



New York State Senator  
**DAPHNE JORDAN**  
(R, C, IP, REF) 43RD SENATE DISTRICT



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday and welcome to the April 23 edition of my Weekly Wrap. It's certainly been a busy week!

**BIG happenings this week:**

- Governor Cuomo extends bar & restaurant curfew by ONLY ONE hour
- Mourning the loss of Saratoga County resident and military member SPC Jenks
- Saratoga County launches government leadership program for young women
- Fighting against the Gas Tax

**Other important news:**

- This week is National Volunteer Week
- Tomorrow is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
- Donate Life Month
- Earth Day!
- Grant Cottage becomes the FIRST state historic site to go completely off the energy grid
- Honoring two Town of Halfmoon employees retiring after decades of service
- Fighting against unemployment fraud
- New solar initiative ribbon cutting in Washington County
- Renovated Saratoga County DMV
- Twenty-four miles of multipurpose trail ribbon cutting in Saratoga County
- Operation Gratitude by student-athletes
- NYS Boat Association spring meeting

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

**National Volunteer Week**

# — national — **VOLUNTEER WEEK**

April 18-24



This week is recognized as National Volunteer Week. Thank you to all those who have made volunteer service a part of their life, and may we teach those coming after us the importance of selfless giving!

## **National Drug Take Back Day**

Saturday, April 24, 2021 - 10AM to 2PM

## **NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY**

Visit [takebackday.dea.gov](https://takebackday.dea.gov) for more information



Tomorrow, April 24, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be many sites around the nation collecting unwanted or expired drugs. This is a great opportunity to clean out the overcrowded medicine cabinet, and it's a safe way to dispose of prescription drugs.

Here's a list of drop-off locations in the 43rd District:

### **Washington County:**

- Washington County Sheriff's Office

### **Columbia County:**

- Hudson Police Department
- Columbia County Sheriff's Office

### **Rensselaer County:**

- North Greenbush Police Department
- Troy Police Department
- Hoosick Falls Police Department
- Rensselaer City Police Department
- Rensselaer Fire Department
- North End Fire Department
- Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office
- West Sand Lake Fire Department

### **Saratoga County:**

- Saratoga Police Department
- Maple Avenue - Behind City Hall
- Mechanicville Police Department
- CVS Pharmacies
- Saratoga County Sheriff Office
- Round Lake Fire Department

### **The Cuomo Curfews Need to END**



Recently, Governor Cuomo lifted curfews for many businesses EXCEPT any bars or restaurants. After backlash, he decided to push the curfew to midnight instead of the previous

11 p.m. order. Rather than following science (which does not prove the validity for this curfew), Governor Cuomo is playing politics! The curfew needs to be lifted COMPLETELY and New York State business owners should be trusted to run their businesses safely. I will not stop advocating for our bars and restaurants.

### **Donate Life Month**



Life is a precious gift and is one of the many reasons why I believe everyone should be an organ donor. There is no better time to sign up (through your local DMV) than April, which is Donate Life Month.

I was happy to attend and speak at the Saratoga County DMV Organ Donation Event on Tuesday morning, alongside Craig Hayner, Saratoga County Clerk; Aisha Tator, Executive Director of Donate Life New York State; Karen Chico-Hurst, a Saratoga County resident & mother of a liver transplant recipient; Johnathan Schopf, Vice-Chair of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, and Phil Barrett, Clifton Park Town Supervisor.

Organ donors save lives! I hope that all, who haven't already, will strongly consider giving the gift of life by becoming an organ donor today.

### **Earth Day**





Yesterday was Earth Day, and I'm looking forward to going to the Crescent Park Earth Day Clean Up tomorrow morning. Feel free to come by from 10-11 a.m. to help lend a hand! If you're interested in joining an event or learning more about what you can do to make a positive impact on our environment, visit [earthday.org](https://earthday.org).

### **Grant Cottage goes solar**



The Ulysses S. Grant Cottage National Historic Landmark is going entirely off the grid and is the first State Park facility to do so. This fantastic development was announced on Earth Day, which couldn't have been better timing!

Visit their [website here](#) for 2021 hours and dates, or call at (518) 584-4353.

### **Mourning the loss of Specialist Abigail Jenks**



*Photo from CBS 6 News Albany*

On Monday, SPC Abigail Jenks was tragically killed during an airborne training exercise at Fort Bragg. SPC Jenks was only 20 years old and from Saratoga County. No mother, father, friend or relative ever wants to hear news like this, and I send my deepest thoughts and prayers to the Jenks family. Thank you to Abigail, for her service and dedication to our Country.

### **Saratoga County Launching Young Women in Government Leadership Program**



## **SARATOGA COUNTY**

**Launches Leadership Program to Encourage Young Women to Participate in Local Government**

I can't describe how excited I am about this new program being launched by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors. It's a program to educate and inspire young women to get involved in their local government. I wish that I could've been at the official launch event in person, but I was honored to be able to send a short video, which you can view [here](#).

