
A banner for Assemblymember John T. McDonald III. On the left is a portrait of him in a suit and tie. The background on the right shows a waterfall. The text is white on a dark blue background. The Assembly of New York seal is in the bottom right corner.

News from
Assemblymember
John T. McDonald III

Assembly District 108

Legislative Office Building, Room 417 • Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-4474



WHAT'S INSIDE:

[*Albany Multi-Craft Apprenticeship Preparation Program \(MAPP\) Ribbon Cutting Event*](#)

[*NYSERDA Sunrise Wind Project*](#)

[*NYS Landlord Rental Assistance - \\$125 million for landlords with uncooperative tenants*](#)

[*New York State Restaurant Resiliency Program*](#)

[*NYS COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program Webinars*](#)

[*Community Gun Buyback Event*](#)

[*NYS Attorney General announces that the Capital Region will receive \\$32 million in Opioid*](#)

[*Settlement Funds*](#)

[*Small Business Legal Network Clinic*](#)

[*Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\) Benefits*](#)

[*Addressing Food Insecurity Legislative Letter*](#)

[*Job Opportunity – Capital South Campus Center*](#)

[*Capital Tonight Interview on Pharmacy Deserts*](#)

[*Albany Multi-Craft Apprenticeship Preparation Program \(MAPP\) Ribbon Cutting Event*](#)



Earlier this year, Assemblymember Patricia Fahy and I secured \$100,000 in NYS Budget funding for the [Albany MAPP program](#). In addition, our legislative partners Senator Neil Breslin and Senator Michelle Hinchey contributed additional budget funding as well. This week we joined our local government partners in this effort at a ribbon cutting held at the new facility located at 29 Broad Street in Albany.

[*NYSERDA Sunrise Wind Project*](#)



Lieutenant Governor Brian Benjamin and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority announced the largest, single offshore wind supply chain contract award in New York

State to support the NYS Sunrise Wind offshore wind project. Ørsted and Eversource, Sunrise Wind's joint development partners, signed a \$86 million supply chain contract with Riggs Distler & Company, Inc. to construct advanced foundation components for wind turbines at the Port of Coeymans, bringing construction and steel manufacturing work to New York companies in the Capital Region.

The full release is [here](#)

[NYS Landlord Rental Assistance - \\$125 million for landlords with uncooperative tenants](#)

Applications are now open for the \$125 million from the NYS Budget to assist landlords with tenants who are not cooperating with NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance ERAP applications or who have left the property and owe back rent.

Read the full press release [here](#)

Applications can be submitted [here](#) on the OTDA website

[New York State Restaurant Resiliency Program](#)

The New York State Restaurant Resiliency Program has been launched and is accepting applications from restaurants. The program provides grants to restaurants that offer meals and other food-related items to New Yorkers within distressed or underrepresented communities. Locally the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY received \$4,357,115 in funding to partner with local restaurants to distribute food to high-needs communities.

Read more about the program [here](#)

Restaurants can apply [here](#) on the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets website

[NYS COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program Webinars](#)

Dates for the NYS COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program webinars have

been scheduled for the month of October.

The New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant is a grant, not a loan, meaning that you do not have to pay back the funds!

The New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant provides financial recovery assistance to for-profit small businesses that were in operation on or before March 1, 2019, who can demonstrate a minimum 25% loss in gross receipts between their 2019 and 2020 tax returns and have gross receipts between \$25,000 and \$2,500,000 on their 2019 or 2020 tax returns.

Grant awards are based on gross receipts for 2019. Newly expanded eligibility criteria has made more NYS business eligible for the grant:

- Annual gross receipts: \$25,000 – \$49,999.99: Award is \$5,000/business
- Annual gross receipts: \$50,000 – \$99,999.99: Award is \$10,000/business
- Annual gross receipts: \$100,000 – \$2,500,000 **[UPDATED 08.25.21]**: Award is 10% of gross receipts (maximum grant is \$50,000)

Ready to apply? Visit nysmallbusinessrecovery.com

Not sure where to start? **Sign up for an informational webinar with the Capital Region Chamber on October 8, 12, 21 or 27.**

Small businesses, regardless of Chamber membership status, may also request a one-on-one informational session with Project Manager, Lea Springstead. Contact her at 518.431.1445 or lspringstead@capitalregionchamber.com.

Sign up for a webinar [here](#)

[Community Gun Buyback Event](#)

The City of Watervliet will be hosting a community gun buyback event with the New York State Attorney General's office, the Watervliet Police Department, the Colonie Police Department, the Village of Green Island Police Department, the Menands Police Department, and the Cohoes Police Department this Saturday, October 9, from 10AM-1PM in Watervliet, New York.

No ID is needed and no questions will be asked.

More information [here](#).

[NYS Attorney General announces that the Capital Region will receive \\$32 million in Opioid Settlement Funds](#)



Earlier this week I joined New York State Attorney General Tish James and our government partners to announce that \$32 million will be committed to the Capital Region to combat the opioid epidemic.

I would like to express my gratitude for a job well done by the New York Attorney General as it relates to the agreements reached with the large multinational players that were involved in fueling the opioid and heroin crises. As one of the few practicing professionals in health care that is a member of the Legislature, I am keenly aware of the practices that fueled the crisis and, as a former mayor and current legislator, I am even more familiar with the impacts this crisis has had on individuals, their families, and our communities. The up to \$1.5 billion secured by Attorney

General James will be spent wisely and appropriately in the areas of education, treatment, and recovery in accordance with opioid settlement lockbox legislation I sponsored to make sure there is a dedicated fund for the money secured. As much as money will not bring back the lives lost nor heal the pain suffered, I am confident that appropriate use of the funding will help prevent more deaths and pain for many families.

The full release is available [here](#)

[Small Business Legal Network Clinic](#)

A [small business legal network clinic](#) will be held on October 30th between 10 am and 1 pm at the S.T.E.A.M. Garden on Central Avenue. The event provides an opportunity for small business owners, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit leaders to receive a free legal consultation with an attorney for their business. More information available here:

In order to participate, please complete the following form: <https://bit.ly/CEDCSmallBusinessClinic>

[Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\) Benefits](#)

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps renters and homeowners keep their homes warm by covering the costs of electricity, wood, kerosene, coal, oil, propane, natural gas or other heating fuels. The program also offers funds to eligible families for any repairs and necessary home-heating equipment.

Read more [here](#)

The 2021-2022 Regular HEAP Benefit is now open for applications!

To learn more or to apply for HEAP, you can visit www.mybenefits.ny.gov.

You can also call the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Hotline at 1-800-342-3009.

For contact information for applying for HEAP in Albany, Rensselaer or Saratoga County please see

below:

Albany County: Contact Number: (518) 447-7323

Rensselaer County: Contact Number: (518)-270-2738

Saratoga County: Contact number: 518-884-4146

[Addressing Food Insecurity Legislative Letter](#)

I signed on a letter led by my colleague Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal urging Senator Chuck Schumer and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to include measures to end child hunger and poverty in the final [#BuildBackBetter](#) plan. The full letter can be read [here](#)

[Job Opportunity – Capital South Campus Center](#)

The Capital South Campus Center (CSCC) Adult Education Department is looking for a FT Receptionist.

The job posting is [here](#):

Receptionist #2022-99 - Application Deadline: October 29, 2021 (or until position is filled)

[Capital Tonight Interview on Pharmacy Deserts](#)

I spoke to Susan Arbetter on Capital Tonight about the issue of pharmacy deserts in low-income communities, the factors that are creating these deserts, and what can be done to address the problem.

The interview is available [here](#)



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