

# Weekly Update June 23<sup>rd</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup>

- *County Corners Legislation*
- *New York Buy American Act*
- *Take Back Medication Legislation*
- *Gardner-Dickinson School*
- *Summertime in Albany*
- *Water Music NY Day*
- *Capital Region Military Day*

## **Legislative Update:**

### *County Corners Legislation*

Thank you to my colleagues in the NYS Assembly for overwhelmingly supporting my bill for passage that would require minimal training for County Corners and their deputies. This is NOT an unfunded mandate on county government but in fact is a requirement for the Coroner to seek on his or her own time.

Deaths are difficult enough. Their cause and discovery need to be handled properly and state designated training is the right way to go.

For more on this topic, read **this article** I wrote last month on the bill.

<http://blog.timesunion.com/johnmcdonald/should-county-corners-be-required-to-take-training/4657/>

Also, take a quick look at **this video** of my comments on the Assembly Chamber floor.

<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/John-T-McDonald-III/video/9831/#videos>

### *New York Buy American Act*

On Wednesday the NYS Assembly announced the passage of the New York Buy American Act to strengthen both the New York and national iron and steel manufacturing industries (A.8427-A). The measure builds upon current law to ensure American-made steel and iron are utilized in state road and bridge projects to help ensure taxpayer money is being used to boost the economy and create good jobs.

Manufacturing has long been emblematic of what we do best – create and innovate. Times change, but we will always need to build and repair roads and bridges. So when it comes to the

companies we do business with, it's only right that we partner with the American manufacturers of iron and steel that will invest in jobs and help grow our economy.

For more on the Buy American Act **click here** (<http://nyassembly.gov/leg/?bn=a8427>)

### *Take Back Medication Legislation*

On Wednesday I spoke in support of legislation that, if enacted, would require chain pharmacies to operate a safe disposal site for unused controlled substances. I take back medications in my pharmacy and I do it at no cost to our consumers. You would be amazed at what we take back and nine times out of ten, it's not from community pharmacies. It's from proliferation of internet pharmacies and a lot of home delivery pharmacies.

By allowing pharmacies to take back unused medications it is helping us take yet another step forward in the battle against opioid addiction.

Take a moment to watch **this video** about bill A. A387B.

### **District News:**

#### *Gardner-Dickinson School*



The fourth grade class at Gardner-Dickinson School came in for a visit to the Chamber this past Monday.

It was great to speak with these students about the NYS Legislature.

### *Summertime in Albany*

Mayor Sheehan and The City of Albany kicked off “Summertime in Albany,” this past week. The City has quite a few recreational activities available throughout the summer.

The City will continue to partner with the City School District while renovations to the Arbor Hill Community Center take place.

For a full list of all of these summer programs [click here](#).

[http://www.albanyny.gov/NewsandEvents/News/17-06-19/Albany\\_Mayor\\_Kathy\\_Sheehan\\_Launches\\_%E2%80%9CSummertime\\_in\\_Albany%E2%80%9D.aspx](http://www.albanyny.gov/NewsandEvents/News/17-06-19/Albany_Mayor_Kathy_Sheehan_Launches_%E2%80%9CSummertime_in_Albany%E2%80%9D.aspx)

### *Water Music NY Day*



The Albany Symphony will celebrate the July 4, 2017 Eric Canal Bicentennial with Water Music NY. This will involve musicians traveling the Canal by barge for 7 days, partnering with canal communities to create and perform new works by gifted New York composers.

Senator Breslin and I passed a resolution to declare July 2<sup>nd</sup> Water Music Day NY in Albany to commemorate this great celebration.

Be sure to stop down for the Sunday, July 2 performance in Albany! More details can be found **here**

<http://www.albany.org/includes/calendar-of-events/Water-Music-NY/23821/>

### *Funding for Transportation Improvements for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities*

\$28.7 million in federal funding has been made available to help communities improve and create transportation services and mobility alternatives for seniors and New Yorkers with disabilities.

These funds, announced this week by Governor Cuomo, are provided through the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310).

The New York State Department of Transportation will be accepting applications for this program opportunity through **August 21, 2017**.

For more information on application and program guidance **click here**

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/public-transportation/specialized-transportation/5310/section%205310-application-material>

### **In the News:**

#### *Capital Region Military Day*

This Tuesday was Capital Region Military Day in the legislature.

The Capital Region has been fortunate to have such strong and viable military entities in the area that are major employers and contributors to our communities. They are a valuable part of our economy, yet also play a critical role in protecting our freedoms in this country that we so sincerely value.

Check out **this short clip** from the press conference. (<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/John-T-McDonald-III/video/9772/#videos>)