



Dear Neighbors,

The leaves are beginning to change here in the district and I am looking forward to all that makes fall so special here in the Finger Lakes! This weekend, I am excited to take part in the Cortland County Legislative Farm Tour, a wonderful opportunity to experience local agriculture and hear about the joys and challenges of farming in Cortland County.



Bell Station Update

I am thrilled to report that Governor Hochul announced today that NYSEG has agreed to cancel the auction of the Bell Station property on the shore of Cayuga Lake. As many of you know, I have been working hard with the Governor's office, the Department of Public Service, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Parks, and NYSEG to call off the auction of this property so it can be purchased by the [Finger Lakes Land Trust](#) and preserved for all of us to use and enjoy for generations. This is a huge win for our community and I am so grateful for all of the phone calls, letters, and emails from so many of you that helped us preserve this land!

[Read the Governor's Press Release here!](#)



NYS VAX and Win Sweepstakes!

This week, Governor Hochul announced a Vaccine Incentive Program to encourage more New York families to get vaccinated this fall. Eligible New Yorkers who receive their first COVID-19 vaccine dose Sept. 9 through Oct. 24 can enter to win prizes from the Buffalo Bills, New York Giants, and the New York Jets. [Learn more here!](#)

Around the District

Excavation to Explore the role of Ithaca's St. James A.M.E. Zion Church in the Underground Railroad



Last weekend, I had the great honor of participating in the opening event marking the beginning of the excavation of the [St. James A.M.E. Zion Church](#) in Ithaca. This is a fabulous hands-on history project bringing together teams of Cornell students and local school children with researchers from [Cornell's](#)

[Institute of Archeology and Material Studies \(CIAMS\)](#) and the Rural Humanities Seminar. I am excited to [follow the progress of this fascinating project](#) as we learn more about the role of St. James in safeguarding enslaved members of the Black and African-American communities. Read more about this community research project [here](#).

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Walk



I also joined the Southern New York Chapter of the [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#) for the Out of the Darkness walk at Myers Park in Lansing

this past Saturday. I want to thank Crystal Howser, Amber Parker, and their fellow organizers for inviting me to be part of this important event. Out of the Darkness creates a space for community, connection, and healing for families, loved ones, and survivors of suicide loss. I was honored to take part in this event and will carry your stories in my heart.

Stewart Park Centennial Event



Finally, I capped off a busy Saturday with [Friends of Stewart Park](#) to celebrate Stewart Park's Centennial Celebration. It was an absolute treat to celebrate this special place and enjoy a gorgeous sunset with friends. I was proud to present an official citation on behalf of the New York State Assembly to Stewart Park to mark the Centennial.

To all of my friends, old and new, who I've had the deep pleasure of reconnecting with over the past few weeks, I'd like to offer my thanks, admiration, and appreciation.

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

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