



COMMUNITY NEWS

Fall 2019



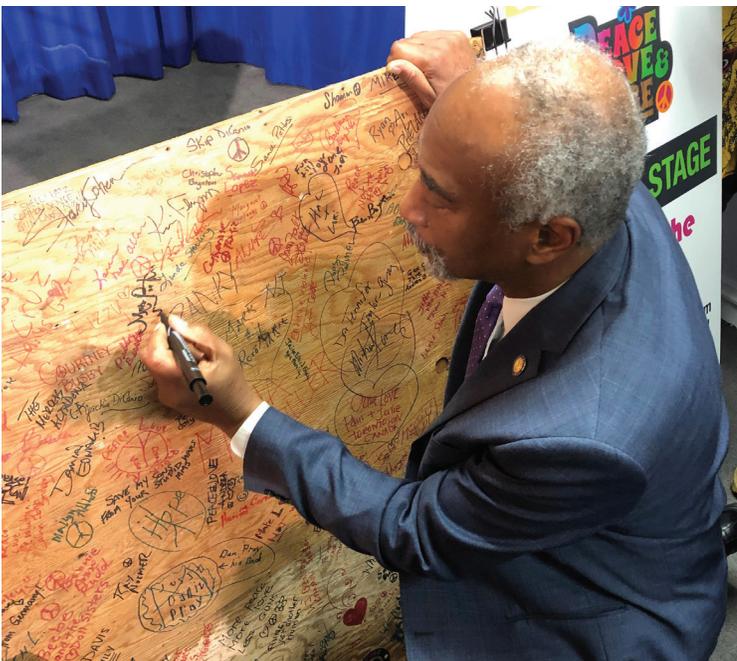
from Assemblyman

J. GARY PRETLOW

89th Assembly District

Friends,

As your representative in the New York State Assembly, I am pleased to deliver to my constituents state & local information happening within the 89th Assembly district. I hope the information provided will be helpful and if you haven't heard about some of these issues, I am elated that I could relay this information. With this newsletter, I hope to not only provide you with information but also inspire you to seek out more.



- Close the “Charleston Loophole” to prevent gun purchases from going forward by default when the National Instant Criminal Background check is still pending.
- Criminalize the manufacture, sale, and possession of firearms that cannot be detected by an X-ray machine or other scanning security devices.



GUN SAFETY

The Assembly was able to assemble a package of common-sense gun reforms that could potentially keep New Yorkers safe from dangerous weapons while still protecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners. The reforms will:

- Prohibit the possession, manufacture, transport, shipment, and sale of rapid-fire modification devices such as bump stocks.
- Establish Extreme Risk Protection Orders, so courts can prohibit high-risk individuals from purchasing or possessing firearms.
- Establish state standards to support municipal gun buyback programs to get guns off the street.
- Require firearms to be safely stored with a trigger lock or in a locked container when children are present or likely to be present.
- Keep firearms out of classrooms by limiting schools' ability to authorize the possession of a weapon on school grounds.

E-CIGARETTES BAN

New York State health officials voted to carry out Gov. Andrew Cuomo's executive action to ban sales of most flavored e-cigarettes. This ban would stand for 90 days as a piece of emergency legislation. It would need to be renewed to continue. The only two flavors customers will be able to buy are tobacco and menthol. It is undeniable that vaping companies are deliberately using flavors like bubblegum, Captain Crunch, and cotton candy to get young people hooked on e-cigarettes.

Continued on next page

The goal is to cut the number of children who vape. New York State's high school students' use of tobacco products rose 160% from 2014 to 2018. Surveys showed that 40% of 12th grade students in New York state had tried e-cigarettes. The ban will go into effect immediately, however, the Department of Health will give retailers until October 4th, before local health departments and the department's district offices, with state oversight, will start visiting in order to enforce the flavor ban.



Protect Yourself From Identity Theft

Identity theft, also known as identity fraud, is a crime in which an imposter obtains key pieces of personally identifiable information. These include Social Security or driver's license numbers in order to impersonate someone else. The data can be used to receive credit, merchandise, and services in the name of the victim, or to provide the thief with false credentials. In addition to running up debt, in rare cases, an imposter might provide false identification to police, creating a criminal record or leaving outstanding arrest warrants for the person whose identity was stolen. Pay attention to your personal information and here are some dos and don'ts to avoid compromising your data.

