



Dear Friends,

With Labor Day comes the unofficial end of summer. It has been a busy time since the end of the legislative session in June. I have made trips to Albany to meet with central staff and others to discuss my legislation, including bills that didn't get across the finish line this past session and new bills I would like to introduce next year. I have also continued meeting with constituents and advocates, as well as attending many terrific events in the district and beyond.

While it has been a busy summer, I have also been grateful for a bit of downtime for travel and family celebrations. In addition to a wonderful trip my wife and I took to Japan (more on that below!), **we were very excited on August 24th to celebrate the marriage of our oldest daughter to her (now) husband Josef.** It was a wonderful ceremony with family coming as far away as Hawaii, celebrating under a tent at our place in the sleepy town of Cushing, Maine. I was honored to officiate as they literally "tied the knot."



It was truly a very special day.

Unfortunately, this newsletter will need to be my last one until November. With the upcoming election, the Assembly enters a blackout period, when we may no longer send newsletters from this system until after the election. Rest assured, I will continue to provide helpful information on social media. And as always, never hesitate to reach out to my office if there is any assistance we can provide.

In the meantime, for those who live in and around North Salem, **please save the date for an October 5th Coffee & Conversation at the North Salem Town Court, beginning at 1 pm.** I am co-sponsoring the event with Westchester County Legislator Erika Pierce, and we will be joined by Town Supervisor Warren Lucas. I hope you can make it.

A final note before we move on to the rest of the newsletter, as this will be the last one before the election...

A reminder that the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) will appear on the November 5th ballot as Proposition 1. The proposed amendment needed to pass two sessions of the legislature to appear on this year's ballot.

If the measure passes, reproductive rights will be enshrined in the NYS constitution, as will additional protections for sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, age, and other protected classes.

The proposition will appear on the back of the ballot – not on the same side as the candidates – **so you will need to flip your ballot over to vote yes or no.**

Focus on Foundation Aid

One of the areas I focused on this summer was the upcoming report of the Rockefeller Institute of Government, charged under the 2024-2025 NYS budget with conducting a study to assess the formula for Foundation Aid. Foundation Aid is the principal source of NYS funding for public schools and is crucially important to maintaining the high quality of our schools, while holding down property taxes. There is broad consensus that the current formula is outdated and needs to be revised.

After holding hearings and collecting written feedback from stakeholders, the Rockefeller Institute will review the feedback and incorporate it into the Foundation Aid formula study, which will be used to inform its final report on policy options. That report will be presented to the Governor, the Senate, and the Assembly in early December.

Following discussions with superintendents, the teaching community, residents, and other stakeholders, I joined with my Westchester Assembly colleagues to submit a comment letter to the Institute. We are principally concerned that the revised formula reflects our districts, the students they serve, and their wide range of needs (including students with special needs and English language learners). Perhaps most importantly, **we feel it is crucial that no district receives less state aid than the previous year.**

I will continue to keep you up to date on this important issue.

Ribbon-Cutting at Buxton Gorge Preserve

It was a joyous event at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Buxton Gorge Preserve in Bedford Hills this summer, followed by a short (but beautiful!) hike and a celebratory lunch at GlenArbor Golf Club. The ninety-six acre preserve exemplifies the Town of Bedford's long-term commitment to preserving a healthy and sustainable environment. Acquisition of the environmentally sensitive site, with a magnificent gorge running through it, had been a priority of the Bedford Open Space Acquisition Committee for over 22 years.

It was my honor when I was Bedford Town Supervisor to close on the first portion of the acquisition for the town. Plaudits to current Bedford Town Supervisor Ellen Calves and to W. Grant Gregory, principal of Lakeover Development, LLC (the previous owners of the property), for completing the sale of the remaining property. I was honored to present citations both to the town and to Grant for the occasion.



Congratulations to the 93rd AD ArtsWestchester Arts Alive Grant Winners!

I am proud to share that several wonderful arts organizations in my district were recipients of ArtsWestchester Arts Alive grants. **Bedford Playhouse, Caramoor, White Plains BID, Friends of Music Concerts, Harrison Public Library Foundation, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah Village Library, OCA-Westchester & Hudson Valley Chapters, and Steffi Nossen School of Dance Foundation** all received grants. It was a pleasure to attend the grant award ceremony at Arc Stages in Pleasantville.

