



2023 LIFESAVER'S BLOOD DRIVE

My 17th Annual Life Saver's Blood drive was held once again at Driver's Village on July 18. We had a great day, filled with great music donated by local artists. One Hundred and ten people came out to donate and the Red Cross was able to collect 114 pints of blood.



O+ and O- blood types are the most in-demand and the first to run out in a shortage. Type O donors are needed to help patients facing life-threatening conditions & emergencies each day. Our drive brought in 52 Type O donors.

We have been doing this for so long now that we see many of our faithful donors unable to come because of medications or mobility issues, so we need to pass this on to the younger generation and instill in them the passion and drive to donate. It is indeed a lifesaving gift.

It's more important than ever that we don't lose sight of what we all have in common. This blood drive brings the community together and saves lives. I started holding an annual blood drive after watching my father hold one each year for over twenty-five years in Clyde, New York. He taught me that the Red Cross is in constant need of blood. Then, after many years of holding blood drives, he needed a transfusion himself during open heart surgery. I host the Annual Lifesaver Blood Drive in his memory.

Some wonderful prizes were donated to the Red Cross that we were able to raffle off for our donors. Our top prize this year was an Apple iPad Pro. Amazon and many local business also donated some great prizes.

This is more than your average blood drive. We have had record numbers over the years, and I hope we can keep that momentum going. Next year we are shooting for 200 units!

• **Mark your calendar for Tuesday July 16, 2024** •



Small Business Update

I have been meeting with constituents and NY leadership to help strengthen small businesses in the 127th Assembly District and Central New York. In May, as Chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Small Business, I met with Madison County small business at The Hub, a certified small business incubator in Hamilton, NY. Several businesses participated including Flour and Salt, H. Grey Supply, Ray Brothers BBQ, Old Home Distillery, Hamilton Inn, Catania Law Firm, Cazenovia Equipment and Moser Farms. I listened to their stories and concerns regarding workforce issues, and creative business strategies. As a result I issued a grant of \$40,000 to the Cazenovia Area Community Development Association to help create a marketing and event plan for small businesses in Cazenovia.

In June, I also met with New York State Attorney General Letitia James and visited H. Grey Supply Co. Cazenovia to get a better understanding the financial pressures of small business and how the state might be of assistance. Keeping up with changing requirements is always difficult for small businesses.

This legislative session, I sponsored a bill requiring New York State to be more transparent with requirements for small businesses. As a result, now a small business compliance guide must be published annual to inform small business owners of statutory and regulatory changes that have taken effect in the previous year.

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2023 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Now that the 2023 legislative session has ended, I want to provide you with a summary of my legislative efforts. It was an intensive session with an extended budget negotiation and a special session to address some of the most pressing issues facing New York. I will continue working with my colleagues in the Assembly to deliver real results to the people in my District and the State.

As we've seen over the last several months in places like the Hudson Valley and Vermont, flooding is becoming more frequent and destructive each year. We can't afford to ignore the very real consequences of climate change that are impacting the lives of people throughout the State.

Last year, I passed **A.9177-C** in order to make technical changes to the **Upstate Flood Mitigation Task Force** and remove the repeal of the Task Force, which had not met since its creation in 2017. As a result, the last study on best practices to reduce flooding in Upstate New York was conducted by the Army Corp of Engineers in 1999. The legislation ensured that the Task Force could begin its work in evaluating and developing real solutions to flooding throughout the Upstate region. Specifically, my legislation assigned the Task Force to explore the cost or **impact of flooding along the Erie Canal over the last five years to agriculture, transportation, infrastructure, land use, public health, insurance, tourism, recreation, and power generation**. Additionally, the Task Force was assigned to assess the Canal system operation, procedures and plans that may impact flood mitigation and management and identify adaptive measures, with costs, that could be executed to mitigate flood damages. Lastly, my legislation required the Task Force to prepare a report by July 1, 2023, to publicly site its findings. The full report, executive summary, and all appendices can be found through the following weblink: <https://www.canals.ny.gov/news/TaskForce.html>.

The following bills were signed into law by the Governor:

A.6822 allows **hunting of big game such as bear and deer with a rifle in Onondaga County**. Over 700,000 New York State residents hunt for big game in the State each year. Hunting is a crucial conservation tool that keeps deer and bear populations in check. Due to a variety of factors, the State's deer population has rapidly increased to over 1.2 million. The overabundance of deer negatively impacts farmers, homeowners, foresters, and drivers. According to the Department of Environmental Conservation, hunters take around 220,000 deer annually, thereby reducing the problems that accompany deer overabundance. Prior to this legislation, Onondaga County was one of the only counties in Upstate New York that did not permit hunters to use rifles while hunting big game. Since 2005, several counties in the Finger Lakes Region, Central New York, and the Southern Tier have permitted hunting big game with rifles with very few reported incidents or problems. Most recently, in 2014, Tompkins County was authorized to allow licensed hunters to use rifles for hunting big game. Since then, there have been no serious incidents reported in that county as a result of that authorization.

