



Dear Friends,

Happy Thanksgiving! With the election over, the Assembly's moratorium on sending emails has ended and we can resume our office's newsletter. It feels great to be back!

I'd like to start by saying **I am so honored that I will have the opportunity to continue serving as your Assemblymember.** Representing you in the NYS legislature is an incredible privilege, and I look forward to getting back to Albany in January and continuing my work.

Before that, however, **I am excited to announce that my office will be moving in mid-December!** We will be staying in Mount Kisco, but moving to a larger space that is better configured for my staff and will make meetings with constituents and others more comfortable. I'll provide additional information on the new space shortly.

The move, however, has posed a bit of a challenge for our annual holiday drive, requiring us to start and end the drive a bit earlier. For those of you who may have missed our email last week, **we are once again hosting a food drive for the Community Center of Northern Westchester, a gift card & toy drive for Lifting Up Westchester, and a toy drive for the children of mothers incarcerated at the Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities.**

Please join the office of Assemblymember Chris Burdick  
*help make the holiday special.*

**Donate Food & Toiletries**

We are once again holding a holiday drive for the Community Center of Northern Westchester. Please drop non-perishable food items at our office, 100 S. Bedford Road, Ste. 150, Mount Kisco, Mon-Fri, between 10 am and 4 pm.  
(Please note the office is closed November 28-November 29 for Thanksgiving)

**Most needed items:**

- Healthy Cereal - Pasta - Sauces - Rice (1lb or 2lb)
- Canned Tuna or Chicken - Beans
- Natural Peanut Butter - Macaroni & Cheese
- Toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap)

(Deadline: Thursday, 12/12)

**Donate Toys & Gift Cards**

Donate a toy to Lifting Up Westchester by purchasing:

- Toys from their wish list
- Gift cards for teens
- Donate at [tinyurl.com/LUWHoliday2024](https://tinyurl.com/LUWHoliday2024)
- Deadline: Monday, 12/16

Donate an unwrapped toy for the children of mothers incarcerated at the Bedford Hills & Taconic Correctional Facilities.

- Go to [tinyurl.com/2024HourChildren](https://tinyurl.com/2024HourChildren) for toys needed and accepted
- Drop off at our office, 100 S. Bedford Road, Ste. 150, Mount Kisco, Mon-Fri, 10 am to 4 pm (please note we are closed Nov. 28-29 for Thanksgiving)
- Deadline: Thursday, 12/12

### **Donate Food & Toiletries**

We are collecting **non-perishable** food and toiletries for the Community Center of Northern Westchester **until Thursday, December 12th** (most needed items are listed above).

### **Donate Gift Cards & Toys**

1) Support **Lifting Up Westchester's** holiday drive by purchasing toys and gift cards for teens [from their wish list](#) by **Monday, December 16th**.

2) **Drop unwrapped toys at my district office** for the children of mothers incarcerated at the Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Facilities. [Click here for the holiday toy wish list](#) (and items we cannot accept) . **Please drop toys by Thursday, December 12th.**

Please drop all items at our (current) office at [100 South Bedford Rd, Ste. 150](#), in Mount Kisco, Monday-Friday, between 10 am and 4 pm. **Please note we will be closed Thursday and Friday this week for Thanksgiving.**

Please join us in helping to bring cheer to those in need!

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## SOMOS 2024

Earlier this month I attended the **SOMOS 2024 Puerto Rico Conference**, which is a forum for New York policymakers to learn about and discuss issues affecting Puerto Ricans and the Latino community. Taking place every year in Puerto Rico, it is sponsored by SOMOS Inc., in partnership with the New York State Legislature's Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force.

Participants come from far and wide. In addition to NYS legislators, others who attend include representatives of unions with significant Latino membership, representatives from the healthcare sector, and representatives from businesses operated by Latinos and/or servicing the Latino community. The Conference, which ran from November 6 through November 10, was comprised of a series of workshops, receptions, and other events bringing together facets of the Latino community.



As a member of the NYS Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force, I sponsored a workshop titled **“Unity in Diversity: Addressing Anti-Asian Violence and Building Solidarity with the Latinx Community.”** Among the panelists were other NYS State Legislators and representatives of community-based organizations, including (from my district) Carola Otero Bracco, the Executive Director of Neighbors Link, whose mission is to strengthen the community through the healthy integration of immigrants. The idea, development, and administration of the workshop came from the Chinese-American Planning Council, whose mission is to promote the social and economic empowerment of Chinese American, immigrant, and low-income communities. The workshop highlighted the common issues, but also provided an opportunity to share strategies for counteracting prejudice and hatred.





