



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday and welcome to the April 16 edition of my Weekly Wrap!

**BIG happenings this week:**

- The J&J COVID-19 vaccine was halted immediately over health concerns.
- An article by the New York Post details what's in the Excluded Workers Fund.
- A statement from the NYSDOT announces their \$2.6M project in Rensselaer.

**Other important news:**

- I had the opportunity to be interviewed on Neal Asbury's Made in America.
- We honored active duty military members at the Yellow Ribbon Day Ceremony.
- We celebrated the opening of a local business in Saratoga Springs.
- National Public Safety telecommunicators week recognizes behind the scenes heroes, and we visited some of the dispatch centers in the 43rd Senate District.
- Boat US supports two NYS Senate bills that aim to maintain full operating season at the Erie Canal.
- Great news for Saratoga Springs Race Course!

You will find more news and information in the Wrap below. As always, I want to hear from YOU. If you have a comment, question, or concern, please email me at [jordan@nysenate.gov](mailto:jordan@nysenate.gov) or call my office at (518) 371-2751. Thank you for reading and subscribing to my Weekly Wrap. It's an honor and a privilege serving you! – **Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District**

**J&J vaccine rollout halted until further notice**

**STATEMENT FROM NEW YORK STATE HEALTH  
COMMISSIONER DR. HOWARD ZUCKER  
REGARDING JOHNSON & JOHNSON VACCINE**

"Today the CDC and FDA issued a statement recommending a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine out of an abundance of caution. New York State will follow the CDC and FDA recommendation and pause the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine statewide immediately today while these health and safety agencies evaluate next steps. All appointments for Johnson & Johnson vaccines today at New York State mass vaccination sites will be honored with the Pfizer vaccine.

"As the CDC and FDA have said, any adverse events related to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine 'appear to be extremely rare' and, 'People who have received the J&J vaccine who develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination should contact their health care provider.'

"I am in constant contact with the federal government and we will update New Yorkers as more information becomes available."

**###**

The statement above was released on Tuesday, April 13 about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine rollout.

**Yellow Ribbon Day Ceremony in Halfmoon**



Late last week, we honored our men and women in the armed forces, and paid tribute to our active military members for all they do for our country at the Town of Halfmoon Yellow Ribbon Day Ceremony!

This year, donations were accepted for NY2 Blue Star Mothers of America. Their goal was to package 200 Freedom Boxes. It was great to stand alongside my colleagues Senator Jim Tedisco and Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh. Also pictured is Director of Saratoga Veterans Service Agency Frank McClement, Craig Hayner, Saratoga County Clerk, Paul O'Keefe, and Anna Nickerson. Thank you to the "Yellow Ribbon Lady," Carol Hotaling and Halfmoon Town Supervisor Kevin Tollisen.

I was honored to sponsor a resolution along with my colleague Senator Jim Tedisco proclaiming April 9 as Yellow Ribbon Day in NYS.

Donations can be made year-round. For more information, email [capitalregion2bsm@gmail.com](mailto:capitalregion2bsm@gmail.com). Donations can also be dropped off at the Halfmoon Town Hall.

## Supporting our local libraries

### *Senate District 43 Libraries*

#### **Columbia County**

Chatham Public Library  
Kinderhook Library  
Germantown Library  
Claverack Library  
Hudson Area Library  
North Chatham Library  
New Lebanon Library  
Livingston Free Library  
Valatie Free Library  
Philmont Public Library  
Upper Hudson Library System  
Roeliff Jansen Community Library

#### **Saratoga County**

Arvilla E. Diver Library(Schaghticoke)  
Saratoga Springs  
Schuylerville Public Library  
Waterford Public Library  
Stillwater Free Library  
Mechanicville District Public Library  
Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library

#### **Rensselaer County**

West Sand lake  
East Greenbush Public Library  
Grafton Community Library  
Stephentown Memorial Library  
Petersburgh Public Library  
Poestenskill Library  
Troy Public Library  
Troy Public Library Lansingburgh Branch  
Valley Falls Library  
Rensselaer Public Library  
North Greenbush Library  
Castleton Public Library  
Cheney Library, Hoosick Falls  
Brunswick Community Library  
Berlin Free Library  
Nassau Free Library

#### **Washington County**

Cambridge Library  
Easton Public Library



Although National Library was last week, I want to continue to recognize and support our local libraries by sharing this helpful list with you. Happy reading!

