

News from John McDonald — April 19, 2019

WHAT'S INSIDE:

[Reminder: Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants Survey](#)

[April - National Donate Life Month](#)

[Little Red School House Visit](#)

[Red Cross Sound the Alarm](#)

[Troy Landlord Training Program](#)

[Drug Take Back Event](#)

[St. Anne Institute Annual Plant Sale](#)

[In Focus Interview](#)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

[Reminder: Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants Survey](#)

A survey is available on my Assembly page regarding the issue of driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants. You will note that to take the survey you will be required to input your mailing address to ensure that the responses reflect the 108th Assembly District.

For more information and to complete the survey please visit my [Assembly webpage here](#)

[April - National Donate Life Month](#)

Over 100,000 people are waiting for a call that determines the fate of their life, and that waiting list only continues to grow. The men, women and children on the organ transplant list rely on us. By registering to be an organ donor, we have the power to help more people receive this life-changing call and live a longer life. In order to spread awareness about the need for more organ, eye and tissue donors, the month of April is recognized as National Donate Life Month. This year's theme is, "Life is a beautiful ride," because all who register as an organ donor and support this cause are helping to make life a beautiful ride for others.

New York witnessed a record-breaking spike in donor registration this past year, with over 600,000 new donors being added to the state's Donate Life Registry, but the demand for organ, eye and tissue donations still greatly surpasses the number of registered donors. New York State has the third-highest need for donors in the country, yet has the second-lowest percentage of registered donors. As a result, a New Yorker dies every 18 hours waiting for an organ transplant. Currently, 10,000 people in New York State are still waiting for an organ. Although there have been many advances in medical technology in recent years, another person is still being added to the national waiting list every 10 minutes.

Read more on this topic on my [blog here](#)

DISTRICT NEWS

[Little Red School House Visit](#)



I had the pleasure of visiting the Little Red Schoolhouse recently in North Greenbush. Needless to say the tour wasn't long as it is the traditional school house with one room with a screen in the middle if needed.

The school is very interesting as it encompasses a few neighborhoods in North Greenbush for the children's first two years of instruction. The classroom is no different and has all of today's modern technology. Quite a cool site!

Thanks for letting me visit Little Red!

Red Cross Sound the Alarm

This spring, the American Red Cross needs your help to install 100,000 free smoke alarms and raise funds for lifesaving services during *Sound the Alarm* home fire safety and smoke alarm installation events.

Volunteer participants work alongside fire departments and other local groups, canvassing at-risk neighborhoods to install free smoke alarms, replace batteries in existing alarms, educate families about fire prevention and safety, and fundraise for this lifesaving mission.

To volunteer at a site near you or for more information on the Sound the Alarm campaign visit the American Red Cross [website here](#)

Troy Landlord Training Program

It's not too late to reserve your seat for the Troy Landlord Training Program on April 23rd and 25th from 6-8:30 p.m.

Learn best practices for ensuring that you are a profitable and responsible small business owner. Hear from City officials and other partners about how they can assist you.

To learn more and register visit: <https://trip.ticketleap.com/troys-land-lord-training-presnted-by-trip/>

Drug Take Back Event

The Rensselaer Police & Fire Department and the Rensselaer Area Drug Awareness Reality Coalition will sponsor a Take Back Day to turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal. The event will be held on **Saturday April 27, 2019** from 10am to 2pm at North End Fire House 2 St. Francis Place Rensselaer, NY

Proper disposal of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications is important to protect both people and the environment. Unused prescription and over-the-counter medications that remain in the home can cause serious harm to people if they are taken accidentally, intentionally misused or inappropriately given to someone else. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet. Unused medications that are flushed down the toilet or poured down the sink can enter the water supply, harming fish and other wildlife and posing a potential risk to people.

For more information contact RADAR at radarcoalition@gmail.com

St. Anne Institute Annual Plant Sale

The St. Anne Institute in Albany will be having their annual sale of plants grown by its work experience program students. Flowers, vegetables, and herbs will be available for purchase. The event will be held at the St. Anne greenhouse at 160 North Main Ave. on **Friday, May 18 8:30 am-5:30 pm**

For more information check out the [event page here](#)

IN THE NEWS

In Focus Interview

Catch me on In Focus this Sunday with Solomon Syed as we discuss National Donate Life Month. In Focus airs on Spectrum News this Sunday at 10:30 a.m., and 3:30 p.m.