



Dear Friends and Constituents,

This summer, our beautiful 103rd District has hosted a variety of exciting events and has seen several advancements. For example, we had visiting Mexican Faculty being welcomed to one of our state universities and critical funds being granted for renovation of our well-deserving local bridges and trails and more. There is a lot to report. Please take a look at our newsletter below, which outlines these initiatives and programs as well as provides details on one of our favorite occasions - the Awards Ceremony for our Summer Reading and Exercise Challenge. Additionally, my staff and I have been sharing informative brochures that include helpful tips on a number of important yet frequently overlooked issues and situations, such as low cost banking, consumer rights to checkout accuracy and how to properly transition to solar energy usage. I invite you to contact our District Office through the information at the bottom of the letter if you are interested in learning more.

Kevin

The Summer Reading and Exercise Challenge

I want to thank every child who has stepped up to participate in the Summer Reading and Exercise Challenge, a terrific opportunity for families to instill lifetime learning habits while spending quality time together.

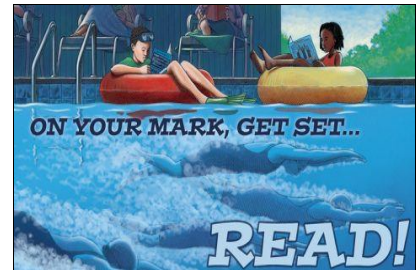
The award ceremony will take place on Friday, October 14th at 5:30pm at the Kingston City Library, located at 55 Franklin Street in Kingston.

Students will be recognized for their outstanding reading and exercise accomplishments with a special prize, a certificate and goody bags filled with treats from local community businesses! We will also welcome Paul Green's Rock Academy to help participants celebrate with music.

Brochures detailing the reading and exercise program, including a calendar to track daily progress, were distributed in June to all district schools serving grades one through six.

If you are a vendor who is interested in donating items to the goody bags, a parent or child who would like a brochure or you simply want more information on the program, please contact our District Office at (845) 338-9610.

Happy reading and exercise!



*Top: The 2016 Summer Reading Theme.
Below: Me posing with the 2015 participants.*



District-Wide Updates

Strengthening Infrastructure in Northern Dutchess County
 I am pleased to announce that \$750,000 has been earmarked for the installation of new sidewalks, crosswalks and landscaping on the east side of New York State Route 9 from Red Hook Town Hall to Hardscrabble Plaza in the Town of Red Hook. A recently released New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) Capital Plan detailing statewide projects notes this Community Revitalization allocation in their Five Year Capital Plan. Currently, the DOT is in its second year of this cycle. This initiative to improve pedestrian access on the southbound corridor connecting the Village to the Town of Red Hook will provide for safer travel while better linking residents with important resources such as banks, supermarkets and the many businesses in Hardscrabble Plaza.

I am proud to advocate on behalf of our communities for funding previously and in the 2016-17 state budget for a robust Department of Transportation Capital Plan that allows us to strengthen our infrastructure from major thoroughfares and superstructures to secondary roads, bridges and footpaths that all serve different yet important functions.

Supporting our Seniors
 New York State recently invested a total of \$50.1 million statewide for community-based services for aging populations through the New York State Office for the Aging. Ulster and Dutchess Counties will receive \$1.3 million to support non-medical resources for Seniors who require assistance with basic activities such as dressing, bathing, shopping, cooking, cleaning and paying bills. New York's aging population is among the most vulnerable in the entire state and is often in need of a helping hand.

Gunks Access Improved
 Almost \$350,000 has been earmarked by the Department of Transportation to replace the Trapps Bridge which spans Routes 44/55 in the Town of Gardiner. A new recreational bridge will be installed in its place to connect trails at the Mohonk Preserve to the scenic Minnewaska State Park and a large portion of the Shawangunk Mountain range. The project will greatly improve safety along this corridor by removing the outdated and unsafe structure which also significantly impairs visibility on the roadway below.