## **Ribbon cutting for local business owner, Will Schrade**





Congratulations to Will Schrade on the opening of his new GEICO Office on Broadway in Saratoga! Wishing nothing but success for you and your business, Will!

Visit his website [here](#).

Visit his Facebook page [here](#).

Give his office a call at (518) 245-1600

Visit the office at [506 Broadway Saratoga Springs, NY 12866](#)

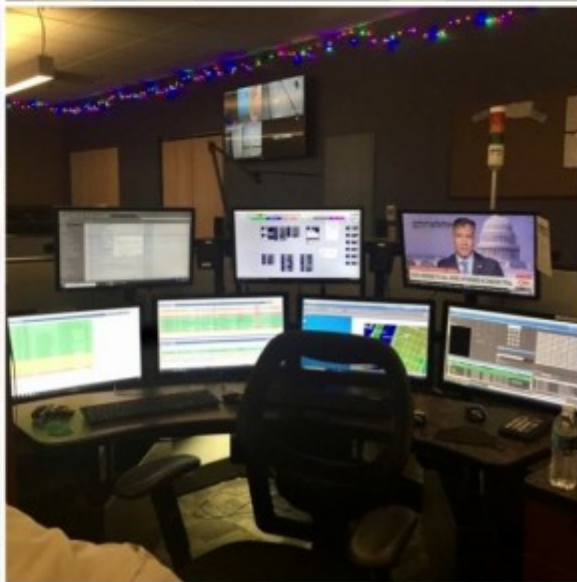
**Thanking our NYS dispatchers**



This week was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, and we thank all of our NYS dispatchers who are there to answer the call 24/7/365. I made a few visits to Dispatch Centers around District 43 that are pictured below.

**Rensselaer County 911, Columbia County EMS/911, & Columbia County Fire Center**

# Rensselaer County 911





# Columbia County EMS/911





# Columbia County Fire Training Center

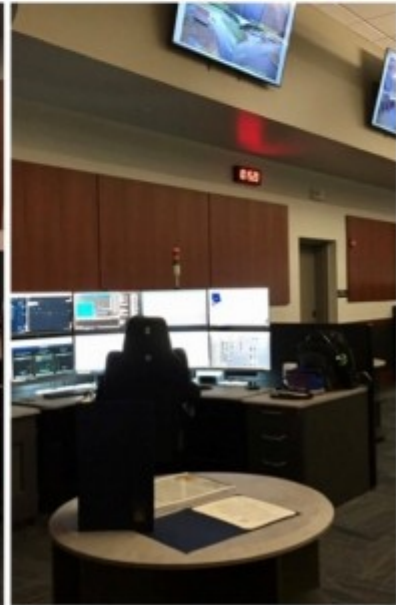


It was great to be able to stop by Rensselaer County 911, Columbia County NY 911 and the Columbia County Fire Center (where the police academy class were having their police training) yesterday!

They are quite literally the FIRST of the first responders. Not only do they help calm and reassure callers, but they simultaneously dispatch police, fire, and ambulance services as needed, and give them information before arriving to a scene. Dispatchers are behind the scene heroes, and we thank them for all that they do to keep our communities safe.

**Saratoga County 911 and Washington County 911**

# SARATOGA COUNTY 911 DISPATCH CENTER



# WASHINGTON COUNTY 911 DISPATCH CENTER



It was great visiting the Saratoga County and Washington County 911 Dispatch Centers today!

The Saratoga County 911 Dispatch Center at the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office is now housed in a brand new state of the art facility, where I was able to meet Director Steve Gordon and 33-year veteran George Brown. The dispatch center was built with 16" concrete walls and a double roof prepared for any type of catastrophic event. The new building includes space for 235 employees. The new facility brings five different departments under one roof, Sheriff, Public Health, Emergency Services, Probation and 9-1-1.

