



## 127th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT UPDATES

### Constituent Service

Recently, many constituents have contacted my office about issues with obtaining unemployment insurance. Many were put on hold for 2-4 hours or waited months for a response from the Department of Labor regarding their application. If you apply for unemployment and haven't gotten a response in two weeks, please don't hesitate to give my office a call - **WE CAN HELP!**

With the I-81 project well underway, we have received many calls regarding sound barriers in several areas of construction. Property owners in the Caughdenoy Rd area of Clay, and in the Thompson Rd neighborhoods of Cicero have expressed concerns that increased traffic from the change over of I-481 to I-81 will increase noise levels in the area. Once construction begins on the Micron campus, the DOT will test noise levels and determine if sound barriers are required to protect nearby residents. Similarly, as the sound wall is almost complete on the flyover bridge near Kenneth Drive in North Syracuse, the DOT will send engineers to determine if additional sound barriers on the bridge will be necessary.

**In Cicero** Work on the I-81 project continues with some major accomplishments and traffic changes. The \$18 million flyover ramp in Cicero has been completed, expected to streamline travel and reduce traffic congestion. The northbound lane of the South Bay Bridge over I-81 is completed and work has begun on the southbound lane which is expected to be finished in late November.

The roundabout on Route 31 at Thompson Rd and Torchwood Lane is nearing the halfway mark. If all goes according to schedule, beginning in September, the entrance to Thompson Rd from Route 31 will be closed off, while the entrance to Torchwood will re-open. The construction there is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

The North Area Meals on Wheels broke ground on new developments at their facility on August 7th. They are expanding their warehouse facility as well as adding solar farm to supply power - a great way to reduce their carbon footprint.

**In Clay** On July 24th, residents had an opportunity to voice their concerns about Micron at 3 sessions held at Liverpool High School. They spoke to a panel of representatives from the U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Commerce with the option to submit written comments until August 11th. Hundreds of community members brought up environmental issues, citing the high water usage, level of pollution, and loss of wetland habitat. Other concerns included the number of permanent jobs available for locals, long-term construction and the potential increase in housing costs. Local business owners and representatives expressed gratitude and openness towards Micron's continued investment, as well as optimism for a much-needed revitalization of the area. In addition, the short amount of time to comment on the environmental impact report led to a call for more community involvement and representation along the way. The feedback from these hearings, and comments submitted online, will be addressed in a final impact report from the Onondaga Industrial Development Agency and the federal CHIPS Programs Office by October.



**In Manlius** On August 6th, Town officials and I gathered with dedicated neighborhood residents to mark the start of an improved Skyridge Water District. The new water system, located on Horseshoe Lane will replace an aging tank with two new tanks and an innovative pumping system to supply the 27 homes there with better water pressure and a more reliable source of water.

On July 10th, the Village held an economic development roundtable that brought state, county, town and village stakeholders together. An open discussion between the representatives, identified many potential projects and accessible funding. Ideas include additional water infrastructure projects, opportunities for inter-municipal cooperation, small business support, real estate development, housing, tourism & recreation, workforce development, and co-working spaces. As a result the Town of Manlius Economic Development Committee is already in motion with new energy to improve the area.

**In Cazenovia** A new group called 9 Fresh, has purchased Cazenovia College for \$9.5 million and will begin community outreach to assess how the public envisions the future of the campus. It will likely be transformed into a mixed-use property with housing, commercial businesses, and recreational facilities. Public meetings and presentations are expected to take place in the coming months to show the various types of businesses and residential developments that are on the table.

**To Contact our Office:**  
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## SPEAKER CARL HEASTIE TOURS OCC MICRON SIMULATION LAB

In June, I had the pleasure of taking Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie on a tour of the impressive resources preparing Onondaga Community College students for careers in New York's emerging advanced manufacturing industry. As part of his annual statewide tour, the Speaker joined me at the Whitney Applied Technology Center to see the wide range of facilities designated to support future technicians. Along with OCC's President, Dr. Warren Hilton, we explored Micron's Cleanroom Simulation Lab, the Welding Training Center, HVAC Training Center, CNC Machining Training Center, and the Heavy Equipment Repair Training Center.

Operational by the fall semester, the Cleanroom was constructed with a \$5 million NY State investment, paired with \$5 million each from Micron and Onondaga County. Much of the tools and equipment in these facilities were donated by Micron and will offer students real-world experience to help prepare them for a career in the emerging semiconductor industry that will revolutionize our region.

