

News from
Assemblember
John T. McDonald III

Assembly District 108

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



I am wishing all of you a very Happy Passover and/or Happy Easter! If you celebrate either holiday, may it be filled with hope and joy.

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Child Care Funding Press Conference



Earlier this week I joined the New York State Coalition for Children's Behavioral Health and Hudson Valley Community College's Viking Center to announce historic child care funding included in this year's budget.

The economic development boost from the inclusion of the tremendous investment in childcare funding is one of the best aspects of the 2022-23 NYS budget. The funds will keep day care centers like this one open, increase wages for the hard working staff and well-trained teachers, provide greater opportunities for additional child care slots, and further support addressing the major issue of child care deserts and create a new resource for these underserved areas.

Take a few moments to check out [this Spectrum News piece](#) by Spencer Conlin on the funding

Mohawk Hudson Humane Society Donation



Great to join the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society earlier this week as they announced a 1 million dollar donation from Business for Good for their new animal care center!

This donation will help the Humane Society continue to maintain the health and well-being of animals within the shelter and throughout the community.

Photo Credit: Daniel McCoy - Albany County Executive

Capital Region Chamber's Unified Military Affairs Council



Great meeting today hosted by the Capital Region Chamber's Unified Military Affairs Council with US Army Major General Daniel Christian. We discussed the Soldier For Life program and ways we can work to connect and attract Soldiers, Veterans and their families to our local business to create more opportunities.

Child Care Desert Funding

Member of Assembly
John T. McDonald III RPh



Applications Now Available for

Child Care Desert Grant Funding

Grants are available to cover start-up and personnel costs, recruit, train, and retain staff

Learn more and apply now at the link below:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/deserts/>

The New York State Office of Children and Family Services announced that \$70 million in federal grant funding is available to newly licensed, registered or permitted child care programs in areas of the state without sufficient child care slots, known as child care deserts.

The grants will help new child care providers in underserved areas build their program; cover start-up and personnel costs; recruit, train and retain staff; and support staff in accessing COVID-19 vaccines.

Applications are now available through May 19th! Learn more and apply here:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/childcare/deserts/>

Cohoes City School District Trendy Tiger

Cohoes City School District recently opened The Trendy Tiger, a student-run giving closet – providing clothing, shoes and accessories which is available to all students, regardless of their financial circumstances!

There is currently a need for the following items:

- Newly packaged boys and girls socks
- Newly packaged undergarments for adolescent boys and girls
- Laundry detergent
- Hair brushes, hair ties
- Body spray
- Storage containers (new or used)
- Laundry baskets (new or used)
- Reusable shopping bags

Please contact the High School office at 518-237-0100 ext. 1400 if you are interested in donating. Read [more on the program here.](#)

CDC STD Awareness Week



April 11th - April 16th is the CDC STD Awareness Week. STDs are at an all-time high and prevention is critical. The good news: there are many ways to get STD care!

Visit the CDC's get tested website here to learn more: <https://gettested.cdc.gov>

[City of Albany Jobs](#)

The City of Albany Department of Recreation is hiring seasonal employees to help out with programs, community centers, and public events.

[Learn more and apply here.](#)

Homebuyer Fair

The Albany Public Library and the Affordable Housing Partnership will be hosting a free homebuyer fair on April 30th 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Washington Avenue library branch. Obtain a free credit report (bring your photo ID), talk one-on-one with lenders, realtors, home inspectors, non-profits, attorneys and more. Meet with a certified housing advisor to find out what you can afford and how to build your credit.

There will be on-site pre-qualifications for financing, and seminars for homebuyers. Also, learn about home energy efficiency and repair programs. This event is sponsored by Affordable Housing Partnership. For more information, contact AHP Homeownership Center: www.ahphome.org or call AHP at 518-434-1730.

I Love My Park Day

Join Parks & Trails New York on Saturday, May 7 in celebrating and enhancing New York's parks and public lands. Sign up for an I Love My Park Day event to clean up parks and shorelines, plant trees and gardens, restore trails and wildlife habitat, remove invasive species, and more.

Sign up to volunteer at a park near you here: <https://www.ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day>

FOCUS Lab Launch

The FOCUS Lab (Future of Cities and Urban Sustainability) is a new exhibition and education space in Downtown Troy. They will be launching the inaugural exhibit: To Flow Both Ways: The Past, Present, and Future of Hudson Waterfronts on Saturday, April 30th from 6:00pm - 8:30pm at 21 3rd St, Troy, NY.

The FOCUS Lab is operated by The Future of Small Cities Institute in partnership with the City of Troy, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the Children's Museum of Saratoga.

[Learn more about the launch and exhibit here.](#)

Lincoln Park Pool Swim Lessons

The Department of Recreation will open registration for swim lessons this Monday, April 18th. Those lessons, and more summer resources, are free and will be accessible via the Civic Rec [portal found here](#). You need to be an account user to see the offerings and add classes, signing up as a new user is free and takes just a few minutes.

Please note that last year swim lessons at the filled up quickly, so don't wait to sign up!

Historic Albany Foundation Survey

The Historic Albany Foundation is launching a Tool Library in Summer 2022. For a \$20 annual membership fee, Albany residents will be able to borrow a variety of home and gardening tools. They will also be providing drop-in sessions and workshops to assist in building skills and confidence. They are focused on this being a sharing economy, not only of tools but of knowledge. Volunteers will get a complimentary membership.

If you are an Albany resident, please take a few moments [to fill out this survey](#) to help them continue to build the program.





Albany/District Office:



Legislative Office Building

Room 417

Albany, NY 12248

Office: (518) 455-4474

Mobile: (518) 365-2569

Email: mcdonaldj@nyassembly.gov

Website: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/John-T-McDonald-III>

CivMix blog: <https://www.civmixvoices.com/mcdonald/>

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