



Dear Friends,

Let me start off today's newsletter with a reminder about **tonight's Virtual Town Hall, previewing the 2022 legislative session**. It begins at 6:00 pm via Zoom, and I hope you will join us! If you have not already done so, you can register by [clicking here](#). You can also send questions in advance to me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov.

Please join us for
Assemblymember Chris Burdick's



Virtual Town Hall
Previewing the 2022 Legislative Session

Monday, December 13 @ 6:00 pm

Register at tinyurl.com/Dec13Burdick
(Zoom link sent upon registration)

Send your questions in advance to burdickc@nyassembly.gov

This past Thursday, **I had the honor of presenting National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Awards** to a number of employers that are in or serve the 93rd Assembly District.

As I have [mentioned previously](#), October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month. As Chair of the Subcommittee for Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities, **I wanted to use the month as an opportunity to recognize employers in my district (or who serve residents of my district) that excel in hiring and nurturing people with disabilities**. The goal was to shine a spotlight and bring awareness to the issue, hopefully encouraging others to follow in their footsteps. **Congratulations and THANK YOU to the following businesses that are doing just that:**

[Cambria Hotel](#), White Plains
[Chappaqua Library](#), Chappaqua
[The Nicholas Center](#), Pleasantville
[ShopRite](#), Bedford Hills
[Stop & Shop](#), Mount Kisco
[Stop & Shop](#), White Plains
[Wags & Whiskers](#), Chappaqua



(If you missed the ceremony and would like to watch it, it was live streamed on my [Facebook page](#).)

Gov. Hochul Announces New Mandate for Businesses; Booster & Health Insurance Availability Reminders

In an attempt to stem the rising tide of COVID-19 hospitalization and positivity rates in New York – especially as we are now in the busy holiday season – **Governor Hochul announced Friday that beginning today (December 13), all businesses must require either proof of full vaccination or indoor mask-wearing.** This mandate will last until January 15, when it will be reevaluated based on current conditions.



A reminder that **COVID-19 boosters are now available to all eligible adults ages 18+** and I encourage you to get one if you qualify. To be eligible you must have:

- Received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series at least six months ago (*six months since the second shot*); or
- Received a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at least two months ago

NEW: Teens 16-17 years old who received their Pfizer vaccine series at least six months ago are now eligible to receive the Pfizer booster.

Boosters are recommended for ALL who are eligible, most especially for those over the age of 50 and those with underlying conditions. Adults 18+ can choose to receive *any* of the three vaccines as a booster (Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson), no matter what vaccine you received originally.

Boosters are available at [state-run locations](#), through the [Westchester County Department of Health](#), and through many pharmacies and health care providers.

On a related note, for those who are currently enrolled in an insurance plan through the [NYS Health Plan Marketplace](#) – or who would like to enroll – **2022 open enrollment began last month.** Moreover, the American Rescue Plan has [lowered the cost](#) of these plans for most New Yorkers, so if you need coverage, please be sure to check it out.

IMPORTANT: For coverage beginning January 1, you must apply by *this Wednesday, December 15*, although open enrollment will continue until January 31, 2022. [Click here](#) for more information and to enroll.



[NYS Homeowner Assistance Fund to Begin Accepting Applications Starting January 3](#)

Are you a homeowner struggling due to the financial hardship caused by the pandemic? **Homeowners who are at risk of default, foreclosure, or displacement, including those living in condos and co-ops, [can begin to apply](#) for essential financial relief on Monday, January 3.** The NYS Homeowners Assistance Fund (NYS HAF) offers a wide range of services for eligible homeowners, such as financial support to address missed housing-related payments.

IMPORTANT: Applications will be processed in the order in which they are received. **As the program is expected to receive significantly more applications than can be funded by the program, I would encourage you [to apply](#) as early as possible.**

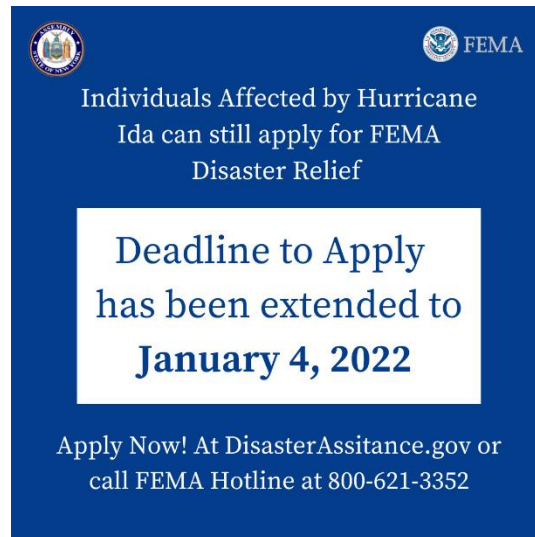
To apply or learn more, visit nyhomeownerfund.org or call 1-844-77-NYHAF (776-9423).



Hurricane Ida FEMA Aid Application Deadline Extended to January 4

For those who suffered damage as a result of Hurricane Ida, please note **the deadline to apply for FEMA has been extended to Tuesday, January 4**. If you suffered damage not covered by insurance, please don't miss out! [Click here for more information](#) and to learn how to apply.

And please don't hesitate to reach out to my office at (914) 244-4450 or burdickc@nyassembly.gov if we can be of any assistance.