Eddyville Bridge Modernized
 Critical safety upgrades on the Route 213 Eddyville Bridge that crosses the Rondout Creek are underway and expected to be complete by the end of this season. A recently released New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) Capital Plan detailing statewide projects notes that a total of \$6.16 million was allocated for this in their Five Year Capital Plan. The initiatives we have taken will implement and continue these necessary capital improvements.

Key Link Between Port Ewen and Kingston Slated for Overhaul
 The historic Wurts Street Bridge spanning the Rondout Creek will receive a first ever complete rehabilitation. I secured a commitment in funding to repair and modernize the crossing, enhance structural stability and preserve its important place in our local history. This investment of \$37 million will allow for a long-overdue and full-scale reclamation of this purposeful and historic structure that has served the greater Kingston and Esopus communities for nearly 100 years.

Summer Intern Program



This summer, my office was fortunate to have

Visit with Mexican Faculty at SUNY New Paltz



benefited from the YWCA's Youth Leadership Program, which offers on-the-job, local work experience for teenagers 13-15 years of age as a way to increase their self-esteem, communication and leadership skills, as well as allow exposure to a work environment.

Our intern was **Gabriel Baldizzi**, an astute young man who did an excellent job juggling the many different needs of a government office.

Above is a photo of him receiving a certificate of merit from my staff, Hannah Nesich (left) and Jillian Nadiak (right) for a job well done.

In July, I had the pleasure of dining with a wonderful group of **college professors from Mexico** who are enrolled in the Summer Intensive English Program at the State University of New York at New Paltz (SUNY). The faculty was given a taste of home when we enjoyed authentic Mexican cuisine catered by local New Paltz restaurant, Mexican Kitchen. We had a lively discussion as well, ranging from the history of the region and the 2016 election cycle to the importance of both foreign language exchange initiatives and the United States' growing immigrant population. This nation is built on immigration, making us unique on a global scale.

Welcoming in individuals from different cultures is at the core of who we are. It is essential for our lifeblood to continue enriching our communities and creating a future that is more prosperous and full of opportunity for all. I look forward to participating in this event for years to come.

Legislative Advancements

<p><i>Comprehensive Family-Planning Legislation Passes Assembly</i></p> <p>Assembly Bill 8135-B (Cahill) enacts the "Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act", a measure that would prohibit a health insurance policy from imposing any cost-sharing requirements or other restriction or delays with respect to this coverage. It would also require health insurance policies to include coverage of all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs, devices, and products, as well as voluntary sterilization procedures, contraceptive education and counseling and related follow up services. Many states have made it virtually impossible for people who wish to exercise their legitimate, lawful right to family planning services to achieve that. Here in New York, we pride ourselves on making sure that right is protected.</p>	<p><i>Measure Allowing Rondout Creek Waterfront Areas to Apply for Further Funding Signed into Law</i></p> <p>A bill I sponsor that includes the Rondout Creek in the definition of "inland waterways" was signed into law (Chapter 154) in July 2016. This legislation makes communities along the Rondout Creek eligible for waterfront revitalization grants through New York State's Coastal and Inland Waterways Program. With additional resources now available to them, communities adjacent to the Creek can spearhead redevelopment initiatives that will enhance recreational and tourist access to the water and carry out comprehensive environmental protection plans so that the scenic beauty of these areas can be enjoyed for generations to come.</p>
<p><i>Bill Expanding Consumer Protection with Hospital Charges Advances in Assembly</i></p> <p>The Assembly passed legislation that subjects hospital charges for emergency services to the independent dispute resolution process established to protect against excessive emergency charges.</p> <p>Assembly bill 10470, which I sponsor, would also require a community hospital in Ulster County and the county's largest insurer to engage a mutually agreeable third-party mediator to help settle financial disputes that are preventing the settlement of an in-network services contract. Unfortunately, the Senate failed to pass this measure.</p>	<p><i>Legislation Renaming Part of Route 32 After Fallen Kingston Soldier Passes Both Houses</i></p> <p>I am honored to be the sponsor of legislation that designates a portion of Route 32 in Ulster County as the "Private First Class Douglas Cordo Memorial Highway" in honor of his ultimate sacrifice during active duty (A.9028-B). Doug Cordo is an individual who was loved in our community. It is important that we remember the great sacrifice of people like Private First Class Douglas Cordo and the others who have given their life in honor of this country. This bill passed both the Senate and Assembly and is awaiting action by the Governor.</p>
<p><i>Assembly Passes Bill to Strengthen Oversight of Health Insurance Companies</i></p> <p>Assembly Bill 10442 (Cahill) would broaden the Department of Financial Service's authority to take additional actions to protect policyholders, creditors and the general public, when an insurer is in a hazardous financial condition, without having to put the insurer into rehabilitation or liquidation.</p>	<p><i>Step Therapy Legislation Passes Senate and Assembly</i></p> <p>A bill that would provide patients and healthcare providers with an expedited utilization review and appeals process to override step therapy protocols governing access to prescription drugs passed both houses. Assembly Bill 2834-D (Titone), which I support as a co-sponsor, is awaiting action by the Governor.</p>

