



News from Assemblyman John McDonald

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DISTRICT NEWS

[*Tunisian Assembly*](#)



It was great to visit with this group of 10 members of the Tunisian Assembly of the People's Representatives. The group and I discussed the decentralized nature of the US government, separation of powers, and the responsibilities and functions of state and local governments.

Historic Building Restoration Program

Workforce Development, in cooperation with the NYS Historic preservation Office and Historic Foundation, is pleased to offer another new program in historic building restoration.

This course is the second in a series that is being offered through Hudson Valley Community College.

The course will provide participants with hands-on training in the traditional trade masonry restoration, including documentation, cleaning, pointing, repairing and coatings.

The class will be offered from Thursday, October 5th – Thursday November 30th.

For more information visit www.hvcc.edu/wdi or call 518-629-4111

Understanding Medicare and the EPIC Program

Albany Guardian Society and the Capital District Senior Issues Forum are sponsoring a community forum titled, Understanding Medicare and the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage Program. The forum will take place on October 12th at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center

The forum will provide an overview of the Medicare program and coverage options.

In addition, they will discuss the EPIC program which assists over 310,000 income-eligible seniors ages 65 and older in supplementing their out-of-pocket Medicare Part D drug plan costs.

There is no charge for this event but **registration is required by October 4th**. You can register by emailing ags@albanyguardiansociety.org or calling 518-434-2140.

Capital District Gondola Survey

The Capital District Gondola LLC is conducting an online survey regarding the ridership and

feasibility of a gondola across the Hudson River from the Albany-Rensselaer Rail Station to the Empire State Plaza. The survey will ask questions about people's current travel behavior into and within the Capital District. For example the survey will ask respondents about their mode of travel, length of stay in the Capital District, perception of parking in Albany, and perception of a possible gondola service in the region.

The survey results will help public officials and planners make important transportation decisions. Please visit gondolasurvey.com and enter the code "cdtc" to complete the survey.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

[New Chairperson of NYS Assembly Ways and Means Committee](#)

Congratulations to Assemblymember Helene Weinstein on her new role as Chairperson of the NYS Assembly Ways and Means committee. Helene is a solid choice by Speaker Heastie in a field of many qualified individuals. Assemblymember Weinstein is also the first woman to ever hold this powerful position!

As a member of the Ways and Means committee I look forward to working with her in her new role.

Check out this [Times Union article](#) by Matt Hamilton for more information on this decision.

IN THE NEWS

[Home Health Care Ruling](#)

The recent ruling in regard to home health care, [discussed in this Politico article](#), will likely have long term consequences for home care agencies, government and patients. While the workforce is already at a standstill as agencies struggle to find staff to work in the field due to wages and conditions, this will still have an impact on patients.

Both federal and state government has not been able to support the providers to the level they need in order to make salary commensurate with service. This decision, although some may think is a major victory, needs action by the state to keep agencies afloat. We need to be able to pay a meaningful wage for employees in the field to provide quality care to our patients.

Expect this to be on the agenda this budget season.

