

From: "Senator Daphne Jordan" <jordan@nysenate.gov>

Date: Thursday, July 02, 2020 04:42PM

Subject: Weekly Wrap: Seeking clarity on Phase 4 reopening, free summer meals, new Parks app, free memory screenings & MORE!



Dear Friend:

Welcome to the pre-July 4th weekend edition of my Weekly Wrap! Even though it's arriving in your inbox a day early, my Weekly Wrap contains plenty of useful updates and information about:

- Our Senate Republican Conference's efforts to oppose Governor Cuomo's travel quarantine for our military personnel seeking to attend funerals;
- Free summer meals for kids and teens;
- My call for Governor Cuomo to clarify his shifting Phase 4 guidelines;
- Latest unemployment case numbers;
- An upcoming informational program at the North Chatham Library;
- New app to explore our great state parks launched by the NYS Department of Parks and Recreation;
- Free memory screenings provided by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America;

- An exciting ice cream adventure, featuring local spots across my 43rd Senate District;
- My monthly column in the Eastwick Press on Governor Cuomo's irresponsible mandate that forced nursing homes to accept COVID-19 positive patients; and
- My delivery of NYS Hand Sanitizer to the Brunswick Community Library

These items are all featured in the latest edition of my Weekly Wrap, e-mailed to you and thousands of recipients every week.

Have a question or comment? I want to hear from YOU! Call my district office at (518) 371-2751 or email me at jordan@nysenate.gov. Let me know if my team and I can be of assistance regarding state government.

I wish everyone a safe and fun 4th of July. God bless America and let freedom ring!
– **Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District**

Standing with Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt in opposing Governor Cuomo's travel quarantine policy for military personnel



I'm sharing the following statement (below) from our new Senate Republican Leader Senator Rob Ortt on Governor Cuomo's new quarantine policy and its negative impact on the men and women of our military. Last Sunday, my office received an urgent request from Columbia County Veterans' Services Director Gary Flaherty regarding an Airman's attempt to attend their beloved grandfather's funeral taking place in New York State this week. Sadly, Governor Cuomo's administration denied the soldier's request. This is another example of the administration's lack of coherence and common sense. Tens of thousands protesting without social distancing is seemingly okay, but an Airman attending his grandfather's funeral is not? Something is seriously wrong with the Cuomo administration's twisted logic.

**STATEMENT FROM NYS SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER ROB ORTT ON
GOVERNOR CUOMO'S TRAVEL QUARANTINE POLICY IMPACT ON
MILITARY PERSONNEL**

Many young men and women who dedicated themselves to training with the National Guard and Reserves, based in North Carolina and South Carolina, are returning home to find their civil liberties and economic well-being trampled by Governor Cuomo.

These brave men and women - who have answered the call of service - must quarantine for 14 days upon entry into New York if they are not immediately returning to service.

After long training periods away from their families, these individuals deserve to be welcomed back to civilian and professional life - not sequestered because they trained in a certain state. At the height of New York's crisis, which our National Guard bravely responded to, this state had three times the rate of coronavirus cases as the threshold set by the Governor for his travel quarantine.

Our military personnel deserve the same freedoms as the people who live and work in New York, not ridiculous quarantines because of the heroic line of work they chose.

Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt represents the 62nd Senate District. He enlisted in the New York Army National Guard in October 2001 in direct response to 9/11. He is a combat veteran, who served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Free summer meals for teens and kids

**Free Summer Meals
for Kids and Teens**

SANDWICHES SALADS FRESH FRUIT COLD MILK

MECHANICVILLE LOCATIONS

MONDAY - FRIDAY • JUNE 29 - SEPTEMBER 4
AVAILABLE TO ALL CHILDREN 18 YEARS AND UNDER

**Mechanicville Area
Community Services Center**
6 S MAIN ST. | 11:00AM - 1:00PM

Old Parking Lot at Fascia Flooring
55 VIALI AVE. | 11:15AM - 11:45AM

Tallmadge Park
200 PARK PL. | 11:30AM - 12:00PM

Now Time Auctions Parking Lot
36 SARATOGA AVE. | 11:45AM - 12:15PM

518-371-1185 | CAPTAINCARES.ORG | 518-664-8322 | MECHANICVILLEACSC.ORG



Health, wellness, and good nutrition are always important. Thankfully, free summer meals for kids and teens are now available. For more information on this local program, see the flyer pictured above, or visit www.captaincares.org or www.mechanicvilleacsc.org.