Thank you to the leadership team Hon. Jean Raymond of the Town of Edinburgh, Hon. Tara N. Gaston of the City of Saratoga Springs, and Hon. Sandra Winney of the town of Providence for launching this program! I am excited to see where it goes.

Application for the program open this Monday, April 26th and are accepted throughout May, with the program beginning in June. If you know of any young women who would be interested in this, please share! More information will be posted on the Saratoga County [website here](#).

**Join the Fight: Help Stop the Gas Tax!**





Albany Democrats want to pass legislation that will add a 55 cent-per-gallon tax at the gas pump. This legislation would also INCREASE the cost of natural gas to heat your home by 25%. I am fighting against this proposed bill and made a petition that you can read more about and sign [HERE](#). You can also read more about [S.4264A here](#).

### **Celebrating those who served the Town of Halfmoon**



Cynthia Jensen worked for the Town of Halfmoon Water Department and retired after 26 years of dedicated service.

John Pingelski Jr. worked as the Town of Halfmoon Highway Department Supervisor and retired after 32 years of dedicated service.



At the Town of Halfmoon board meeting on Wednesday night, we recognized two employees, John Pingelski and Cynthia Jensen, who both retired after many years of service.

### **Fighting against Unemployment Fraud**



RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
LIBRARIES  
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
STATE-NATIVE AMERICAN RELATIONS  
WOMEN'S ISSUES  
COMMITTEE MEMBER  
AGRICULTURE  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS  
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
MILITARY AFFAIRS



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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
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ALBANY, NY 12247  
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April 22, 2021

The Honorable Roberta Reardon  
Commissioner, New York State Department of Labor  
NYS Department of Labor  
Building 12, W.A. Harriman Campus  
Albany, NY 12240

Dear Commissioner Reardon:

I write on three matters of extreme urgency that require the immediate attention of you and your staff at the State Department of Labor.

The first issue concerns a troubling lack of responsiveness from the State Department of Labor. My office has been inundated with calls and emails from constituents sharing their disappointment, and deep frustration, with the State Department of Labor's apparent inability to respond promptly to their repeated inquiries regarding Unemployment Insurance claims. Local television stations have broadcast news segments confirming the inability of constituents to not only receive a timely response but any response from your Department.

I find it inexplicable – and frankly inexcusable – that more than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, and with an annual appropriated operating budget of nearly \$1.8 billion, that the State Department of Labor somehow remains unable to provide a timely, informed response to New Yorkers that have made inquiries and requested assistance. Commissioner, some of my constituents have waited, and are still waiting, weeks for a response from your Department. They also have made multiple follow-up calls and emails to no avail. My office continues working hard to help these constituents and ensure they receive a timely response from the Department of Labor that addressed their concerns. It is my understanding that other State Legislators' offices have likewise experienced similar concerns regarding the difficulty in receiving a timely response on behalf of their constituents from your Department.

The second issue is the widespread prevalence of Unemployment Insurance fraud that appears to be growing exponentially. My office has received multiple notices from municipalities, businesses, and individuals across my 43<sup>rd</sup> District citing instance after instance of fraudulent Unemployment Insurance claims being filed. In fact, one current Town Supervisor and a former elected official in my Senate District shared that Unemployment Insurance paperwork recently

arrived for their signature and that the paperwork, which was filled out in their names, listed their personal information.

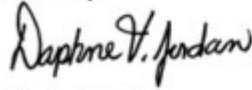
Third, and related to the preceding concern, constituents also have contacted my office sharing that when they finally received a response from the State Department of Labor and were able to file an Unemployment Insurance claim, it was denied because a fraudulent claim had already been falsely filed in the person's name.

My office has learned of numerous examples of this ongoing and alarming pattern of Unemployment Insurance fraud.

Due to the increasing volume and widespread scope of these fraudulent Unemployment Insurance claims, and the fact that some of the claims appear to include detailed personal information, I am asking you to verify the integrity of your Department's records and data to ensure that they have not been subject to hacking or other outside criminal conduct and interference.

On behalf of my constituents, many of whom are still awaiting answers from the State Department of Labor, and others who have experienced Unemployment Insurance fraud and been denied benefits they should rightfully receive, I would appreciate a detailed response to my inquiries. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daphne V. Jordan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daphne" being more prominent.

Daphne Jordan  
State Senator, 43<sup>rd</sup> District

Above is my recent letter to the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL). I understand that many of you who have experienced Unemployment Insurance fraud are STILL awaiting answers from the NYSDOL. I have written this letter to the NYSDOL Commissioner Roberta Reardon regarding the lack of responsiveness, the growing Unemployment Insurance fraud, and the denied Unemployment Insurance claims to constituents who have rightfully applied but a fraudulent claim was already falsely filed. This is an unacceptable and alarming pattern that my office has been continuously working on with no help or detailed response, and it needs to be addressed immediately.

