. to 12 noon

Delavan-Grider Center

877 East Delavan Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14215  
Hosted by Mayor Byron W. Brown, Minority Bar Association of Erie County  
Acea M. Mosey, Esq. of Mosey Associates  
Contact Person and Please RSVP to Lisa Yaeger 716-897-9714  
[yaegerl@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:yaegerl@assembly.state.ny.us)



Assemblywoman  
**Crystal D.  
Peoples-Stokes**

**Community News**

Summer 2016



**Follow me... Assemblywoman Crystal D. Peoples-Stokes**



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<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Crystal-D-Peoples-Stokes/>

**For more information call our District Office  
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