



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the school year comes to a close and summer is getting underway, it's time to enjoy the numerous outdoor activities, festivals, and gatherings around Amherst and Western New York. From the weekly farmers' markets, to the Amherst Old Home Days and Music on Main Street, and the beautiful parks and trails in our backyard, I'm looking forward to getting out and taking advantage of all our area has to offer.

The legislative session has come to a close, and I'm proud to report that my colleagues and I have passed a series of bills that will benefit families, workers, schools, libraries, and other vital institutions. I've also fought for the resources that the 146th Assembly District needs to keep Amherst, Williamsville, and Pendleton great places to live and work. While the work in Albany has wrapped up for the year, I'm still busy organizing events and programs to benefit the community. I hope you'll take a look at what I've been up to!

Assemblymember Karen McMahon presents:
A Family Health Fair
in partnership with the Asian American Physicians Association (AAPA)

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Saturday, July 9
Atrium at 5500 Main St., Williamsville, NY 14221

Multiple providers and agencies will be offering a variety of health screenings, tests and information stations for:
Blood Pressure | Vascular Diseases | Obesity | Cancer
Health Insurance | Macular Degeneration | Heart Disease

Free COVID-19 booster shots will also be available to those 12 and over - no appointment needed.

Sign up for Assemblymember McMahon's Blood Drive Tuesday, July 19, at Saints Peter & Paul Church

Questions or Concerns? I'm here to help: **Assemblymember Karen McMahon**
5500 Main St., Suite 224, Williamsville, NY 14221 | 716-634-1895 | mcmahonk@nyassembly.gov



Health Fair Helps Local Families Connect with Providers and Access the Care They Need

We've faced two difficult years of physical and emotional challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, many people delayed medical care or were unable to access services, which often led to adverse health consequences.[1] Others might be dealing with long COVID after being infected with the virus, with these conditions lasting anywhere from weeks to years.[2] That's why I fought for a state budget that makes critical investments in our health care system and remain committed to improving the health of

our communities. As our state continues to recover and we look forward to the summer, now's the time to prioritize our health and catch up on those appointments we've missed or had to postpone.

To help local families connect with health care providers and access services, I'm hosting a Family Health Fair in partnership with the Asian American Physicians Association (AAPA). **The event will be held on Saturday, July 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the atrium at The Williamsville Center located at [5500 Main St. in Williamsville](#).** Several health screenings and tests will be available for residents to check on their health, including colorectal cancer screening kits, blood glucose testing, blood pressure screening, obesity screening, as well as information on mammography screenings. There will also be information booths on topics such as health insurance, vascular diseases, cancer screening, macular degeneration, heart diseases, mental health, COVID-19 and retinal health.

Participating providers include Erie County Cancer Services, the Ovarian Cancer Project, Quest Diagnostic Labs, Independent Health, Highmark, Univera and Kalos, a long-term care provider. Additionally, pharmacists from Rite-Aid will provide free COVID-19 booster shots to those ages 12 and over with no appointment needed. The American Red Cross will also be in attendance to register volunteers for an upcoming blood drive I'm hosting on July 19. Donating blood is a great way to give back to our community and help save lives.

These past few years not only highlighted the importance of protecting our own health, but also reminded us how essential our health care workers are to our communities. That's why I fought to ensure we do more than just thank the heroes who worked on the frontlines, but provide them with real support. I helped pass a state budget that provides a bonus payment of \$3,000 to full-time health and mental hygiene frontline workers who earn less than \$125,000 and stay in their position for a year. The budget also increases the home health care worker minimum wage and provides additional funding for Medicaid and public hospitals.

Bolstering mental health services is also an important part of our recovery efforts. Young people and students have faced numerous challenges during these difficult times. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that 37% of high school students regularly struggled with mental health during the pandemic.[3] To help support our youth, the state budget allocates \$100 million over two years for the Recover from COVID Schools Program (RECOVS), which provides matching funds for enhanced education or mental health support and would expand the allowable source of matching funds beyond federal stimulus funds. This year's budget supports workforce recruitment and retention of psychiatrists and psychiatric nurse practitioners. It also provides additional funding for children's mental health programs, residential health care facilities and adult care facilities to improve access to these critical services.

[1] hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/one-in-five-in-u-s-report-delayed-health-care-during-pandemic; [2] cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects/index.html; [3] pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/04/25/in-cdc-survey-37-of-u-s-high-school-students-report-regular-mental-health-struggles-during-covid-19

The Tops Shooting - One Month Later

It has been one month since the horrific act of violence and racism in Buffalo

at the Tops on Jefferson Avenue. In the face of the murder of ten innocent people, it's hard to imagine how a neighborhood recovers from such tragedy. But in the aftermath of the somber vigils and funerals, powerful voices have emerged to ensure that the victims' deaths will inspire change. I watched the testimony before Congress of Zeneta Everhart and Garnell Whitfield and I was moved by their challenge to lawmakers to address both gun violence and systemic racism so that another community does not have to endure what Buffalo has endured.

