



SENATOR JIM ALESI



Community Update 04/04/12

NY Works Projects Announced for Finger Lakes Region



I am pleased to announce a \$32 million investment in the Finger Lakes Region for New York Works projects that will repair 227 miles of roads and 10 bridges. Funding for these projects was included in the 2012-2013 State Budget passed last week and will be administered by the NY Works Program and Taskforce.

During this year's budget negotiations I fought hard to ensure that the Finger Lakes Region received its fair share of transportation funding. With Governor Cuomo as a strong ally, we secured millions of dollars for our region to help accelerate the repair, replacement and improvement of our roads and bridges. Most importantly, this crucial funding will improve the safety of our residents. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business, I recognize the positive impact that the NY Works program will have on our region's economy – allowing for vital infrastructure improvements while creating tens of thousands of jobs.

In addition to the NY Works funding, the 2012-2013 State Budget also provides for \$4.6 million in Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding, helping Monroe County's towns and villages undergo local projects.

The individual transportation projects in the Finger Lakes Region can be found [here](#). For additional information on this year's budget, please click [here](#).

Refrigerator and Freezer Recycling Program



NYSEG and RG&E are offering a recycling program for your old, working, second refrigerator or freezer. The second refrigerator or freezer in your garage or basement could be costing you up to \$150 per year to run. Those who choose to participate in the recycling program will receive \$30 and their old unit will be removed for free.

NYSEG and RG&E customers can call 1-866-691-0021 to schedule a free pickup. RG&E customers can click [here](#) to view eligibility requirements and NYSEG customers can click [here](#) to do the same. Participants will also receive six compact fluorescent lights free when their old unit is picked up.

JACO Environmental will dismantle and recycle the old refrigerators and freezers, converting 95% of each appliance into recyclable glass, metals and plastics.

April is Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month



While on Monday we observed the fifth annual "World Autism Awareness Day," throughout April we celebrate "Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month."

These important dates provide us with a very special opportunity to continue our efforts to enhance public awareness about autism, and to work together to ensure that families and individuals have the support they need to overcome the serious challenges that autism can present.

I was proud to help enact a new [law](#) that will help provide families coping with autism access to critically important care and support. Under the new statute, which Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law in November, health insurance companies are now required to provide coverage for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of autism spectrum disorders. Insurance companies will also be prohibited from terminating or refusing to renew, change, or issue a policy solely because someone has autism.

With the enactment of this law, which takes effect on November 1, 2012, New York became the twenty-ninth state to require health insurance coverage for conditions relating to autism spectrum disorder.

When it comes to autism, early diagnosis and treatment is essential, and this important new law will help thousands of families across New York State who struggle to obtain -- and pay for -- proper care for loved ones affected by autism.

The challenges presented by autism continue to touch the lives of thousands of children and families in our local community. During Autism Spectrum Disorder Awareness Month, and indeed throughout the entire year, let's continue working together to help our families, friends and fellow New Yorkers overcome these tremendous challenges.

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