



SENATOR JIM ALESI



Community Update: 04/18/12

East High's Girls Basketball Team Honored in Albany



Congratulations to the East High School Varsity Girls Basketball Team on their recent Class A New York State Championship! The team traveled to Albany today where they were honored for becoming the first girls basketball team from the Rochester City School District to win a State Title.

On Saturday, March 17, 2012, before family and friends that traveled to Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, New York, the 2011-12 East High School Varsity Girls Basketball Team won the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A title by defeating Averill Park by a score of 43-35.

Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated coaching and strategic planning. The athletic talent displayed by this team is due in great part to the efforts of Head Coach Mario Velazquez, and Assistant Coaches Lisa Turchetti and Ken Sutton, skilled and inspirational mentors, respected for their ability to develop potential into excellence.

Both on the court and in the classroom, the team members have proven themselves to be an

unbeatable combination of talent, reflecting favorably on their school and our community. They will serve as role models for their classmates and future students at East High School. I am proud to congratulate the 2011-12 East High School Varsity Girls Basketball Team on their New York State Class A Championship!

Celebrate National Healthy Schools Day April 24th



Last month, I sponsored a legislative resolution honoring April 24th as “[National Healthy Schools Day](#)” in the State of New York. On Tuesday, April 24th, parents, teachers, school nurses, faculty and staff will celebrate the importance of a healthy school environment for all students.

Many schools take this opportunity to promote dialogue about ways to improve indoor air quality, water quality and green cleaning through the use of low-emission products. Children are among those most vulnerable to the many health hazards that exist in our world and it is our responsibility to protect them from harmful products, especially those containing dangerous toxins.

In recent years I have proudly sponsored legislation that focuses on children’s health and safety including bills that would: require schools to use “green” cleaning products; ban chromate copper arsenate (CCA) in pressure-treated lumber once commonly used in wood playgrounds; ban mercury in schools; ban lead in children’s jewelry; and prohibit the use of bisphenol-A (BPA) in baby bottles and water bottles. I have also sponsored legislation that would require all school districts to test their drinking water fountains annually for lead contamination and report those findings to the public, ensuring that schools are providing safe and healthy drinking water to students, faculty and staff.

I encourage everyone to help make National Healthy Schools Day a success!

Local Fire Departments Hold Open Houses This Weekend



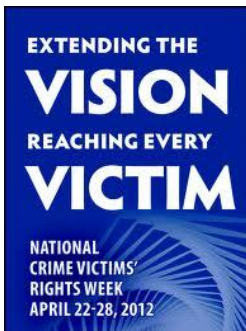
As part of National Volunteer Week, April 15th-21st, fire departments across Monroe County will hold open houses as they participate in [RecruitNY](#), an initiative of the [Firemen's Association of New York State](#) (FASNY). This weekend, April 21st-22nd, departments will hold recruitment-based open houses for those considering becoming a volunteer firefighter.

Growing up in a family which served with volunteer fire and ambulance companies, I understand how vital recruitment is to the volunteer fire service. That is why I was the original author of legislation that created a scholarship program to increase the recruitment and retention of volunteers.

I was also proud to sponsor legislation to increase the benefits received by totally disabled volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers in New York State. Volunteer firefighters who are injured in the course of their volunteer service are eligible under state law to receive workers' compensation for their injuries. The state has enacted these benefits in recognition that these volunteers provide enormously important services to our communities.

The open houses this weekend are designed to offer potential volunteers with a glimpse of the individual fire departments and provide those interested in becoming volunteers a chance to ask questions. Click [here](#) to view a complete list of participating Monroe County departments.

Recognizing Crime Victims' Rights Week: April 22nd-28th



During my tenure in the Legislature, I have committed myself to protecting the rights of the millions of men and women that have been victims of crimes. Too often, these individuals experience discrimination in our courts and in our communities and suffer great physical and emotional pain. Next week, April 22nd-28th we recognize crime victims and those who dedicate themselves to working with crime victims during [National Crime Victims' Rights Week](#).

The [Monroe County/City of Rochester Coalition for Crime Victims](#) is holding their annual Joint Proclamation at the Monroe County Crime Victims' Resource Center on April 19th. The [Walk for Crime Victims' Rights](#) will be held on April 28th. As a staunch advocate for protective rights of crime victims, I am committed to increasing awareness of victims' rights and I continue to support legislation that stresses a zero tolerance for violence. We must keep all crime victims in our hearts and minds, and do all we can to assist them.



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