The Washington County 911 Dispatch Center receives and dispatches calls for 35 fire departments, nine of which are in the state of Vermont, 10 EMS agencies, of which two are in Vermont and 10 law enforcement agencies overall. I was kindly greeted by Board of Supervisors Chair Samuel Hall, along with Director Glen Gosnell, and Deputy Director Timothy Hardy.



The work that the men and women in these centers do is amazing, and we can't thank them enough for their service to our communities!

## Saratoga County Veterans Peer Connection group



### April 2021 Activities

The Saratoga County Veterans Peer Connection Program pairs established veterans with returning veterans who are experiencing post-traumatic stress or other struggles adjusting to life back home. These personalized, informal pairings yield relationships intended to ease the transition from combat to civilian life including the development of a support network, access to available resources, and encouragement to set goals and move forward.

As part of this program, we also offer numerous events and activities through the year to help veterans connect.

**Coffee Night: Every Tuesday – 5 – 6:30 pm** at Saratoga Coffee Traders on Broadway in Saratoga Springs. Coffee and sandwiches provided. No agenda, just socially distanced socializing

**Women's Walking Group: Every Thursday – 5 pm** – all female veterans and family members are welcome. Our first day back will be 4/15 at Halfmoon Town Park. Contact the office if interested, so that we can keep you up to date on the location each week.

**Cooking with Hank: April 25 – 5 pm** One of our veterans will be teaching us to make lasagna (via zoom). Hank is a great cook, and you do not want to miss this! Contact the office for the zoom link.

Every month there are new activities (coffee and walking continue). Please contact us if you would like to be added to our mailing list. You can also check out the website:

[www.veteranspeerconnection.org](http://www.veteranspeerconnection.org) or  
Facebook-saratogacountyveteranspeerconnection.

#### Contacts:

Amy Hughes, Program Coordinator  
[ahughes@saratogacountyny.gov](mailto:ahughes@saratogacountyny.gov)  
518-884-4999  
2144 Doubleday Ave  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

The Saratoga County Veterans Peer Connection group has several different activities every month for our U.S. Veterans to build a strong support network while readjusting to civilian life. The support system pairs established veterans with returning veterans who are experiencing PTSD or other re-acclimation challenges. This peer support system is intended

to ease the transition from combat to civilian life. If you know of anyone that would benefit from this program, please share this.

Visit their website [here](#).

Visit their Facebook page [here](#).

For more information, email [info@veteranspeertopeer.org](mailto:info@veteranspeertopeer.org) or call (518) 884-4999.

### Radio interview on Neal Asbury's Made in America



It was great to be on Neal Asbury's Made in America this week with Co-Host Rich Hoffman. We talked about the Excluded Workers Fund and other topics regarding the NYS Budget. You can listen [here](#)!

**\$2.1 BILLION in the NYS Budget is going to illegal immigrants**

# NYS DEMOCRAT BUDGET INSANITY!

*Your tax  
dollars  
at work...*

**SMALL  
BUSINESS  
RELIEF  
\$1 BILLION**

**STIMULUS  
CHECKS FOR  
ILLEGALS  
\$2.1 BILLION**

Did you know that NYS is spending TWICE as much money on payments to illegal immigrants than to provide relief to small businesses? The Excluded Workers Fund is theft to law-abiding, hardworking NYS taxpayers. I strongly opposed the Excluded Workers Fund in the NYS budget (read my full statement as to why [here](#), and watch my floor remarks [here](#)), BUT it was passed in the Budget anyway. New Yorkers need to be informed about where their tax dollars are really going.

“Qualified” applicants will receive checks totaling \$15,600. Applicants are NOT required to prove that they are in the United States lawfully to qualify. “Unqualified” applicants (those unable to prove that they lost a job due to lockdowns) will still receive \$3,200.

This will only attract illegal immigrants into New York, while legal taxpayers leave in droves. Legislation like this will never be sustainable and I will keep fighting FOR New Yorkers, not AGAISNT them.