**The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority solar project in Washington County**



Continued private-public investment in renewable energy helps preserve and protect our environment, supports decreased emissions, and facilitates the creation of good-paying jobs in the green energy sector. I was pleased to support Thursday's announcement in Washington County of the first utility-scale solar project in upstate NY, right in the town of Easton, which is part of my 43rd Senate District.

The STRONG local support for this project is indicative of how such an initiative should move forward. It is important to put these projects ONLY where they are accepted by the local government AND its residents.

I applaud the local leadership of Easton Town Supervisor Dan Shaw, the Easton Town Board, CS Energy, and NYSERDA in realizing this project that is expected to generate over \$20M in private investment and create nearly 100 jobs in the Capital Region to support its construction, future operations, and maintenance. Also in attendance was Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, Doreen Harris, CEO of NYSERDA; Eric Mallard of CS Energy, Michael Conte of Goldman Sachs, and Rudy Winters of National Grid.



## Saratoga County DMV facility renovation tour



On Tuesday, I visited the newly renovated Southern Saratoga County DMV. This facility is run efficiently with little wait time because visits are by appointment. New technology instituted by Saratoga County Clerk Craig Hayner keeps the operations running smoothly. Thank you Clerk Hayner for the guided tour. The Saratoga County DMV is certainly one of the busiest in the area!

## Ribbon Cutting at Geyser Trail



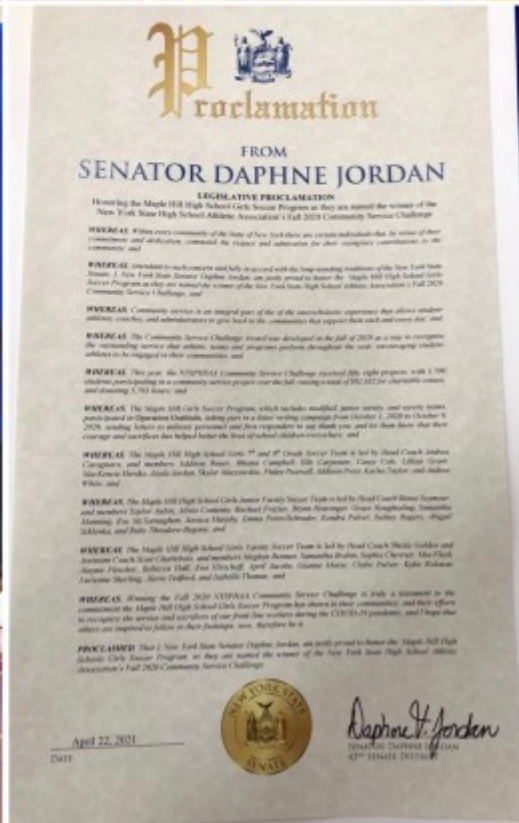


It was a wonderful ribbon cutting ceremony at the Geyser Road Trail on Thursday! This is the newest segment of a larger city initiative called the Saratoga Greenbelt Trail. The city is working to link currently existing trail segments to make 24 miles of trail, which would form a continuous loop connecting the City of Saratoga Springs.

The total cost of the project was \$3.7 million, with 80% covered federally, and 20% covered locally. The budget includes not only the trail, but also intersection improvements and two Capital District Transportation Authority bus stops.

In the top photo, I'm pictured with Heather Mabee, member and chairwoman of the Saratoga-Capital District State Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commission. In the third photo down, I'm pictured with Michael Patton, Superintendent of Saratoga Springs CSD and 2nd grade students from Geyser Road Elementary School.

**Student-athletes named winner of Community Service Challenge**



Congratulations to the girls' soccer teams that were named the winner of the NYS PHSAA Fall 2020 Community Service Challenge. I was honored to speak and present a proclamation for their efforts taking part in Operation Gratitude, where they sent letters to military personnel and first responders thanking them for their courage, sacrifice, and for bettering the lives of school children everywhere. Pictured above is the Maple Hill Athletic Director Michael Silver and Varsity Girls Soccer Coach Sheila Golden.

## NYS Tour Boat Association Spring Meeting





As a strong supporter of maritime activity and the Erie Canal, I was happy to be able to speak at the NYS Tour Boat Association Spring Meeting in Albany on Thursday, where I addressed how the COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions greatly affected the May and July openings and hurt small businesses. I also addressed the dangerous consequences of the legalization of marijuana and how the lack of testing devices will hurt efforts to avoid boating under the influence. Lastly, I addressed taxes and how the recently enacted 2021-22 State Budget puts our state on a path toward a dangerous fiscal waterfall, hurting our local economy and small businesses.

The NYS Tour Boat Association has been instrumental in increasing the safety of its members, passengers, crews, and vessels throughout NYS, by members working together and partnering with the State Legislature. Their expertise on maritime issues is invaluable, and their input on issues affecting the industry is always helpful.

**I hope you have a great weekend. Stay up to date with me throughout the week on social media!**



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Daphne Jordan

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**THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE**