
A banner for Assemblymember John T. McDonald III. On the left is a portrait of him in a suit and tie. The background is dark blue with white text. On the right, there is a photograph of a waterfall and the official seal of the New York State Assembly.

News from
Assemblymember
John T. McDonald III

Assembly District 108

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



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It was great to join University at Albany, SUNY President Havidán Rodríguez this week as they launched Albany AI.

The Albany Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Initiative (Albany AI) funded through the NYS Budget will advance the ability to use artificial intelligence supercomputing technology.

I was proud to work with my Capital Region delegation colleagues to ensure that the funding in the amount of \$75 million was secured in the budget will provide the resources for UAlbany to continue to be an innovator and leader in these emerging fields.

Thank You VITA Volunteers



It was great to attend the United Way of the Greater Capital Region's celebration to honor the volunteers from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program throughout tax season.

Over 10,000 volunteer hours this year to help individuals attain the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) which was also enhanced in the state budget. Over \$7.5 million in total refunds to 2,777 clients with the average return being \$2,170. Critical resources to families especially at this difficult time in the economy.

Special shout out to Mary Olsen who is the volunteer of the year who is not only kind with her time and talent but very committed to helping those in need. And thanks to the partnership of the CASH Coalition which includes the United Way, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany, the IRS and this year a welcome addition AARP New York among many others.

[Summer Meal Programs](#)

With the end of the school year right around the corner, summer meal programs throughout the region will start up. Kids and teens ages 18 and under can get free, healthy meals at nearby places like parks, community centers and libraries. Meals vary, but all include healthy foods like fruits, vegetables, grains and protein.

No sign-up or paperwork is required. You can simply go to locations that participate in the program at the designated time breakfast and lunch is being served.

To find locations near you that participate in the Summer Meals Program [visit this website](#). Type in your address on the map section and the system will tell you the 10 closest locations to you!

You can also call the USDA toll free National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-348-6479.

[Summer Pool and Splash Pad Hours in the 108th](#)

City of Albany:

[Lincoln Park Pool](#) will be open daily from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The City of Albany's following splash pads are now open from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily: Hackett Park Spray Pad, Krank Park Spray Pad, North Swan St. Park Spray Pad, Colonie St. Park, Lincoln Park, Westland Hills Park.

City of Troy:

[Splash pads are now open daily](#) from sunrise to sunset, with the exception of Riverfront Park which will operate from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., and the South Troy Pool splash pad which will be available during summer operating hours (July – August).

City of Cohoes:

[Lansings Pool will open](#) to the public on Monday, June 27th. The pool will be open daily from 12 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Green Island:

The Paine Street Park Splash Pad will open Monday, June 27th at 10:00am. The splash pad will be open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Watervliet:

The Veterans Memorial Swimming Pool and new splash pad will open on Monday, June 27th. They will be open Monday - Friday 12-6 p.m. and Saturday 12-4 p.m.

Waterford:

[Waterford Town Pool's](#) opening hours will be from 12pm -6pm everyday beginning June 25th.

[HEAP Cooling Assistance](#)

You may be eligible to receive one Cooling Assistance benefit per applicant household for the purchase and installation of an air conditioner or a fan to help your home stay cool.

Your household eligibility requirements include filing an application with your local department of social services, providing all necessary documentation, and the household must reside in an eligible living situation.

[Learn more and apply at your local department of social services:](#)

Albany County - Phone: (518) 447-7323

Rensselaer County - Phone: (518) 266-7960

Saratoga County - Phone: (518) 884-4146

[Paid Extras Needed](#)

Paid extras are needed for the upcoming season of HBO's 'The Gilded Age', filming in Albany, Cohoes, and Troy this August. Opportunities include extras for 1880s pedestrians and church goers. There is an additional casting call for 1880s African American church-goers and pedestrians as paid extras.

Interested? Submit the following info to gildedage@gwcnyc.com with subject line "ACT local": your name, phone #, if you are a member of SAG-AFTRA in good standing or not, height, weight, clothing & shoe sizes, and current photos.

[FOCUS Lab: Hudson River Resilience Event](#)

FOCUS Lab will be hosting a discussion on Hudson River Resilience on June 30th at 6 p.m. at 21 3rd Street Troy, NY, 12180.

Speakers include:

- Libby Zemaitas | Climate Change Program coordinator, NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program
- Russel Lange | Former Executive Director, Hudson River Maritime Museum
- Josh Cerra | Principal Investigator, Climate-adaptive Design Program at Cornell University
- Lyndsey Cooper | Climate Outreach Specialist, NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program

A live stream will be made available to those who register for the event. [More information available here.](#)

[Early Voting](#)

Early Voting for the June 28th primary is now open and will continue through Sunday, June 26 during the below hours this weekend:

Saturdays & Sundays: 9:00am–5:00pm

Find your voting site here: <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>

[NYS Canal Corporation Hiring](#)

The New York State Canal Corp is hiring seasonal employees. Join them Canalside for a future built on centuries of success.

They're looking for:

- Canal Helpers
- Marine Helpers
- Canal Structure Operators
- Tender Captains

Learn more and apply at: <https://www.canals.ny.gov/about/jobs/index.html>

[Lincoln Park Pool Survey](#)

City of Albany residents: take this survey online or in person at the Lincoln Park Pool between now and Friday, July 15 at 12:00pm:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LincolnParkPool>

Over the past two years, the City of Albany Department of Recreation and Department of Planning & Development have led a community input process to solicit feedback from residents on what they would like to see in the next Lincoln Park Pool.

Using the input collected during several different visioning sessions, community meetings, and survey opportunities, the City of Albany is proud to present the final two options for the next Lincoln Park Pool.

[City of Troy Cooling Stations](#)

Mayor Madden announced neighborhood cooling stations will be available during the upcoming weekend to provide families a place to keep cool.

Cooling stations will be provided by the Troy Fire Department at multiple locations on Saturday, June 25th, and Sunday, June 26th, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. City-operated splash pads will also be open at all locations.

More info, www.troyny.gov/news

