



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
OFFICE OF ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
244 FAIR STREET
KINGSTON, NEW YORK, 12401

PHONE: 845.340-3900
FAX: 845.340.3651
www.co.ulster.ny.us
www.ulstercountyny.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 7, 2009

Ulster County Legislator Robert S. Parete (D-Olive) Commends Local Business For Participating In The Heart Safe Community Program

(Kingston, NY) -- Legislator Robert Parete is pleased to recognize and support IXL Health and Fitness of Saugerties for becoming the first business to participate in the new Ulster County Heart Safe Community Program. IXL has taken the necessary steps to increase access to life saving therapy in order to protect their customers, staff and the general public.

"IXL staff has taken steps to create a safer environment by installing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and certifying their workforce in life saving CPR/AED training," said Legislator Robert Parete. An AED is an electronic device that administers a shock through the chest wall to the heart. Built-in computers are designed to assess the patient's heart rhythm, judge whether defibrillation is needed and then administer the shock.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the United States. According to the American Heart Association (August 2006), it strikes about 335,000 Americans each year: nearly one death every two minutes. And it can strike anyone - old or young, anywhere, at any time. A combination of training more volunteers in CPR/AED training and the deployment of AEDs in large settings, such as IXL, greatly reduces the incidence of sudden cardiac arrest.

Legislator Robert Parete, Chairman of the County Legislature's Health Services Committee, was instrumental in the creation of the Ulster County Heart Safe Community Program, urges prospective business and other organizations that are interested in learning more about the Heart Safe Program to contact the Ulster County Health Department at (845) 340-3160 or visit

<http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/heartsafe.html>

- More -

“The Heart Safe Task Force ought to be commended for their positive work. This program would not be as successful without their hard work and determination.” Members include Aimee Zimmerman of the Health Department, Officer George Hill of the Sheriffs Department, Victor Work of the Department of Public Works, Rick Remsynder of the Tourism Department, Art Snyder of Emergency Management/Communications and Mr. Tony Marmo.

For additional resources, please visit the following sites;

[American Heart Association](#)

[UC Red Cross](#)

[ASHI Link to Training Centers](#)