I fully believe in LEGAL immigration, and giving others the opportunity to live in the United States, LEGALLY. However, there is a point in when, as representatives of the people, we



must protect our constituents. Using their tax dollars to fund those who are here ILLEGALLY shows that the government's best interest is NOT in the citizens of New York.

For more information, read the New York Post article [here](#).

You can also watch my video about the NYS Budget in under 4 minutes [here](#).

#### **A statement from the NYSDOT**



#### **STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ANNOUNCES BEGINNING OF \$2.6 MILLION PROJECT TO REPLACE ROUTE 2 BRIDGE OVER POESTENKILL IN RENSSELAER COUNTY**

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez today announced that work is beginning on a \$2.6 million project to replace the Route 2 bridge over the Poestenkill in the town of Brunswick, Rensselaer County. The steel truss bridge, built in 1931, carries approximately 4,600 motor vehicles per day and is a connector for motorists linking Brunswick and central and eastern Rensselaer County with the City of Troy.

**Help wanted!**



I was recently contacted by Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante in Wynantskill. This beloved, local establishment with strong, deep ties to the community and a wonderful reputation, shared their ongoing efforts in seeking workers to fill current openings.

Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante as an IMMEDIATE need for full and part-time cooks – line, short order, and prep – as well as waitstaff, including bartenders!

My office continues receiving calls from many local small businesses sharing that they are experiencing a genuine, protracted difficulty in meeting their labor needs possibly due to an extension of federal programs. Accordingly, I'm sharing the following job openings at Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante in my Weekly Wrap. The position descriptions are listed below, along with contact information for Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante for individuals who would like further information.

#### **Position Openings: Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante**

##### **Cooks, Line, Short Order, and Prep (Full and Part-Time Positions Available)**

Immediate openings are available. Must be dependable and reliable. Experience preferred but will train the correct candidate. Must maintain a positive and professional attitude with co-workers. Must be available afternoons and evenings. Weekends are a MUST. Compensation based on experience. (\$14.00- \$18.00 per hour) Applicant must be 18 years of age or older.

##### **Waitstaff/Bartender (Full and Part-Time Positions Available)**

Immediate openings are available. Must be dependable and reliable. Ideal candidates are polished and knowledgeable of fine dining and casual service standards. Wine and adult beverage knowledge is a plus. The server must be able to describe menu items, take, place orders through POS, deliver food and drinks in a timely manner, and able to assist fellow team members to ensure overall guest satisfaction. Experienced in a fast-paced restaurant and ability to multi-task. 2 years of experience is preferred for our fine dining. Experience preferred but will train for casual service. Must be available afternoons and evenings. Weekends and HOLIDAYS are a MUST. Applicant must be 18 years or older.

Applicants can apply at [www.paololombardis.com](http://www.paololombardis.com) "Join our Team," or may stop in to fill out an application at Paolo Lombardi's Ristorante, 104 West Sand Lake RD, Wynantskill, NY 12198. Phone: (518) 283-0202.

## Speaking up for boaters, maritime constituents, and canal communities



As a supporter of the Erie Canal, I believe it's incredibly important to support and allow New York maritime activity. Shortening the season will only hurt our economy and businesses along the Canal. [BoatUS](#) is urging recreational boaters to speak up in support of two Erie Canal NY Senate bills ([S.5958](#) & [S.5959](#)) that aim to maintain full operating season and more. You can read the full article here: <https://bit.ly/3s3qygZ>

## Great News for Saratoga Springs!



This is GREAT news for race fans and Saratoga Springs! The NYRA is welcoming back fans to the Saratoga Race Track this summer. Many restaurants, hotels, and other surrounding businesses benefit from the tourism brought by the track and its fans. I couldn't be more



happy that they will be seeing more business this summer!

Read the statement from NYRA President & CEO Dave O'Rourke [here](#).

### **Spring cleaning!**



Lastly, I wanted to share with you some photos from a therapeutic weekend of cleaning up outside, ripping those weeds right out, and planting pansies in my pots. Spring is really here!

**Stay up to date throughout the week by following me on Social Media!**



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THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE