



Dear Friends,

Happy Fourth of July! It was not that long ago that the idea of being able to celebrate Independence Day together, in person, would have been unthinkable. That so many of us are planning to spend the holiday celebrating with friends and family is a testament to how far we have come in the fight against COVID-19. **Wishing you and your family a very safe and happy holiday weekend.**

Several newsletters ago, I discussed the work of a New York State Assemblymember, and my work in particular. Although every state legislature is organized differently, what is common to nearly all state legislatures is that its members are considered part-time.

What does that mean?

In New York, it means that the state legislature does not meet year-round. Rather, the legislative session starts in January and ends in the middle of June. Currently, the legislature technically is “in recess” – because its leaders, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, have the authority to call us back into session at any time. Historically that seldom occurs, although due to COVID-19 and the need to act, both chambers were brought back in for a special session late last year.

What that means is that from the middle of June through the end of the calendar year, the legislature does not typically hold sessions and no legislation is acted upon. Some committees will meet and hold hearings during this time, although not all of them.

This does not mean, however, that I am done for the year. Quite the opposite. From the day I first entered public service in 2007 as a Councilmember in Bedford, and then later as Bedford Town Supervisor, I have always believed my greatest responsibility is to help residents with the issues and problems they face. They come to me for myriad reasons – an unexplained interruption in unemployment benefits, an urgent need for delivery of an overdue passport (our thanks to Senator Schumer's wonderful office for their assistance in such matters), and sorting out a problem with the MTA, just to name a few. I'm also working with town governments to help identify and file applications for grants awarded by NYS agencies. It's also good to be back in the district (I spent the last several weeks of the legislative session in Albany) to meet with residents and attend events (in person!).



And I am continuing to work on legislation with my legislative director Andrew Falk, including on bills I have sponsored that need to be amended, as well as looking into legislation for next session that constituents and advocacy groups have proposed.

This is all to say... the work continues. Including, of course, sending out these newsletters.

Child Care Relief for Essential Workers

COVID-19 has only exacerbated the need for affordable, high-quality child care. **The NYS Office of Children and Family Services is administering \$25 million in funds to provide child care support for children of essential workers.** Families who are currently receiving child care scholarships through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act are strongly encouraged to apply for this new scholarship. Visit <http://ocfs.ny.gov/childcarerelief> to apply or learn more.

Essential Worker Child Care Scholarship

The Office of Children and Family Services is providing **\$25 million** in child care scholarships for children of essential workers.

Eligible workers with children ages six weeks to 12 years old whose income is less than 300% of the federal poverty level will receive assistance for child care costs through this initiative.



Beca de Cuido Infantil Para los Empleados

La Oficina de Servicios para Niños y Familias provee **\$25 millones** en becas de cuidado infantil para los hijos de trabajadores esenciales.

Los trabajadores elegibles con hijos entre seis semanas y 12 años de edad, cuyo ingreso está por debajo del 300% del nivel de pobreza federal, recibirán ayuda para los costos del cuidado infantil mediante esta iniciativa.



Has Your Driver's License Expired? Time to Renew!

As the COVID-19 state of emergency has come to an end, if you have not yet renewed your expired driver's license, now is the time! Through August 31, 2021, New Yorkers with expired/expiring licenses who don't have recent vision test results can self-certify that their vision is acceptable and provide additional documentation within a year of renewal. Visit <http://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/how-renew-license> to learn more.

As New York regains a sense of normalcy, the time has come for those with driver's licenses or permits that expired on or after March 1, 2020, to renew them.

If your license expires between March 1, 2020 and Aug. 31, 2021, you can renew your license online now and submit a vision test to the DMV within a year of your renewal.



A medida que Nueva York recobra un sentido de normalidad, ha llegado el momento para que aquellas personas cuyas licencias, o permisos de conducir vencieron en o después del 1.^o de marzo de 2020 los renueven.

Si su licencia vence entre el 1.^o de marzo de 2020 y el 31 de agosto de 2021, ahora puede renovar su licencia en línea y someter un examen de la vista al Departamento de Vehículos de Motor (DMV) dentro de un año de su renovación.



Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program Open

The [Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) is now open. The program provides qualifying seniors aged 60 and over with a booklet of checks that can be used to purchase fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets and farm stands. Visit agriculture.ny.gov/consumer-benefits-farmers-markets or contact my office or your local office for the aging to learn more.



Reminder: Child Income-Tax Credit Begins July 15th

A reminder that **payments on the temporarily-expanded federal tax credit, provided for in the American Rescue Plan will begin on July 15th**. Households representing more than 65 million children (88% of U.S. children) will qualify for this refundable tax credit.

Eligible families will receive a payment of up to \$300 per month for each child under age 6 (with a maximum annual credit of \$3,600 per child) and up to \$250 per month for each child between ages 6 to 17 (with a maximum annual credit of \$3,000 per child). The benefit begins to phase out beginning at incomes of \$150,000 for married couples, \$112,500 for a Head of Household single parent, and \$75,000 for single filers. The regular tax credit of \$2,000 (minus any payments received) remains in place for individuals whose income remains below \$200,000 for individuals and \$400,000 for couples.

Payments will be made via direct deposit, paper check or debit cards beginning July 15th and continuing on the 15th of each month through December. In addition to receiving these monthly payments (which represent the credit for the first half of the tax filing year 2020), recipients will receive the rest of their benefit as a credit next year when they file their 2021 tax returns.

Parents can also opt out of the monthly payments and instead receive the full, expanded credit on their tax returns next year. To learn more, visit: www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/advance-child-tax-credit-payments-in-2021. And for more information about the credit in general, go to childtaxcredit.gov.



Reminder: Assembly Summer Reading Challenge!

Reminder! I am inviting the children of the 93rd Assembly District to participate in the Assembly's annual **Summer Reading Challenge**, held in partnership with New York State Libraries.

The challenge asks children to read a book for at least 15 minutes a day, for a minimum of 40 days, during the months of July and August. Children can read on their own or with a partner or caregiver and mark off days on the [calendar provided](#). Once they've completed 40 days or more, please submit the completed materials to me at burdickc@nyassembly.com and I will send your child an **Assembly Excellence in Reading certificate**, to recognize their efforts and dedication. The (optional) theme for the 2021 challenge is "Tails and Tales" to encourage children to learn more about their favorite animals and explore the world around them.

(Please note this challenge can be done in concert with other reading challenges... so if your child has already signed up for a challenge at school or the library, the reading completed for those challenges can count towards the requirements of this challenge as well.)

Take part in the New York State Assembly's 2021
Summer Reading Challenge



You can find the calendar and other materials needed to complete the challenge [by clicking here](#). And if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at (914) 244-4450 or burdickc@nyassembly.gov.

As always, if there are any issues that you would like to see covered in a future newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov (or simply reply to this email). **Please also follow me on Facebook and Twitter for the most up-to-date information.**

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,



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