Public Hearing on Climate Change Expenditures By State Entities

Recently, the NYS Assembly Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation, NYS Assembly Standing Committee on Energy, and the NYS Assembly Climate Change Work Group held a public hearing in Albany to review climate change expenditures by state entities. **The purpose of the hearing was to examine the success of such expenditures, including whether the mandate under the state's [Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act](#) (CLCPA) that 40% of the funding go to disadvantaged communities had been achieved.**

A brief overview of the goals of CLCPA: eliminate 100% of climate pollution caused by humans, with an 85% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and an interim target of 40% by 2030. The [NYS Climate Action Council](#) (CAC) is charged with creating the plan to achieve the goals. [New York State Energy Research and Development Authority](#) (NYSERDA), testified that CAC is on track to achieve critical milestones under the CLCPA.

The upshot of the hearings is that while NYSERDA, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and other agencies are doing a decent job and substantial funds are being devoted to

combating the climate crisis and achieving CLCPA goals, **much more needs to be done**. Many of my colleagues in the legislature and I believe that it is imperative that we boost our efforts across the board. These will be both legislative and budgetary priorities for us.

(For those interested, please note you can see my questions and remarks during the hearing by [clicking here](#).)

[Help Make The Holiday Special for Our Youth](#)

I will be sending this information out in a separate email very shortly, but **I invite you to please join me in helping to make this holiday special for youth in need**. Two ways to help:

1) [Donate online gift cards](#) to Lifting up Westchester's teen students

- [Click here](#) to learn more about Lifting Up Westchester, whose mission is "Restoring hope to Westchester County's men, women, and children in need by providing them with food, shelter, and support – and lifting them to greater self-sufficiency with dignity and respect."

2) Dropping unwrapped toys at our office (100 South Bedford Road, Suite 150 in Mount Kisco) by Monday, December 20, for the children of mothers incarcerated at the Bedford Hills & Taconic Correctional Facilities

- [Click here for the holiday toy wish list](#) (and items that cannot be accepted)
- [Click here](#) to learn more about Hour Children & The Parenting Centers at Bedford Hills & Taconic Correctional Facilities.

Two Ways to Make this Holiday Season Special for our Youth, Sponsored by the Office of Assemblymember Chris Burdick!

Donate Gift Cards	Drop Off a Toy
Donate Online Gift Cards to Lifting Up Westchester's Teen Students.	Gift a Toy to the Children of Incarcerated Mothers at the Bedford Hills & Taconic Correctional Facilities.*
Donate on Amazon at tinyurl.com/LUWHoliday2021	Drop off at District Office 100 South Bedford Rd Suite 150 Mount Kisco, NY 10549

*Please see the next page for important information

Additional Information

- Please visit [tinyurl.com/BHTCFHoliday2021](https://www.tinyurl.com/BHTCFHoliday2021) for a holiday toy wish list, and for items that cannot be accepted.
- Please drop UNWRAPPED toys to the district office by Monday, December 20. We are open 9 am-5 pm.
- For more information about Lifting Up Westchester, please visit: liftingupwestchester.org
- For more information about Hour Children & The Parenting Centers at Bedford Hills & Taconic Correction Facilities, please visit: hourchildren.org/how-we-help/prison-based-family-services-programs

Thank you in advance for helping to make this holiday season bright for young people in need!

Celebrating the Opening of Bedford's Sewer System

Finally, last Tuesday, December 7, the Town of Bedford cut the ribbon for the opening of its sewer system. Well over 100 years ago, the Town first talked about sewers. It had been defeated at least four times over a 30-year period between 1980 and 2010. **As Supervisor of the Town of Bedford for seven years, where I served before taking office as an Assemblymember in January, establishing sewers in Bedford was a key priority and one of my proudest accomplishments.** Now businesses have flexibility, whereas before they were limited in what they could do, due to watershed regulations. Moreover, with this sewer system a huge environmental issue was addressed, with the system now taking care of the wastewater that was threatening our water supply.

Such an enormous undertaking could not have been possible without the incredibly hard work and collaboration of the Town, the County, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) and the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS), which transferred its wastewater treatment plant to the Town and now is a customer of Bedford's sewer district. **This project is a terrific example of various levels of government working together for the health, safety, and well-being of the community.** Congratulations to all for completing this first phase of sewers in Bedford. I pledge to do my utmost to assist the Town as it moves forward with the additional phases it needs to protect its precious water resources and to allow the Town's businesses to thrive.



As I was required to be up in Albany, unfortunately I was unable to attend the ribbon-cutting (thank you to my Chief of Staff Heather Mieko Lackey for attending on my behalf). As I could not do so then, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Bedford Town Board (present and past), Bedford Comptroller Abraham Zambrano, my successor MaryAnn Carr, my predecessor Lee Roberts, and her predecessor John Dinin, all of whom carried the torch. Thank you to County Executive George Latimer and his able Planning Commissioner Norma Drummond. Thank you especially to NYC DEP Assistant Commissioner Dave Warne, who supported the project from

the get-go and with whom I negotiated for many hours for NYC funding. And thank you to NYS DOCCS, especially Commissioner Anthony Annucci, Deputy Counsel George Glassanos, and Supervisor of Technical Services Keith Rupert.

I also would like to give special mention to former Bedford Planning Director Jeff Osterman, who was instrumental in mapping out the sewer district to encompass the neighborhood business districts of Bedford Hills and Katonah, and to Kevin Winn who served as my eyes and ears on the project. I also would be remiss not to mention the tremendous support from DEP Deputy Bureau Chief Bob Ravallo, who was instrumental in implementing the program.

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](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for the most up-to-date information.**

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

Sincerely yours,



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