After touring the facilities, students from around the world, along with Syracuse natives, sat with us to tell us about the impact of these programs on their budding careers. Studying mechanical technology, computer science, and advanced manufacturing, OCC students shared their love for the coursework along with their ambition to join the growing tech ecosystem right here in New York State. It was a pleasure to hear firsthand about each student's experiences as they jump into the deep end of this high demand field, as well as what the OCC community means to them.



### The 2025-26 Budget Session Delivers

Our Legislative Session in Albany ended in June, with several major accomplishments for CNY.

**SUNY Upstate Hospital** will receive **\$450 million** for a new annex. An entirely new Emergency Department will be constructed that will house more than double the rooms in the current one. There will also be more desperately needed Operating Rooms and a new more modern facility maintaining its official designation as a Burn Center.

**\$116 million** will support **water infrastructure** necessary for the **Micron** semiconductor facility in Clay.

The budget allocates **\$450 million** for **school districts** in the

127th district which is a **\$19 million increase** from last year's budget. Also, a **bell-to-bell cell phone ban** policy will be implemented, along with the budget so that students can stay focused in the classrooms.

The budget increases access to **higher education** so that all New Yorkers can pursue their professional dreams. Students ages 25-55 wishing to work in high-demand fields will be provided with free community college tuition, books, and fees. Growing our workforce is key to ensuring success for Micron and overall economic growth in our region. Statewide, the budget gives SUNY campuses **\$2.5 billion** for campus improvements and increases funding for college opportunity programs to \$209 million.

*My door is always open, and I encourage you to visit or contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.*



The 39th edition of the Syracuse Jazz Fest is in the books!

Wednesday kicked off Jazz Fest in Downtown Syracuse with local and regional acts playing non-stop from 5:00 'til 11:00 pm. with performances in a relaxed club atmosphere at twelve great venues from Hanover Square to the Armory.

Five days of regional, national and international performers brought an exciting mix of jazz, soul and rock music to CNY. The incredible energy of Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, The Spinners, Gunhild Carling and the Furious Bongos, to the sweet sounds of Donald Harrison Jr., Steve Smith & Vitale Information and the rock of Hall of Famer Todd Rundgren, gave everybody something to cheer for.

The Grand Finale on Sunday afternoon at Hendricks Chapel where the visiting Spellman College Glee Club sang their message of joy with "Gospel To Jazz: Return to Community III".

Next year will be the **40th Anniversary** of Jazz Fest! We plan to make it another one to remember.



# Summer Recap in the District

My 19th annual Lifesaver's Blood Drive was held once again at Driver's Village on July 15th this year. 113 people braved the heat to come out and donate. The Red Cross was able to collect 110 units of blood which have the potential to impact 268 people. Over the past 19 years we have collected a total of 2,324 units and are hoping to break our record of 182 units next year on **July 21, 2026 celebrating 2 decades so MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Prizes and sandwiches from Vince's Gourmet were offered as a special thank you to our donors. The grand prizes were a 15-ticket box from the **Syracuse Mets** with food and drinks included and a beautiful walnut cutting board set donated by **Stickley**. Other prizes were donated by **Texas Roadhouse, Pastabilities, Water Safari, Driver's Village, and the Red Cross.**

As always, our great local musicians entertained the donors all day long. Colin Aberdeen kicked off early followed by **Mark Nanni, Skip Murphy with Big Dave Snyder & Jim Lamica, Jane Zell (pic at the top), Ronnie Leigh (with Trotter), Donna Colton with Sam Troublemaker and the Thrift Store Gypsies.** My sister-in-law **Joey Nigro** & her husband **John Nilsen** (pic on the left) have been making this a party as the house band since our first drive in 2007 providing music and the sound system all day.



## Recycling News

### ELECTRONICS

We held our first Electronics Recycling event of the year on July 12th in the DMV lot on East Taft Rd. It was in the middle of more than a week of 90+ temperatures.

Over 1,700 cars and trucks drove through loaded with their used electronics. Partnering with Sunnking Sustainable Solutions, our teams handled 147,672 pounds – over 73 tons – of electronics.

We want to thank two special volunteers: Tim Krueger, a teacher at North Syracuse Junior High, and Phil Cleary a retired teacher from Mainstreet School, currently a NYSUT PAC coordinator, for coming out to help on such a beautiful day. Every local needs a leader like Phil.



These events encourage a circular usage of refurbished materials, reintroduce rare earth metals and other raw materials into the manufacturing cycle, and prevent toxic metals from leaking into the environment at landfills.