Other workshops and programs included Curating the Future of Collaboration, Latina Teens at Risk of Suicide and the Rise in Substance Use; Resourcing Our Aspirations: Federal and State Funding for Community Led Solutions; Destigmatizing Mental Healthcare in Communities of Color and Aging in Puerto Rico. I also attended a program on Medicaid Equity sponsored by the Healthcare Education Project, 1199 SEIU, and PEF, and a reception sponsored by the United Federation of Teachers/NYS Unified Teachers.



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## Supporting Our Nonprofits

One of the best parts of my job as an Assemblymember is my ability to direct state funding to some of our amazing nonprofits.

At September's Community Center of Northern Westchester (CCNW) gala, **my colleague Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg and I were proud to join with Executive Director Clare Murray to announce a \$2 million NYS grant to close the gap in funding for CCNW's much-needed building expansion.** The important work that CCNW does for our communities, and the difference it makes in the lives of so many in Northern Westchester, is unparalleled. Assemblywoman Levenberg and I were grateful to be able to do our part to help make sure this incredible organization has the facility it needs to continue its important work for many, many years to come.



**The Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester has provided a superb after-school program in conjunction with Bedford Central School District for years, supported by NYS funding through the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). The program provides a vital service to the children as well as their families, including those of limited financial means. OCFS changed their grant criteria, we believe incorrectly, which made BGCNW ineligible and would have brought an end to their after-school program. I am delighted that Senator Pete Harckham and I were able to secure emergency funding in the amount of \$280,000 to enable the program to continue this fall.**



Our families rely on BGCNW, and I will do all I can to try to get their funding reinstated. For now, I am pleased that we are able to provide this temporary relief.

Since 1994, the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) has brought the lessons of the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights crimes to more than 3,000 teachers, and through them have reached hundreds of thousands of middle and high school students. At the HHREC's gala last month, Board Chair Michael Gyory kindly recognized the efforts of the Westchester delegation to the NYS Legislature in **securing over \$200,000 in funding for HHREC in the 2024-2025 NYS budget**. My thanks to Michael and to HHREC's amazing Executive Director, Millie Jasper.



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## [Arts Alive Grant Opportunities - Deadline 12/17](#)

Calling those in the arts! **ArtsWestchester, another terrific nonprofit headquartered in my district, has opened its application process for the 2025 Arts Alive grant program**, designed to support community-based, grassroots organizations, and local artists. In 2024, over 120 projects throughout Westchester and Rockland, including festivals, library events, and free arts programs for audiences of all ages, received funding through this program. The applications are open now and are due by or before Tuesday, December 17th. [Click here for more information.](#)

ArtsWestchester will be hosting info sessions in the coming weeks, including a Zoom session on Thursday, December 5th at 1 pm. A link to register and more information is on the ArtsWestchester grants page [here](#).



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## New Laws In Effect

A number of interesting and significant laws take effect this month. Included are:

- [The Clean Slate Act](#), which automatically seals certain criminal records from public access after a required waiting period with a clean record. And importantly, it doesn't apply to those who committed the most serious crimes. By removing the cloud of a prior conviction from forever hanging over the heads of so many New Yorkers, we can allow people to rebuild their lives and contribute to safer communities.
- [A law requiring the Public Service Commission to publish information prior to a major rate change](#) by a public gas or electric utility including an explanation of why the rate change is requested and a summary of how the proposed revenue will be spent.
- Recognizing that retail theft is a serious problem in many communities, [a law that established the crime of fostering the sale of stolen goods \(organized retail theft\) as a class A misdemeanor](#).
- To help keep our children safe, [a new law increases the maximum penalty for passing a school bus](#) from \$1,000 to \$1,500 after the third conviction in three years.
- [A law requiring statewide training for mandated reporters](#) to include how to identify an abused or maltreated child with an intellectual or developmental disability.
- [A law authorizing direct to consumer shipment](#) of liquor, cider, mead, and braggot.
- [A law requiring all advertisements for gambling and sports betting to include warnings](#) about potential harmful and addictive effects of gambling as well as a problem gambling hotline number.
- [A law prohibiting reckless driving](#) in parking lots.
- [A law that makes it unlawful for any person to organize, sponsor, conduct, promote, or participate in any contest, competition, tournament or derby where the objective of such contest or competition is to take wildlife for prizes](#) for other inducement, or for entertainment. Exceptions are made for contests pertaining to hunting white-tailed deer, turkey, bear, or fishing contests.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about this newly-enacted legislation.

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As always, **please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide.** You can always reach me at [burdickc@nyassembly.gov](mailto:burdickc@nyassembly.gov) or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help. Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued up-to-date information.

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Burdick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

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