

Dear Friends,

First of all, I hope you all had an enjoyable end of your summer and a terrific Labor Day weekend. If your summer was anything like mine, it seemed to have gone by in the blink of an eye! Sadly, summer is never quite long enough.

Unfortunately, this will need to be my last newsletter until November. With the upcoming election, the Assembly enters a blackout period when we may no longer send newsletters from this system. That said, we will continue to provide helpful information and updates on **Facebook, Twitter**, and **Instagram** - so if you don't yet follow me on social media, there is no better time to start! And as always, never hesitate to reach out to my office if there is any assistance we can provide.

I also will be holding a series of Coffee & Conversations throughout the district over the next

couple of months. These will be great opportunities for me to answer any questions and to hear from residents about what is important to them. If you are available, I hope you will consider joining me.

We are working to schedule Coffee & Conversations in every municipality in the 93rd Assembly District *(please keep an eye on our social media pages for additional updates)*. In the meantime, here is the current schedule:

 North Castle: TOMORROW, Saturday, September 10th from 10 AM – 12 PM. I will be joining Deputy Supervisor & Town Board Member Barbara DiGiacinto's Monthly North White Plains gathering on Zoom. <u>Click here to join</u>. Meeting ID: 865 2721 0152 Passcode: 035896



- **Bedford:** Saturday, September 17th at 9:30 AM at the Bedford Hills Community House, located at 74 Main St, Bedford Hills, NY 10507. I will be joined by State Senator Shelley Mayer and Town Supervisor Ellen Calves.
- *White Plains:* Tuesday, September 20th at 5 PM at the White Plains Library, located at 100 Martine Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601. I will be joined by Mayor Tom Roach.
- *Mount Kisco:* Saturday, September 24 at 10:30 AM at the Mount Kisco Library, located at 100 E Main Street, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. I will be joined by Mayor Gina Picinich.
- *Lewisboro:* Saturday, October 15th at 11 AM at the Lewisboro Library, located at 15 Main St, South Salem, NY 10590. I will be joined by Town Supervisor Tony Gonçalves

• *New Castle:* Saturday, October 22nd at 1 PM at Bobo's Café, located at 1 Station Plaza, Chappaqua, NY 10514. I will be joined by Town Supervisor Lisa Katz.

If you have any questions, or to RSVP *(appreciated, but not required)*, please send an email to <u>burdickc@nyassembly.gov</u> or call the office at (914) 244-4450.

Finally, I mentioned in a <u>previous newsletter</u> that I was working to secure state funding for the Town of North Salem in the amount of \$125,000 for critical electrical upgrades to the Schoolhouse Theater building. <u>Earlier today</u>, I had the pleasure of joining with Town Supervisor Warren Lucas, Deputy Town Supervisor Peter Kamenstein, and Town Councilman Martin Aronchick to present the town with the symbolic check representing those funds.



The building, which was recently acquired by the town, will serve as a community, arts, and senior center. This upgrade will allow the building to be integrated into the growing arts community in the hamlet of Croton Falls.

I look forward to attending my first performance in the upgraded space!

Notice Bill Signed by Governor Hochul

I am incredibly pleased to report that last month, **Governor Kathy Hochul** <u>signed my legislation</u> <u>requiring same-day notification</u> to a parent or guardian of a student with a disability when certain behavioral interventions, such as seclusion or physical restraint, are used. The legislation (<u>A8540/S7548</u>) – which I introduced in the Assembly and Senator Pete Harckham introduced in the Senate – passed in the State Legislature with broad bipartisan support. The bill originated following meetings I had with a group of parents in the 93rd Assembly District to discuss their concerns regarding delayed notification in such circumstances. Often a child with a disability literally has no voice and cannot reply to a parent asking how their day went. I am grateful to the parents for their advocacy without which this new law would not exist.

In addition to the notice bill, I also sponsored two bills to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities that I am optimistic the Governor will sign into law. One bill (<u>A8549C/S7578C</u>) modernizes a 45-year-old provision in the NYS Finance Law that provides a preference in bidding for contracts with state agencies to companies that employ people with disabilities. The changes streamline the process, making it easier both for agencies and employers alike. The second bill (<u>A8915B/S7746B</u>) establishes a voluntary training and certification program in the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities for employers that have pledged to hire people with disabilities.

