



Assemblymember
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Assembly District 108

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

[*S.T.E.A.M. Garden Business Incubator*](#)



I am very excited to see all the progress being made at the S.T.E.A.M. Garden Business Incubator on Central Avenue. Thanks to funding support through NYS Homes and Community

Renewal this space will be transformed into a center that will offer vital resources, including education options and work space, to help entrepreneurs and small startups succeed.

End of Session Activity Leads to Greater Road Funding for Local Governments

One of the more positive items that came through with the Capital Budget at the end of the legislative session was the approval of funding for local governments to assist with extreme weather road recovery. This funding, which has happened in the past, did not make the original state budget passed April 1st of this year.

The funding, \$65 million, will assist local governments with the fundamental issues every citizen sees day in and day out – potholes and road paving. With the good weather upon us, the funding could not have come at a more critical time.

Read more on this critical funding on my blog here:

<https://blog.timesunion.com/johnmcdonald/end-of-session-activity-leads-to-greater-road-funding-for-local-governments/5690/>

New Laws Taking Effect – July 2019

Effective Date	Chapter Number	Bill Number	Summary
7/1/2019	Ch. 56 of 2019 Part I	A.2006-C S.1506-C	Requires criminal history background checks for employees in residential foster care programs.
7/1/2019	Ch. 57 of 2019 Part C	A.2007-C S.1507-C	Expands the National Diabetes Prevention Program to Medicaid recipients.
7/1/2019	Ch. 59 Of 2019 Part OOO	A.2009-C S.1509-C	Increases the real estate transfer and mansion taxes for certain high-value homes in New York City in order to fund MTA public transportation upgrades.
7/1/2019	Ch. 59 Of 2019 Part YYY	A.2009-C S.1509-C	Removes the mandate that state-created or administered assessments be used for teacher evaluations.

7/11/2019	Ch. 26 of 2019 Sec. 15 & 16	A.782 S.1250	Enacts portions of the DREAM Act that give immigrant families access to the New York State College Tuition Savings Program to help save for higher education costs.
7/11/2019	Ch. 30 of 2019	A.6449 S.4331	Expands the New York City school speed camera program and extends it until 2022.
7/11/2019	Ch. 55 of 2019 Subpart O	A.2005-C S.1505-C	Prevents employment discrimination against individuals whose criminal charges have been adjourned in contemplation of dismissal.
7/11/2019	Ch. 55 of 2019 Part RR	A.2005-C S.1505-C	Requires police departments to report on the use of force and requires the information to be posted online.
7/11/2019	Ch. 59 of 2019 Part EEE	A.2009-C S.1509-C	Exempts certain individuals from the enforcement of delinquent tax liabilities by means of the suspension of their driver's license if it will cause undue economic hardship.
7/14/2019	Ch. 36 of 2019 Part M, Sec. 25 Part O	A.8281 S.6458	Enacts portions of the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act that prohibit housing discrimination based on previous landlord-tenant disputes and provide protections for tenants of manufactured home parks.

DISTRICT NEWS

[Community Engagement Sessions for Reimagine the Canals Initiative](#)

The Rockefeller Institute of Government will launch a series of community engagement sessions throughout July for Reimagine the Canals, a state-sponsored initiative to identify new uses for the Erie Canal and reimagine this historic waterway for the 21st century.

The initiative, launched in May by Governor Cuomo, builds on last year's Reimagine the Canals competition, which sought innovative ideas to boost local economies, increase recreation and strengthen environmental resilience along the Erie Canal.

Schenectady will be hosting their session on **Thursday, July 11, 6-8 p.m.** at the Schenectady

County Community College Van Curler Room, 78 Washington Avenue

For more information visit <https://www.ny.gov/reimagine-canals-initiative/reimagine-canal-task-force#public-meetings>

[12th Annual Troy Pig Out](#)

The Capital Region, the 12th Annual Troy Pig Out will take place on Saturday, July 13th from 10:00am to 9:00pm, Troy Pig Out offers activities for all ages, palettes, and interests. The festival includes a hot dog and pie eating contest, cornhole competition, the Dinosaur BBQ People's Choice Awards, food and craft vendors, live music throughout the day, and Fireworks over the Hudson River at dusk.

For more information check out visit DowntownTroy.org

[Constriction Career Fair](#)

The City School District of Albany and their community partners will be hosting free sessions on **July 25 – 9-11 a.m. or 4-6 p.m.** to learn about employment opportunities in the construction trades, including pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship pathways.

They will also offer tours of the Rebuilding Albany High School job site. Both sessions will provide the same information, and each can accommodate up to 35 people. Site tours will be available on a more limited basis – please sign up early!

Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/construction-trades-information-session-and-career-fair-tickets-64174084414>

For more information, please contact Mission Accomplished Transition Services, Inc. Community Advocate Manager James Mitchell at jmitchell@matransitionservices.org or (518) 831-0992.

[Rensselaer County Health Department Warn of Tick-Borne Diseases](#)

The Rensselaer County Health Department is urging residents to be aware of tick-borne diseases, following an uptick in cases of a bacterial infection originating from tick bites.

Please take a look at [this WRGB piece](#) for more information and tips from the Health Department to avoid exposure.

[City of Albany Historic Preservation Plan Open House](#)

The City of Albany is creating a citywide Historic Preservation Plan to strengthen the City's historic preservation program.

The City will be hosting open houses to learn more about existing historic resources, provide feedback on future historic resources, and to help them identify critical preservation issues.

For more information on the Plan, and to sign up for email updates as the Plan progresses, please visit www.albanyhistoricpreservationplan.com

Community Open House Schedule:

Where: The Point Restaurant, 1100 Madison Avenue
When: Tuesday, July 9
Time: 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Where: Ten Broeck Mansion, 9 Ten Broeck Place
When: Tuesday, July 9
Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Where: Arcade Building, 488 Broadway
When: Wednesday, July 10
Time: 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Where: Lark Hall, 351 Hudson Avenue*
When: Wednesday, July 10
Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Where: African American Cultural Center, 135 South Pearl Street
When: Thursday, July 11
Time: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

IN THE NEWS

[Tick Testing in New York](#)

A new SUNY Center for Environmental Health and Medicine lab at Upstate Medical University is asking people from around the state to send in ticks they have found for testing for a variety of tick borne diseases.

If you find a tick on a person or a pet, here's you can send it in, dead or alive:

Put it in a sealed plastic bag along with a piece of moist tissue paper or grass. Include a note giving the date, location (including ZIP code), email address, and whether the tick was found on a person or an animal.

Ticks should be mailed to:

Thangamani Lab
4209 Institute for Human Performance
505 Irving Avenue
SUNY Center for Environmental Health and Medicine
SUNY Upstate Medical University
Syracuse NY 13210

For more information check out this [New York Upstate article](#) by Glenn Coin

[*Fraud Scheme Involving Genetic Testing*](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General is alerting the public about a fraud scheme involving genetic testing.

Scammers are offering Medicare beneficiaries cheek swabs for genetic testing to obtain their Medicare information for identity theft or fraudulent billing purposes. Fraudsters are targeting beneficiaries through telemarketing calls, booths at public events, health fairs, and door-to-door visits.

For more information on how to protect yourself please take a look at [this press release](#)

[*Utility Scam Alert*](#)

National Grid is warning customers that they have recently seen an increased volume of reported scam attempts concerning both residential and business customers. When contacted by a person claiming to represent National Grid, customers should always verify their identity to protect themselves against scams.

For more information please visit [this National Grid FAQ page](#)