



NIAGARA COUNTY  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: CHRISTIAN W. PECK  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
TEL: (716) 439-7241  
FAX: (716) 439-7058

August 1, 2010

UPDEGROVE LOBS FIRST PITCH AT AN-JO NEW ERA CHAMPIONSHIP  
REAFFIRMS COUNTY'S SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BASEBALL LEAGUE

LOCKPORT—Lobbing a fastball inside the strike zone to the waiting catcher, Legislator Rick Updegrave, R-Lockport, threw out the ceremonial first pitch Sunday at what has become the premier youth baseball tournament in Western New York.

The New Era Cap Classic first found a permanent home in Lockport last year, the result of a five-way partnership between the Buffalo-based New Era Cap Co., the city of Lockport, the town of Lockport, Niagara County government, and the An-Jo Baseball League.

Since then, New Era Cap has invested in upgrades at the An-Jo fields while helping organize events including a season-opening May pitching clinic for teenagers and the two-week long New Era Cap Classic tournament.

"This partnership has been a success," Updegrave said moments after throwing the first pitch. "A day like today, we're reminded of the real importance of an initiative like this: baseball, and the opportunity to help develop our youth. And you really can't put a price on that."

Updegrave was joined in offering remarks supporting An-Jo by An-Jo Baseball League President Todd Fragale, who thanked the majority leader for the support he, along with fellow Lockport lawmakers Tony Nemi and Wm. Keith McNall had demonstrated for An-Jo since the partnership with New Era Cap began.

"We're very pleased with the partnership with New Era and the way things are going," Fragale told Updegrave. "We've had multiple tournaments out here this year and last year, and we're looking forward to some big tournaments going forward. And we wanted to thank our county representatives for all the support they've shown to efforts like this."

Updegrave's visit to An-Jo Field, which is located behind county-owned properties on Davison Road, reaffirms Niagara County government's commitment to supporting the partnership between An-Jo and New Era Cap. Several eastern Niagara County lawmakers, including Updegrave, consider An-Jo the crown jewel of the county's athletic and youth support systems.

Updegrave, who chairs the Legislature's Economic Development Committee, also noted that county lawmakers saw the athletic tournaments as a "win-win" that boost traffic to local eateries and shops.

"The An-Jo League and its board of directors are going to continue to have our support as long as they continue to operate," Updegrave stated.

###