At the end of our recent legislative session, my colleagues in the New York State Legislature and I passed a series of bills to further combat gun violence. It's become far too easy for adolescents to access deadly weapons; both the Uvalde and Buffalo shooters had just turned 18 before they legally purchased semiautomatic rifles and committed these horrific acts of violence. One bill included in the package would require individuals to obtain a license before purchasing a semiautomatic rifle, which would also raise the age of purchase to 21 (A.10503). The package also expands the red flag law, which allows courts to issue an extreme risk protection order (ERPO) prohibiting a person who is determined to be a threat to themselves or others from purchasing or possessing a firearm for up to one year (Ch. 19 of 2019). To strengthen this vital law, we passed legislation to allow more health care practitioners to petition the court and to require police and district attorneys to file ERPO petitions upon credible information that an individual is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm to themselves or others (A.10502). In recognition of the disturbing role of social media in hate speech and potential violence, we also passed legislation requiring social media platforms to provide a clear and concise policy regarding how they would respond to incidents of hateful conduct on their platform and maintain easily accessible mechanisms for reporting hateful conduct on said platforms (A.7865-A).

These are important steps, and while they cannot heal the pain of the damage already done, they make vital changes and improvements to help ensure a tragedy like 5/14 does not occur in New York State again.

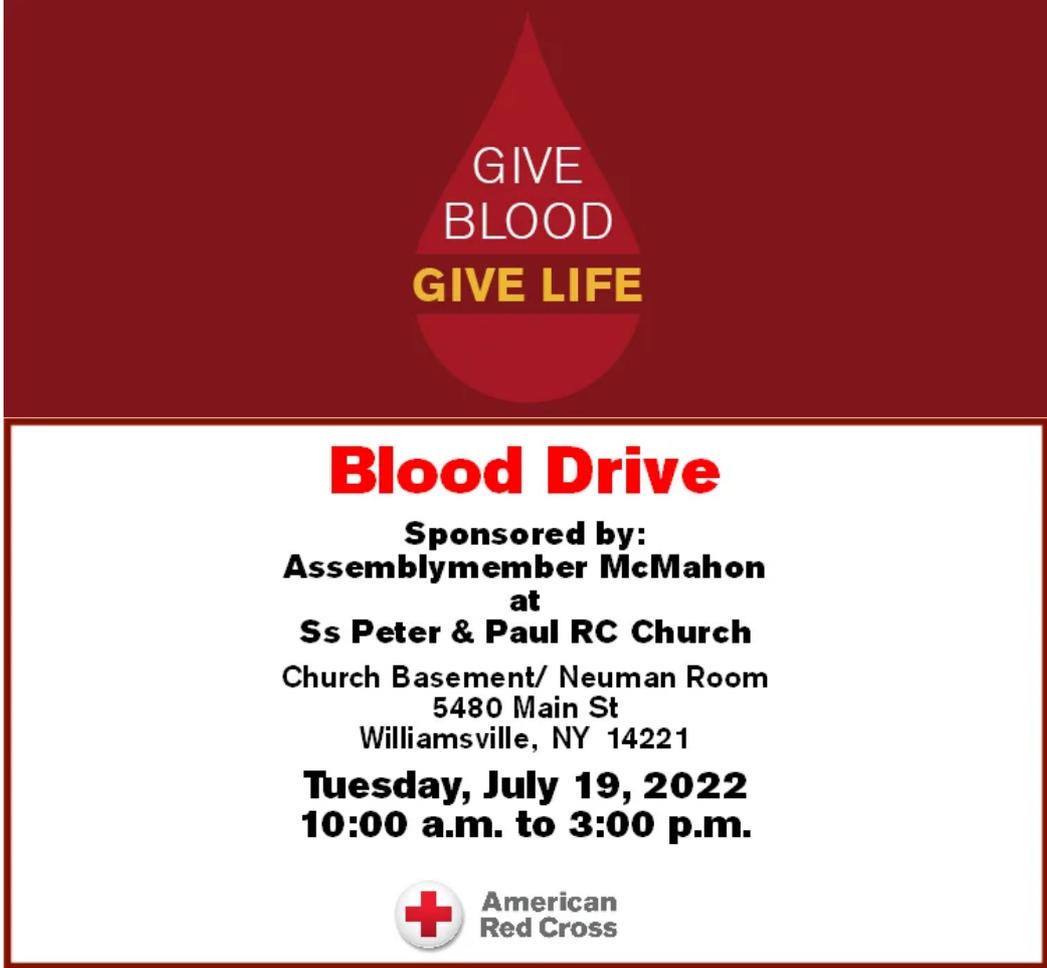
Legislative Accomplishments

I was proud to see four of my bills get passed by both houses of the Legislature in the most recent legislative session that began in January. These bills will become law as soon as they are signed by the Governor.