- DO ask why a merchant needs private information, how it will be used and secured, and whether it will be shared with others. Ask if you can choose to have it kept confidential.
- DO know the privacy policies of businesses you deal with and websites that you visit.
- DO register for the National "Do Not Call" Registry to reduce the possibility of telemarketing fraud.
- DO talk about privacy concerns with your children. Everyone should understand the importance of protecting personal information.
- DO ask about security procedures in your workplace. Find out who has access to your personal information and verify that records are put in a secure location. Ask about the disposal procedures for those records as well.
- DO guard your mail and trash against theft. Promptly remove letters from your mailbox and deposit outgoing mail in official post office boxes. Tear or shred documents that contain personal information before throwing them away.
- DON'T give credit card, debit card, or bank account information over the Internet or phone. Unless you've initiated the contact and/or you are dealing with an established business that you know.

- DON'T give your Social Security number (SSN) to anyone, except your employer, government agencies, lenders, and credit bureaus. It's all a privacy pirate needs to steal your identity; also, don't carry your SSN card.
- DON'T provide personal information to merchants or salesclerks that aren't required.
- DON'T reply to "spam," which is unwanted email messages that clutter up your computer in-box and slow your connection to the Internet. That tells a spammer that your email address is active. Instead, notify your Internet provider of the offender.
- DON'T use obvious, easy-to-guess passwords on your credit card, bank, and phone accounts. Avoid using your mother's maiden name, your birth date, or the last four digits of your SSN.



AT&T & NSSA Girls of Color Coding Camp

AT&T and Northeast STEM Starter Academy partnered to create the AT&T & NSSA Girls of Color Coding Camp, Mount Vernon's first free computer coding program for middle school girls of color in 7th & 8th grade. The program helps to address the gender gap as well as the diversity gap in the tech industry. It encourages the girls to enter the field of technology, specifically coding, an alarmingly male-dominant industry.

The free two-week program was made possible by a \$23,000 contribution from AT&T. It took place over the summer and taught computer coding basics and how computer science is utilized for social good through creating solutions to address issues impacting youth such as cyberbullying, online safety and being a good digital citizen.

NEW LICENSE PLATES FOR NY

Starting in April, all New Yorkers registering a vehicle will receive a new license plate. It's been ten years since the last license plates were issued. More than 324,000 New Yorkers voted on the latest design for the license plates. New Yorkers had the choice of selecting from and voting for five different license plate designs. Different backgrounds included the Mario Cuomo Bridge, two versions of the Statue of Liberty, the New York City skyline, and a montage of several NY landmarks, including the Statue of Liberty, the New York City skyline, the Montauk lighthouse on Long Island, Niagara Falls and a mountain range, with blue, white and orange coloring. The montage version won the election, with 49.7 percent of the vote. The Cuomo bridge version came in last with 9.7 percent of the vote. If you do decide to get the new plate, there is a \$25 fee and another \$20 if you want to keep the same plate number.

SENIORS

- The New York State Assembly was instrumental in making reverse mortgage products safer by providing strong consumer protections and regulating the activities of reverse mortgage lenders in New York State during the process of managing the loan and upon foreclosure.
- Requires government agencies to send a notice of renewal for households receiving the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE). To ensure that seniors know when they must renew their applications.
- Provided for the creation of a drug guide for medications commonly used by seniors to explain purpose, function, and everyday drug interactions, especially with alcohol consumption.

VETERANS

Veterans Day 2019 was Monday, November 11th. The residents of the 89th district want to thank Veterans that have sacrificed for our country. This holiday initially was known as Armistice Day and commemorated those who fought in World War I. The holiday's name change to Veterans Day signifies the commemoration of all Veterans throughout the



nation's history. Regarding Mount Vernon, I have obtained a fifty-thousand dollar grant for the completion of a Gold-Star Mothers Monument to honor the families of our fallen. Completing this monument is of utmost importance and I hope this will provide recognition for sacrifices made by United States Soldiers in the district.

89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



CLIP AND RETURN



Your questions or comments are important to me. If you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss with me, please indicate and return to:

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Name:

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from Assemblyman
**J. Gary
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FALL 2019

Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow



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