### PAINT

On May 17th I sponsored a Paint Recycling Event in partnership with GreenSheen Paint. It was also held in the DMV lot in North Syracuse, where 577 cars came throughout the day. After sorting and weighing, a total of 50,601 pounds of latex/water/acrylic-based paints and coatings as well as 4,693 pounds of oil-based products were collected. That's approximately the same weight as 22 small cars!

Along with paint, GreenSheen also recycles the bucket and the lid to ensure that the entire product stays out of the landfill. A closed-loop proprietary process that remains sustainable from beginning to end, allows them to up-cycle paint containers back into new paint containers.



**Assemblyman Al Stirpe's  
Free Recycling Events  
Save the Date!**



**Electronics Recycling Drop-Off Event**



**Saturday  
Nov 1st  
9:00 am -  
12:30 pm**

Put old electronics back to good use with free recycling services, courtesy of Assemblyman Al Stirpe and Sunnking Electronics.

**East Syracuse-Minoa High School  
6400 Fremont Rd, E Syracuse NY 13212**

## A Productive Legislative Session – 10 Bills Passed

*This year's legislative session ends with movement on several bills that my colleagues and I have worked on tirelessly. I am pleased to share that ten bills I directly sponsored have passed the Assembly.*

### **A.7464B – Retail-to-Retail ABC Law Reform**

Allows certain retail licensees, such as bars and restaurants, to purchase a limited quantity of alcohol from liquor stores. When retail licensees run out of liquor, they cannot obtain more product until their weekly or biweekly wholesale shipment arrives – marking a loss of revenue and a curbing of business.

Having passed both houses, this piece of legislation largely supports small businesses without undoing the wholesaler-retailer relationship..

### **A.4127A – Interconnection for Renewable Energy**

Authorizes and directs the Department of Public Service to conduct a study on ways to speed up the connection of renewable energy projects to the electrical grid. Keeping in line with the state's climate and renewable energy goals, this study will analyze interconnection processes and their impact on the electric grid. The Department of Public Service will have one year from the date it becomes law to issue its findings.

### **A.7377 – Flood Mitigation in the Oswego River Basin**

Establishes a stakeholder group in the Oswego River Basin for flood mitigation. Previously passed and vetoed by the governor in the 2023-2024 Legislative Session, this bill reintroduces the importance of studying water releases in the flood-prone region and enhancing communication between stakeholders that often have conflicting priorities.

### **A.2007 – Community Assistance for a College or University Closure**

Offers technical assistance for communities that experience a college or university closure within their municipality. Many communities are tied to a higher education institution to generate revenue and sustain their local economy. This bill, which has passed the Assembly and the Senate, gives these communities access to strategic planning and economic development expertise to keep themselves afloat.

### **A.8411 – Support for Employee-Owned Businesses in New York State**

Extends the advisory panel within the Department of Economic Development to best advise employee-owned businesses in New York State. This panel would have one more year to recommend and report on ways to best support employee-owned businesses, as they provide a source of stability for New York's economy.

### **A.1473 – Encouraging "Adopt-a-Lake" Programs**

Clarifies a gap in the state's Environmental Conservation Law and prohibits activities related to the Adopt-A-Municipal Lake program from being charged fees. This way, volunteer groups that choose to "adopt" a local lake can reduce and remove litter without incurring fees from the Department of Environmental Conservation. This piece of legislation has been signed by the governor and will take effect sixty days after becoming law.

### **A.3922 – Awarding NYS Craft Beverage Retailers**

Recognizes New York State liquor retailers by establishing annual awards for New York State liquor, beer, cider, and mead brewers, made from products grown and harvested within our state. This piece of legislation uplifts local retailers who work for and serve the State of New York.

### **A.4179A – Amending Language around Digital Healthcare Companies**

Clarifies the existing law to reflect that digital healthcare technology companies do not provide temporary employment services or do not employ healthcare workers directly. These platforms only provide an online marketplace where healthcare workers can pick up per diem shifts at healthcare facilities.

### **A.7040B – Establishing a "for-profit club" ABC license**

Creates a new 'for-profit club' license within the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law. Organizations that operate solely for recreational, social, patriotic, political, benevolent, communal workspace, corporate dining space, or athletic purposes would be permitted to obtain a liquor license.

### **A.8597 – Allowing big game hunting with rifles in Onondaga County**

Extends big game hunting with rifles in Onondaga County until October 1, 2027. All counties but two allow hunters to use rifles in New York: Onondaga and Livingston. With 700,000 New Yorkers participating in big game hunting and an overpopulation of deer, this bill will allow the continuation of big game hunting with rifles in Onondaga County.

*As always, there's more to be done, and I'm looking forward to continuing our work together in the next session.*