Congratulations to them all!

I am pleased that my colleagues and I in the Westchester delegation to the NYS legislature were able to negotiate strong funding in this year's budget for the New York State Council on the Arts and ArtsWestchester, enabling the Arts Alive grant program to continue. We are truly blessed to have terrific arts organizations in our county, which are integral to the rich tapestry of life here in Westchester.



Seeking Fall Interns!

Once again, we are seeking dedicated and proactive high school and local college students for our **district office**. Interns will provide assistance (under direct supervision) with administrative projects and legislative research. Our district office is located in Mount Kisco. The hours are flexible.

Duties include:

- **Research**
- **Data entry**
- **Email organization**
- **Answering phones & making phone calls**
- **Other assorted other office duties and tasks**

Our office has a small staff, so other tasks and duties may arise.

Please note that this internship is unpaid; however, if an intern's school will allow for school credit, we are happy to work with them to obtain it.

[Click here to apply!](#)

September 26: Save A Life - Donate Blood!

The South Salem Fire Department and the Lewisboro Volunteer Ambulance Corps (LVAC) are once again teaming up to host a blood drive for the New York Blood Center.

The drive will take place on Thursday, September 26th, from 1:30-7:30 at the South Salem Fire Department. [Click here to register for an appointment.](#) Walk-ins will also be welcome, as space permits.



South Salem Fire Department & Lewisboro Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Thursday September 26th

1:30pm – 7:30pm

South Salem Fire Department
1190 NY-35 South Salem NY

Every presenting donor will have the chance to win one of the following six prizes:

1. Bacio Trattoria donated a \$100 gift certificate.
2. Lewisboro Volunteer Ambulance Corp donated a \$100 gift certificate for Bacio Trattoria.
3. Tzen Asian Bistro donated a \$100 gift certificate.
4. Horse & Hound Restaurant donated a \$100 gift certificate.
5. South Salem Fire Department donated a \$100 gift certificate for Horse & Hound Restaurant.
6. Gossett Nursery donated \$100 gift certificate for Horse & Hound Restaurant.

* Terms and Conditions apply. Prizes hold no cash value.

To sign up call 800-933-2566,

visit nybc.org/donate

or scan this code:



Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits. Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo. Age requirements: - 15 or younger not allowed. - 16 needs parent consent form. - 17 to 75 no additional age requirements - 76 and older need doctor's approval/note to donate.

 **New York
Blood Center**

800.933.BLOOD • nybc.org    [#nybloodcenter](https://nybc.org)

September 28: Dog & Puppy Meet + Greet!

On Saturday, September 28, from 11:30-1:30 pm, my colleague Senator Shelley Mayer and I will be joining Pet Rescue's Dog & Puppy Meet + Greet. Pet Rescue is located at 7 Harison Avenue in Harrison.

Please come by, say hi, and consider adopting one of their adorable dogs! Most of Pet Rescue's dogs will be in attendance, including those in foster homes, as well as those residing in their kennel. **If you are interested in adopting a dog, Pet Rescue strongly suggests you fill out [an application](#) prior to the event**, as the application takes time to process and no applications will be processed at the event.

Please note this event is weather-dependent.

Can't make it on September 28 but still interested in adopting a dog? Pet Rescue holds Dog & Puppy Meet + Greets every Saturday from 11:30-1:30 pm. You can email them at nypetrescue@gmail.com with any questions. You can also [click here](#) for additional information on the foster and adoption processes.



October 9: Diverse Abilities Job Fair

On October 9, **Westchester County is once again hosting a Diverse Abilities Job Fair at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.** This fair is solely for job candidates with disabilities.

There are two opportunities to participate. There is an open house expo from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and/or you can schedule a one-on-one interview with an employer who is attending the fair from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.

[Click here to register](#) ahead of time or by using the QR code on the flier below.

If you need additional assistance registering for the fair, please reach out to Jeff Zitofsky at the Westchester County Office for People with Disabilities at 914-995-2956.