- An idea brought to me by my constituent, Dr. Trevor Krabbenhoft, allows customers who generate solar electricity to donate their credits to low-income families and requires electric corporations to create a low-income energy assistance pool for the donation of these credits ([A7703](#)).
- A bill that requires the state Department of Environmental Conservation to provide education and increase awareness to the public of the health and environmental impacts of idling vehicles ([A7722](#)).
- An idea for a bill brought to me by the United Steelworkers requires employers to display a poster containing information on veterans' benefits and services ([A3913](#)).
- At the request of the Main-Transit Fire Department, we passed a bill to enhance its Benevolent Association ([A10039](#)).

Another of my bills was passed by the Assembly and awaits passage in the Senate. This bill would ensure that low-income working people with disabilities are able to maintain their health care coverage through the Medicaid program ([A10476](#)).

2nd Annual Red Cross Blood Drive

A graphic for a blood drive. At the top, a red teardrop shape contains the text "GIVE BLOOD" in white and "GIVE LIFE" in yellow. Below this, a white rectangular box with a red border contains the following text: "Blood Drive" in large red font, "Sponsored by: Assemblymember McMahon at Ss Peter & Paul RC Church" in black font, "Church Basement/ Neuman Room 5480 Main St Williamsville, NY 14221" in black font, "Tuesday, July 19, 2022 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m." in black font, and the American Red Cross logo and name at the bottom.

Blood Drive

Sponsored by:
Assemblymember McMahon
at
Ss Peter & Paul RC Church
Church Basement/ Neuman Room
5480 Main St
Williamsville, NY 14221

Tuesday, July 19, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

 **American Red Cross**

Donating blood is a great way to give back to your community and help a neighbor in an emergency. Western New York has a critical need for blood donations, and that's why I'm proud to host my second annual blood drive with the American Red Cross. **The drive will take place on July 19, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ss. Peter & Paul RC Church Neuman Room at [5480 Main Street in Williamsville](#).** Click on the link below to schedule an appointment!

To schedule an appointment [CLICK HERE](#)

Juneteenth



This past weekend was Juneteenth, the federal and state holiday which commemorates the date - June 19, 1865 - when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas learned of their freedom, more than two years after the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. While this holiday was officially recognized relatively recently, Juneteenth has been an important part of African American culture and history for over a century. In the wake of the racist attack against the Black community in Buffalo, and others around the U.S., Juneteenth is a much-needed celebration and moment of appreciation for Black culture. The Amherst Community Diversity Commission celebrated Juneteenth at the Amherst Senior Center and in conjunction, held a book drive, focused on books about Juneteenth and African American history. The donated books were added to the collection of the Amherst Public Libraries so the important lessons and stories may be accessible to all.

Earth Day Photo Contest Winner



Photo: "Ripple" by TJ LaFave Jr.

Congratulations to Earth Day Photo Contest winner, TJ LaFave Jr.! This impressive snapshot is a fantastic example of the beauty of our district. His submission will be posted on our social media, and will be hung in our district office in Williamsville! While this year's contest is over, I'm always interested in seeing shots of our natural spaces in Amherst, Williamsville, and Pendleton from the talented photographers in the community. Email a photo to McMahonK@nyassembly.gov.

Recent Events



I had the honor of delivering the commencement address to the [Daemen University Graduate Class of 2022](#). I was also humbled to receive an honorary doctorate from such a fine institution.

I recently presented NYS Assembly citations to [Amherst Central High School](#) seniors who have earned the Seal of Civic Readiness. The seal indicates that a student is poised to make a positive impact in their

community through civic knowledge, actions, and skill.



I joined the NYS Brewers Association to announce the Buffalo Premier Craft Brewers Festival will return to Canalside on June 25th. A portion of proceeds will go to benefit Feed Buffalo and the 5/14 Survivors Fund.



I had a great time marching in the Pride Parade in Buffalo on June 5th. I always enjoy kicking off Pride Month in such a meaningful way.

To see more of what I've been up to lately, [click here!](#)

We've wrapped up a busy past few months, but I'll be hard at work in the weeks and months ahead to make sure our community is well-represented. I hope you'll join us at our Health Fair on July 9, and our blood drive on July 19. In the meantime, I look forward to getting out in the community to enjoy our parks, trails, businesses, and fun summer events. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at [716-634-1895](tel:716-634-1895) or McMahonK@nyassembly.gov.

Sincerely,

Karen M. McMahon



Karen McMahon

New York State Assemblymember - 146th District

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FORWARD EMAIL

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