



April 9, 2024

Dear Neighbors,

Work on the New York State budget continues as the Assembly and Senate engage in negotiations with the Executive on a final budget. We passed a budget extender through the Legislature on Sunday to ensure the essential operations of the government continue in this interim and will pass another today. Each extender keeps the government operating for three days while negotiations continue.

I hope everyone had an opportunity to safely enjoy the solar eclipse and marvel at this natural phenomenon, despite the cloud cover, and had a peek through to the momentary night sky. Here is a quick peek from the east banks of Cayuga Lake as the moon moved over the sun, bathing the waters in temporary night, and a picture of an eclipse rendition from the shells and a seed from the shores of the lake. Enjoy!



This week's newsletter is focused on district events and resources - read on for highlights!

# Around the District

**New York State Broadband Challenge**

Equitable access to high-speed internet is vitally important for New Yorkers to be able to find information, work, conduct business, and enjoy entertainment throughout the State. We need assistance from district residents to identify areas that are currently not served or underserved by broadband providers! The [ConnectALL](#) Deployment Program is currently engaging the public and stakeholders to identify unserved and underserved locations in order to direct funding and improve broadband access.

- **Public Comment** - [The NYS Broadband Challenge Portal](#) is open until the end of business on April 11 for any member of the public to answer a series of questions about internet service available at a given location, upload evidence to support a potential challenge, take and submit results of a speed test, or submit a comment about the quality of their internet service.
- **Challenger Registration and Process** - To improve internet services at community anchor locations, like libraries, community centers and municipal buildings, organizations can register as a challenger and provide input. Eligible challengers include local or tribal government, nonprofit organizations, and internet service providers. Challengers can register now on the [NYS Broadband Challenge Portal](#) and provide input through April 18.



## **Ribbon Cutting for the Cortland Courthouse Stairs**

I was thrilled to join the Cortland County Legislature, represented by Chair Kevin Fitch, Judge Masler, and the Cortland community to officially open the new Cortland County Courthouse stairs this week. The marble stairs to the building were crumbling, causing safety issues, and the stairs to the main entrance were closed in 2016. For the past 8 years, visitors to the Courthouse were forced to enter through a single ramp entrance. I'm proud that I was able to secure \$4.6 million in state funding for improvements to the Courthouse, including the stairs, repairs to the dome and a new HVAC system to provide much needed energy efficiencies and help reduce costs to the community. With the stairs complete, work on the other improvements will move forward. The cornerstone of the Courthouse was laid in 1922, and the building was completed in 1924. 100 years later, I'm proud to be part of maintaining this central building of "The Crown City." Let us all work toward its preservation for another 100 years!



# New Laws

**Sale of Mobile Home Parks**



Manufactured homes in a mobile home park can be a critical source of affordable housing for residents in New York State. While residents typically own the mobile home, they typically do not own the land the house resides on but rather rent space from the mobile park owner or management company. The rights of manufactured homeowners who rent space in a manufactured home park in New York State are covered under Section 233 of the Real Property Law, also known as the "[Manufactured Homeowners Bill of Rights](#)."

Previously, when a manufactured park owner decided to sell a park, they only had to offer the right of first refusal to the homeowners to purchase the park if the intent was to change the land use to something other than a mobile home park. The new law that went into effect this April ([A5549A](#)) removes this restrictive provision and gives the homeowner's association or the homeowners themselves the right of first refusal when the park is put up for sale regardless of land use changes. I was proud to co-sponsor this bill in the Assembly as this would afford a fair opportunity to preserve the integrity of the homeowners' park and affordability to the residents. Nationwide, corporate investors are buying mobile homes as an investment opportunity, raising rents, and placing homeowners in difficult situations since contrary to the name, mobile homes are not easily moved. This new law can help protect against vulture companies whose management techniques would contrast with the values and interests of the mobile home community.



## **New Laws Effective April 2024**

We pass many important laws in the Assembly. You can review the new laws signed by the Governor going into effect in April [here](#).

# Community Resources

## **Lansing Fire Department Recruitment Day**

As part of the annual RecruitNY statewide initiative to increase volunteer fire department membership, the Lansing Fire Department will host an open house this Sunday, April 14 from 10 am to 1 pm at 80 Ridge Road, Lansing NY. Lansing fire department members will conduct tours of the station and trucks, allow visitors to try on gear, demonstrate firefighting activities, provide information, address questions on becoming a member, and host fun events for children and families attending. These activities give visitors a taste of what it means to be in the fire service, as well as the rewards and requirements of joining. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, visit their website or call 607-533-4203.





## **Volunteer Drivers Needed for Veterans**

The DAV Transportation Network is seeking volunteer drivers to help transport veterans to and from their VA medical appointments. This is a great opportunity to make a real difference in someone's life and assist our community's veterans. If you are a safe driver with a valid license and want to be of service to our veterans, call the Central NY Regional recruiter at 315-425-4343 to volunteer.

## **Free Rim Joist Insulation for your Basement**

[Cornell Cooperative Extension \(CCE\) of Tompkins County](#) is offering homeowners in Tompkins County free basement rim joist insulation. During the past months, CCE Tompkins has partnered with [BlocPower](#) to insulate over 25 homes' rim joists, preventing cold weather from seeping in through


the basement and helping homeowners save energy. Materials and labor are covered by the program, so this service is offered at no cost. Priority is given to income-qualified households, but everyone is welcome to sign up via [this Google form](#). For more information, please visit [this CCE Tompkins' webpage](#) or call their office at 607-272-2292.

### Oven Fresh Job Fair at TC3

Tompkins Cortland Community College will be hosting the Oven Fresh Job Fair presented by Cayuga Radio Group on April 9 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Dryden Campus. The fair features more than [30 regional employers](#) that are actively hiring. Participants will also be able to meet with job seeker support agencies before entering the fair if they wish. Cash and prize giveaways will take place throughout the event!

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In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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