



Dear Neighbors,

It looks like we'll have beautiful weather across this district this weekend. I hope you all find some time to get outside for some fresh air and sunshine!

UPDATE ON NYSEG'S AUCTION OF THE BELL STATION PROPERTY

I know many of you are following the upcoming Bell Station auction closely and I wanted to pass along an update. Last week, Senator Helming and I sent a letter to Governor Hochul urging her to take immediate action to stop NYSEG's auction of the Bell Station property. We asked the Governor:

"We are writing to ask for your urgent help preserving an undeveloped stretch of Cayuga Lake. Bell Station is a remarkable 470-acre property featuring 3,400 feet of pristine shoreline on the east side of Cayuga Lake. The property was originally acquired by New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) for a power plant that was never built. Bell Station features wooded hillsides, cascading waterfalls, extensive fields currently leased for agriculture, and several tributaries to the lake. According to the Cayuga Birding Club, "rare and threatened plant communities, including a large and flourishing population of a NYS threatened plant called Butterfly Leaf and a NYS rare plant called Pale Pea" thrive on this property and need our protection. "Additionally, the mature Maple-Basswood forest provides necessary habitat for warblers, vireos, orioles, and other birds that have been declining in NYS due to habitat loss."

Our full letter is attached to this newsletter. [Click here](#) for local coverage of this issue, including comments from local government representatives and advocacy groups. Local residents have also collected over [4,000 signatures on a petition](#) requesting that NYSEG halt the auction and enter into negotiations with the DEC and the Finger Lakes Land Trust to acquire this land for a fair price so that we may all enjoy it as a nature preserve.



FARMERS INVITED TO APPLY FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE GRANTS

The **Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program** is inviting farmers and growers to submit proposals to its **Farmer Grant Program**.

Northeast SARE Farmer Grants are intended for farmers who want to explore new concepts in sustainable agriculture through experiments, surveys, prototypes, on-farm demonstrations or other research and education techniques. Grants are *not* intended to provide start-up funds or be used to finance farm equipment or expand farm operations. Successful proposals explore new paths to sustainable agriculture or plan projects that are useful to other farmers.

Proposals are due online by 5 p.m. on Nov. 16 for projects starting next spring. Funded projects, which are capped at \$30,000, will be announced in late February 2022.

A webinar about this grant program will be offered on Oct. 5 at noon. Although free, registration is required at <https://go.uvm.edu/sarefarmergrantwebinar>. The webinar will be live captioned and recorded.

Around the District

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY SIGHTINGS

The Spotted Lantern Fly is an invasive insect that poses a threat to New York's agricultural crops and forests. These beautiful pests feed on a wide variety of plants, including grapevines, hops, maple and fruit trees. When their population grows unchecked, hundreds to thousands of these pests can feed on a single plant, causing significant stress and disease. ([More info here](#))



What should you do if you find a Spotted Lanternfly?

- Take a picture of the insect, egg masses, and/or infestation signs (include a coin or ruler for scale if possible)
- Use a credit card or something similar to scrape off egg masses and any captured insects into a container with alcohol or store in the freezer
- Note the location (address, intersecting roads, landmarks, or GPS coordinated)
- Complete the survey at on.ny.gov/slfsurvey or email the info to spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

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