A.7292 – to **extend for one year the advisory panel on employee-owned enterprises** which is tasked with reporting and making recommendations on how best to support such businesses and promote the formation and growth of new employee-owned enterprises in New York State. Employee-owned enterprises provide stability and staying power for

local jobs. Employee-owned enterprises are far less likely to move out of state, or even out of the local region, because of the roots the employees of those enterprises have in the areas they work and live. Studies have found that wages, sales, productivity, and retirement plans for employee-owned enterprises are higher than those of comparable, privately owned corporations. As an increasing number of small business owners reach retirement, many employees fear they may lose their job or have to relocate when a small business owner retires and sells their company.

The following bills are awaiting the Governor's approval:

A.4529 seeks to **expand New York's Secure Choice Savings Plan** to provide freelancers and the self-employed the option of enrolling in the plan. There are well over 200,000 freelancers in New York, and among that group, many often lack job security, experience volatile incomes, and generally do not have employer-provided benefits such as health insurance or workplace retirement savings plans. In 2018, New York took an important step to help New Yorkers save for retirement by creating the Secure Choice Savings Plan that requires employers who did not offer their employees a retirement plan to enroll employees in New York's state-run savings plan. To build from that momentum, New York must expand the program to include the self-employed thereby helping even more working New Yorkers save for retirement.

A.2364 bill seeks to require the **Secretary of State to compile and publish a small business guide** which catalogues the statutory and regulatory changes of the previous year in laymens terms. The current law requires every agency to submit a list of all guidance documents on which the agency relies and how the public may obtain such documents. Small businesses must comply with many local, state, federal laws and regulations. Each year the Legislature and relevant state agencies change both the law and corresponding regulations. Keeping up with these changes can be a burdensome task for business owners. A small business guide will compile complex and technical changes and convey them in easily understood language. It will also create the added benefit of making it easier for small business owners to have one resource to consult regarding changes made to laws and regulations during the previous year.

A.6324 establishes an **Office of Older Adult Workforce Development within the State Office for the Aging**. Many older New Yorkers would like to continue working or embark on a second career later in life. Also, a significant number do not have a choice due to financial constraints and other circumstances. The depth of experience older workers bring with them makes them an excellent resource for any employer. New York is taking the lead in the United States by becoming the first truly age-friendly state. This legislation furthers this goal by recognizing both the significant contributions and needs of older workers which are critical to the long-term vitality of our state's Aging population.

A.5928 seeks to clarify the **definition of fruit in the Agricultural and Markets Law to include tree nuts**, and clarifies that land used to produce tree nuts for sale could qualify for agricultural assessments. While existing Agriculture and Markets Law clarifies that fruits of any kind are qualifying crops for agricultural assessments, confusion has been reported regarding the eligibility of tree nuts specifically. Tree nuts fall



NYS Parks Officially Open New Facilities at Green Lakes

A beautiful, fun and safe children's playground was finished this year at a cost of \$976,000. The playground includes four new slides, a children's climbing wall, and a swing set as well as soft playground flooring. The new \$2 million bathhouse at the beach's entrance includes a lactation room, single gender and all-gender restrooms.



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within the botanical definition of fruits, and the language of this law shall be amended to reflect this fact and avoid any further and future delay in agricultural assessments for our tree nut farmers. Tree nuts are also notably slow to grow and bear a marketable quantity of fruit.

A.5121-A seeks to allow establishments that **transfill medical oxygen** the ability to hire supervisors overseeing the process provided **applicants have completed training** in accordance with requirements established in Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). It has been difficult to attract and retain people qualified to supervise this process primarily due to standards set by the Board of Pharmacy which exceed the CFR. Currently, CFR requires that a supervisor possess the necessary education, training, and experience, or any combination thereof to perform such function. New York should adopt standards that align with those set by the federal government that provide sufficient safeguards to ensure medical oxygen has the safety, identity, strength, quality, and purity that it purports or is represented to possess without creating an undue burden on establishments that transfill medical oxygen.

OUR 2023 SUMMER READING PROGRAM



is in full swing.

Children pledge to read at least 15 minutes each day for 40 days during the months of July and August.

Students who meet this challenge will receive a certificate of achievement.

To find out more visit: nyassembly.gov/mem/Al-Stirpe

SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Recycling Events

ELECTRONICS:

Saturday - October 14, 2023

Great Northern Mall

tinyurl.com/October14electronics

PAINT:

Saturday - October 21, 2023

Great Northern Mall

tinyurl.com/October21paint

June Paint Recycling Event

In June I hosted my first dedicated paint recycling event at East Syracuse Minoa High School. This free event, in partnership with Empire Recycled Paint, Inc. brought in just under 500 cars and 50,000 lbs. of paint. Most importantly, we turned the paint we collect into high quality paint that's being used in many not-for-profit projects. Recycling old and expired paint helps prevent the release of harmful chemicals into the environment, along with creating jobs and conserving our resources. The event is the result of the New York State Paint Stewardship Law that took effect May 2022. Under this law, PaintCare, a non-profit organization began a statewide network of drop-off sites where households and businesses can take leftover paint. Unused paint can now be taken to participating retailers as well as local waste collection events. There are currently 25 drop-off locations in Central New York.

Visit: www.paintcare.org/drop-off-sites to find out more.