Community Spotlight



The Forsyth Nature Center has long been a wellspring of education and vivid beauty in the region. The preserve now sees up to 60,000 visitors a year, providing opportunities for families to get up close with the environment and a variety of critters – sometimes, very close.

"We don't have exotic animals, but when you take a three or four- year-old and make nose-to-nose contact with a goat, there is a connection made," Mark DeDea, the Forsyth Nature Center Caretaker, said. "You see the look on that child's face, you see the

awe. But you also know it is therapeutic.”

This approach of encouraging mindfulness is a significant part of Forsyth’s philosophy, according to DeDea, who’s been with the facility since 2003. Forsyth, which recently celebrated its 80th birthday, didn’t start off as a nature center. Rather, its origins are far more grizzly than expected.

To everyone’s shock, a bear wandered into Forsyth Park in 1936. Some park employees constructed an enclosure for it and eventually, a menagerie of animals was brought in from the Catskill Game Farm to create what was initially a zoo – Forsyth Park Zoo, to be exact.

“Half the visitors didn’t like the idea of a bear being in a cage and the other half, it reminded them of the ‘good old days,’” DeDea said. “We thought, ‘Why not take advantage of our natural surroundings, not put animals in cages and give them different settings? Get rid of the Z word, make more gardens and make it more inviting for adults to come out and enjoy their lunch hour?’”

Forsyth Park Zoo was changed to Forsyth Nature Center in 2004 as a result of these productive discussions. DeDea said Forsyth is still a work in progress but that the rebranding of the center has been successful over the years. Part of that reimagining has been getting Forsyth on the tech curve.

As technology has evolved and become more ubiquitous in all industries including parks and recreation, Forsyth has made efforts to stay with the trend. Currently, Forsyth’s trail has 10 stations along their audio tour, each stop providing an informational look at the individual animal.

While the incorporation of technology is certainly an area of attraction, DeDea thinks that the concept of slowing down to truly enjoy one’s surroundings is one of the most inviting aspects of nature centers and preserves. He said he loves to see parents sit and watch their children experience this, because when kids learn to adopt that speed, they feel more compelled to protect, care for and respect their environment.

“I always think when I am leading a bird walk, ‘We are animals, we are moving faster than we should. We get caught up moving 100 miles per hour but the reality is, we need to slow down,’” he said. “I think we are going in that direction again and people are embracing the idea of slowing down. Parents in their 30s with kids are the biggest visitors here and kids embrace that tempo because they haven’t reached that point where everything moves so quickly.”

For more information on Forsyth Nature Center, visit <http://www.forsythnaturecenter.org/>. Better yet, pay them a visit!

In compliance with Assembly ethics guidelines on messaging during campaign seasons, the next edition of this newsletter will be available after the November elections.

Contact Us!

District Office

Governor Clinton Building
1 Albany Avenue, Suite G-4,
Kingston, New York 12401

845-338-9610



[@AssemblymanCahill](https://www.facebook.com/AssemblymanCahill)



cahillk@nyassembly.gov

If you have a comment or suggestion as to what you would like to see in the next newsletter, please send me an email or contact me through my Facebook page.

Albany Office

Legislative Office Building
Room 716
Albany, New York
12248

518-455-4436