Governor Cuomo's shifting stance on reopening malls

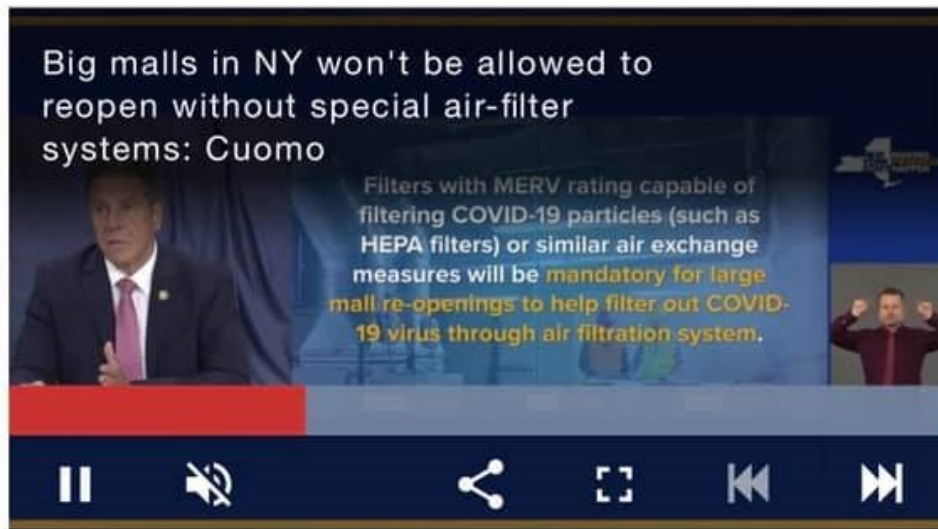
METRO



Gov. Cuomo says 'large malls' must have special air filters before reopening

By Bernadette Hogan

June 29, 2020 | 5:09pm



“Large malls” in New York won’t be allowed to reopen until they install air-infiltration systems that block **coronavirus** particles, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Monday.

Earlier this week, Governor Cuomo said that large malls won't be able to reopen until they install special filters that, according to an industry source, almost no malls currently have. It's unclear why, according to the Governor, only large malls are being required to have such expensive filters and not large office buildings and state facilities where countless public

employees have returned to in recent weeks. Yet another Albany double standard? To read the full article, click here:

<https://nypost.com/.../large-malls-in-ny-must-have-special-a.../>

Latest unemployment case numbers

My office continues receiving requests for assistance from individuals who've lost their job and are seeking to file an unemployment claim with New York State. Here are the latest numbers:

- **A total of 499 constituents have reached out to my office for help; and**
- **There have been 1,681 exchanged emails between my office and the New York State Department of Labor**

If you or a loved one need assistance navigating New York's complex and cumbersome unemployment system, please call my district office at (518) 371-2751 and ask for Dan Casale. Dan's been laser-focused on helping people resolve their outstanding unemployment claims and continues doing a terrific job! With so many New Yorkers still out of work, I'll continue my efforts to help connect individuals with unemployment assistance and keep advocating for a safe, sensible reopening of our economy.

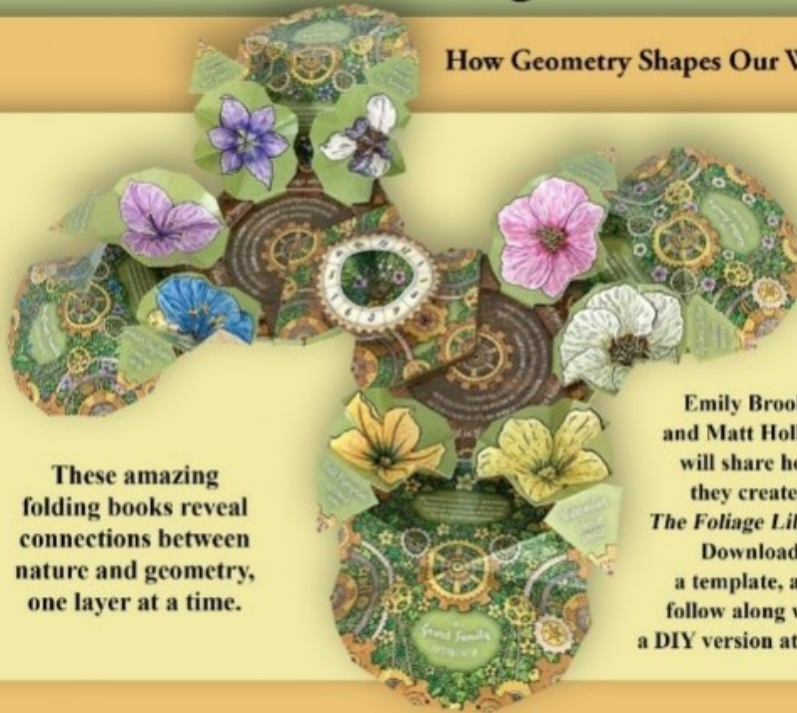
"NATURE UNFOLDING: Exploring Nature through Interactive Folding Books" at the North Chatham Free Library

THE NORTH CHATHAM FREE LIBRARY

Presents

Exploring Interactive Folding Books

How Geometry Shapes Our World



These amazing folding books reveal connections between nature and geometry, one layer at a time.

