



SENATOR JIM ALESI

Community Update: Week Ending 7/30/10



MASTERMINDS NAMES REGIONAL TEAM OF THE YEAR

Three high school students in the 55th Senate District were recently named to the MasterMinds Regional Team for 2010. Congratulations to Naveen Maliakkal of Pittsford-Mendon High School, Justin Owen of Irondequoit High School, and Daniel Tuke of Rush-Henrietta High School for their successful MasterMinds seasons and for earning a spot on the Rochester/Genesee Valley Regional Team. Congratulations also to Craig Carlisle of East Rochester High School for being named to the second team. Masterminds, an academic competition for high school students, quizzes students in a wide range of categories.

ASSISTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

July 26th was the 20th Anniversary of the passage of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), landmark legislation enacted in 1990 to prohibit discrimination based on disabilities, similar to protections against discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, and other characteristics. Among the many disabilities covered by the ADA, is the loss, or partial loss, of vision, which affects millions of children each year.

To reduce the number of children that suffer from vision impairments, August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month, and Children's Vision and Learning Month, and a heavy emphasis is placed on encouraging parents to have their children's vision tested at regular pediatric appointments. For those children with permanent vision disabilities, or for children with other special needs, New York State offers many worthwhile programs and services to help families cope with children with special needs.

For more information on statewide programs for children with special needs, and for early intervention programs, please visit the New York State Department of Health's web site at www.health.state.ny.us, and search "Early Intervention Program."

EMPIRE STATE GAMES A SUCCESS FOR WESTERN NEW YORK 2011 GAMES TO BE HELD IN ROCHESTER



This week marked the 32nd annual New York State Empire State Games, held in Buffalo. Once again, amateur athletes from Monroe County joined fellow team members in neighboring counties to represent the Western Region - arguably the Games' most dominating Region since the beginning.

In 1978, New York State revolutionized amateur athletics with the inception of the Empire State Games. Since then, more than 40 states throughout the nation have instituted state games programs, attracting more than a half-million participants each year. As one of the largest amateur athletic programs in the United States, and patterned after the Olympic Games, the Empire State games has grown considerably, and now offers four distinct programs to New Yorkers: the Empire State Summer Games; Winter Games; Games for the Physically Challenged; and Senior Games. This year, more than 30,000 residents and amateur athletes participated in spring tryouts, in an effort to represent their region as a finalist in the Summer Games.

I commend all the athletes, coaches, volunteers and organizers for continuing New York State's legacy of exceptional athletic achievements, and I thank the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for their ongoing support to amateur athletes across New York. With such a tremendous history, it is extremely exciting that the 2011 Empire State Games will be held in Rochester, between July 27-31. Our region's top colleges and universities are expected to be host venues for four days of activities and events, as our community hosts nearly 6,000 athletes and 20,000 spectators.

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