Saving a Piece of American History

My thanks to the tenacity and perseverance of several residents of North White Plains and Armonk for their advocacy in keeping from development a vacant lot in North White Plains known as Mount Misery – so named because of the misery of the American Revolutionary War soldiers who sought refuge there during the Battle of White Plains. They slept in trenches without tents or blankets in freezing weather, with many dying from wounds or dysentery. The Battle of White Plains is often overlooked in history but was a key point in the battle for American Independence.

This past Wednesday, I joined State Senator Shelley Mayer, County Executive George Latimer, North Castle Supervisor Mike Schiliro, Deputy Supervisor Barbara DiGiacinto, Council Member José Berra... and perhaps most importantly, members of North Castle's preservation-minded community including Nora Manuele (who led the effort) and Tom Rice of the North Castle Historical Society.

Senator Mayer and I presented a symbolic check for \$175,000, representing a New York State grant that we are securing for the Town's acquisition of the half-acre parcel for permanent preservation and access by the community. County Executive George Latimer announced that, through the advocacy of County Legislator Margaret Cunzio, the County also will contribute \$50,000 to the project.





Important Deadline! Upgrade Your NYS Driver License

Did you know that, as per federal law, after May 23, 2023, only the Enhanced or REAL ID driver license will be accepted to get on a domestic flight or to enter certain federal buildings or military bases (unless you have a passport or another federally-accepted form of ID)?

I recently joined NYS DMV Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder at Westchester County Airport, as part of the Department's regional tour to let New Yorkers know about the deadline... and that they can upgrade to a REAL or Enhanced ID now.

Avoid the pre-deadline rush! To learn more, visit: https://dmv.ny.gov/get-enhanced-or-real-id



Westchester County Airport Hearing

This past Tuesday, I presented testimony at a Westchester County public hearing presided over by County Executive George Latimer, which was seeking comment on a new Master Plan for the Westchester County Airport. I have heard from many residents in my district who are worried that any expansion of the airport will lead to more air traffic and noise, as well as the potential for further environmental damage (of particular concern given the proximity to the Kensico Reservoir).

In my comments, I discussed the concerns of my constituents and commended the County for its transparency, community outreach efforts, and commitment to a non-expansion policy.

Please note that if you were not able to make the first hearing, **there will be a second one held this coming Tuesday, September 13, at 7 pm at Harvest Time Church in Greenwich, CT.**



Westchester County is relaunching the Public Engagement Program on the Master Plan for Westchester County Airport.

Join us

for an Open Conversation to see what's "On the Horizon" for the Airport.

Tuesday, September 6 at 6 p.m.

Chappaqua Performing Arts Center 480 Bedford Road Chappaqua, NY 10514

Tuesday, September 13 at 7 p.m.

Harvest Time Church 1338 King Street Greenwich, CT 06831

<u>Thank You to Our Interns</u> (plus an internship opportunity!)

Our office was once again graced with an embarrassment of riches with our interns this past spring and summer. Nadia Nabeel, Jack Quinn, Izzy Sampere, Kate Hidalgo, Flora Elghanayan, Rose Margolies, Alison Jiang, Aidan Geaney, Michael Milanes, Jr., Harry Griff, Ian Rhodes, and Emma Galgano were all invaluable to our office, and we are incredibly grateful for their hard work. They are all now back in high school or college, although some of them will be staying on through the school year either remotely or coming in after school. We have a small staff and a heavy workload, so we really rely on our interns for a significant amount of help. And they did not disappoint.

A special shout out to Nadia Nabeel, who had been with our office since March of 2021 and is now headed off to SUNY Binghamton. Also to Jack Quinn, who was chosen for the Bucknell Capitol Hill Internship Program at Bucknell University (and chose to do his internship with my office) and was with us almost every day for the entire summer.

We know that we will see great things from these bright young people and we wish them all the best!



With the departure of many of our wonderful interns, we are once again seeking dedicated and proactive high school and local college students for our district office, to provide assistance (under direct supervision) with administrative projects and legislative research. Our district office is located in Mount Kisco.