County Executive George Latimer invites you to join us at

WESTCHESTER



Diverse Abilities

JOB FAIR

OCTOBER 9

OPEN HOUSE
10AM - 12:30PM

WESTCHESTER COUNTY CENTER

FULL TIME
EMPLOYMENT

PART TIME
EMPLOYMENT

SEASONAL
EMPLOYMENT

This job fair is open to all people who are differently abled.
Connect with dozens of Westchester employers and resource providers.

EMPLOYERS INCLUDE:
American Sugar Refining, Inc., The Center for Career Freedom,
Edison Home Health Care, Greater Mental Health of New York, Jawonio,
Liberty Lines, New York State Thruway Authority, New York State Police,
Northwell Health, NY State Dept Corrections & Community Supervision,
Rivertowns Playhouse, Westchester County and many more.

Pre-registration is required in order to have the opportunity for one-on-one
interviews with employers. Look for a follow up email.
Spots are limited and not guaranteed.

REGISTER:
rb.gy/hq8zw4



**For more information or for help
with registration, contact:
Jeff Zitofsky at 914-995-2956**



THE CATALYST
WESTCHESTER COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



CATALYST for
DIVERSITY



Westchester
County



WESTCHESTER COUNTY
Office for People with Disabilities



Westchester-Putnam
Career Center Network
A member of the Westchester-Putnam
Regional Office of the State of New York



ACCES
Vocational Rehabilitation

Important DMV Alert!

Did you know that if your driver license expired between 3/1/2020 and 8/31/2021 – and you renewed online by self-certifying your vision but have not submitted a vision test to DMV – your license was suspended on 12/01/2023?

Submit your vision test now to clear your suspension. [Click here to learn more.](#)



NY Mobile ID

Ever forget your wallet and wish you had your ID on you? Now you can with New York Mobile ID! Just download the app, and a highly secure digital version of a state-issued driver license, learner permit or ID will be on your smartphone whenever you need it. To learn more, [click here](#).



Attorney General Letitia James Warns of Investor Scams

News from New York State Attorney General Letitia James

New York Attorney General Letitia James issued an investor alert, warning New Yorkers about scams that are luring potential investors with fake videos created with artificial intelligence (AI) that show celebrities and business leaders touting fraudulent investment schemes. These AI-manipulated videos, known as deepfakes, often appear in social media feeds, digital ads, and messaging apps and are expected to fuel billions of dollars in fraud every year. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is urging New Yorkers to follow tips to protect themselves and to report this misleading content to law enforcement and the social media platforms on which they appear.



Attorney General James urges potential investors to look out for red flags including promises of guaranteed returns on investments and demands to invest immediately or warning that you will miss out on the opportunity. The Attorney General also urges New Yorkers to do their own due diligence by doing things such as searching the internet for reviews about the salesperson and by verifying any physical address provided by the salesperson. She also reminds everyone not to provide any personal or financial or log-in information to anyone that you have only met online.

Attorney General James encourages anyone who may have been a victim of a scam to report it to the OAG by filing an online complaint at ag.ny.gov or calling (800) 771-7755.

Our Journey to Japan

Finally... some thoughts on my summer trip to Japan.

For all of my adult life, Japan has fascinated me - its culture, its people, its resiliency, and how much our two nations have in common. I have long wanted to visit Japan, with the interest only intensifying after joining the Assembly's Asian Pacific American (APA) Task Force, which recently hosted the first NYS AAPI Summit, and where I was fortunate [to host and moderate](#) a workshop. The glowing report of my Chief of Staff Heather Mieko Lackey regarding her recent trip served to pique my interest further. And as I owed my very patient wife Illyria a long-promised trip, what better time?

Illyria and I went in July and it was a whirlwind... and what an experience! I laud the Japanese people for their warmth, friendliness, and willingness to help a puzzled traveler (several times going well out of their way to do so!). The rich and deep culture is awe-inspiring, as seen in centuries-old shrines and temples, and in their glorious architecture. And the transportation system is absolutely remarkable - high-speed trains and a fabulous Tokyo system providing comfort, speed, and affordable prices.

The 11-hour flight and 13-hour time difference took some getting used to, but it was well, well worth it.



As always, **please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide.** You can always reach me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help. Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued up-to-date information.

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,

Chris Burdick

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