Work can be done in the office or remotely, although in-office interns are preferable. The hours are flexible, especially for remote work.

Our office has a small staff, so other tasks and duties may arise in addition to the ones listed below:

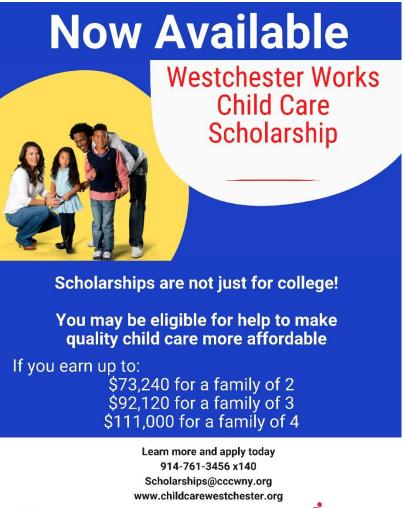
In the office - Data entry, email organization, answering phones, research, making phone calls, and assorted other office duties and tasks.

Remotely - Research (on bills, issues, the district, etc.), making phone calls

Please note that this internship is unpaid; however, if an intern's school will allow for school credit, we are happy to work with them to obtain it. Please send resumes and cover letters to my Chief of Staff, Heather Lackey, at Lackeyh@nyassembly.gov or call her at 914-244-4450 with any questions.

Raised Income Eligibility: Westchester Works Childcare Scholarship

As the result of recent raises in income eligibility, paying for childcare via the Westchester Works Child Care Scholarship is now available to more Westchester families than ever! Examples of the new income eligibility are listed below:





OV.COM Westchester County Executive



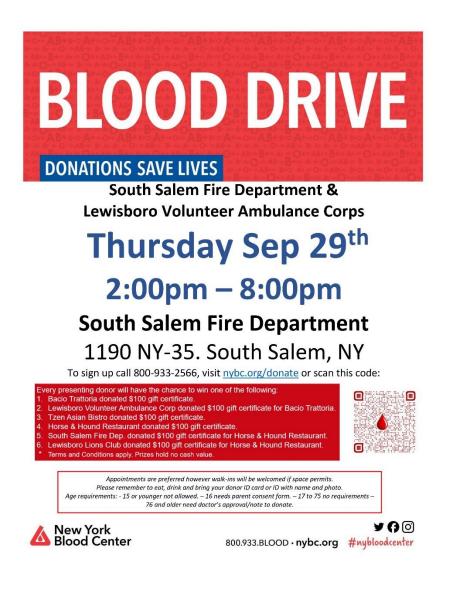
Parents must reside in Westchester and usually must be employed, but job search activities may qualify.

For more information, contact the Child Care Council of Westchester. They can also help you find child/afterschool care. Call the Council at (914) 761-3456 x 140 today.

Help Save a Life! 9/29 Blood Drive in South Salem

On Thursday, September 29, the South Salem Fire Department and Lewisboro Volunteer Ambulance Corps (LVAC) are sponsoring a blood drive for the New York Blood Center. The drive will take place at the South Salem Fire Department, 1190 NY-35 in South Salem, from 2-8 pm. Please consider <u>signing up</u> to donate, spreading the word, and helping save a life!

Click here to sign up!



9/11: A Day We Will Never Forget

It is hard to fathom that it has been 21 years since the terrorist attacks at the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and aboard United Airlines Flight 93 claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people on September 11, 2001.

Here in Westchester County, so many of us work in New York City or have friends and neighbors who do so and were there at 8:46 AM when the first plane plowed into the north tower of the World Trade Center on that crystal clear day. With windows from my office building facing south, with a clear view of the towers, I witnessed the second plane hitting the south tower at 9:03 AM. These images and the horror are indelibly etched in my memory.

With or without such vivid memories, we take a pause to remember that day, and once again are starkly reminded how our democracy and freedoms always are subject to attack. **On Sunday, and every day, let us remember those who perished... and remain vigilant in their honor.**



Again, while this will be the last newsletter until November, **please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide**. You can always reach me at <u>burdickc@nyassembly.gov</u> or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help. And as a reminder, please follow me on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u> for continued up-to-date information.

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can find them here.

Sincerely yours,

Chris Burdick

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