Emily Brooks and Matt Holbein will share how they created *The Foliage Library*. Download a template, and follow along with a DIY version at home.

Sun., July, 19 at 3 pm via Zoom



For info on connecting to this event:

Email: Mail@NorthChathamLibrary.org

Call: (518) 766-3211

This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regional program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Greene County Council on the Arts.

Sharing news of this upcoming interactive program from the North Chatham Free Library, more details are in the flyer above and announcement below:

Illustrator Emily Brooks and designer Matt Holbein create interactive folding books to explore the beauty and ever-changing world of nature around us. The books, in themselves, are inventive works of art – incorporating elements of art, geometry, engineering, and environmentalism. Don't miss this chance to meet the creators of *The Foliage Library*!

Emily explains, "By presenting environmental information in an interactive format, the reader becomes more engaged with current urgent issues that threaten some of our worlds' most magical creatures." And of course, we know that nature is of great interest to those who live in our rural community.

During their online zoom session, Emily and Matt will reveal the collaborative creative process they use to research, plan, and construct a book. As part of the program, they will provide printable DIY templates of some simple elements of their books, so that people watching the presentation can do a corresponding activity at home. Please contact the library at mail@NorthChathamLibrary.org or leave a message 518-766-3211.

The theme of our 2020 library series is Civic Engagement through the Arts: Connecting to our Community.

Observing “National Clean Beaches Week”



Wednesday marked the start of “National Clean Beaches Week.” New York’s beaches are among the finest in the nation and it’s our responsibility to ensure these wonders remain pristine and available for this and future generations to enjoy.

Recognizing “National Parks and Recreation Month”



July is recognized as “National Park and Recreation Month.” Learn more about how to take part in the month's activities and how you can help spread the word about our great natural resources and terrific parks here: <https://www.nrpa.org/events/july/toolkit/>.

New app and explore our great New York State Parks



NY State Parks Explorer

New York State Office of Info...

GET



4.6 ★★★★★

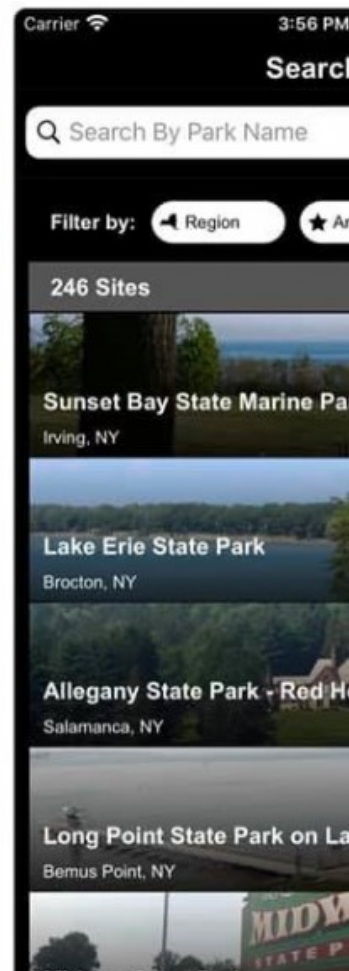
12 Ratings

#94

Travel

4+

Age



The recently launched NYS Parks Explorer Mobile App for Visitors is a terrific resource for all park goers! This new app contains park information including directions, hours, amenities, fees and rates, trail maps, helpful know-before-you-go details, and the ability to receive important updates and alerts. Our state is host to hundreds of fantastic parks and outdoor sites that are open and available for you and your family to enjoy. There are so many wonderful State Parks in the 43rd Senate District including Lake Taghkanic State Park; Taconic State Park; Cherry Plain State Park; Grafton Lakes State Park; Schodack Island State

Park; Moreau Lake State Park, and Saratoga Spa State Park. More details about the app can be found [here](#).

Capital Region Phase 4 Reopening



This week, our Capital Region moved forward with Phase 4 of our economic reopening. Unfortunately, the Governor excluded malls, movie theaters, and gyms from the reopening, meaning more lost jobs and more small businesses facing closure. These businesses have worked hard on their safe reopening plans and were ready to go. We need to move forward with a safe, sensible reopening of these sectors so we can restore our economy, help small businesses struggling to keep their heads above water, and assist the thousands of displaced workers who've lost their job and want to get back to work. Read more here: https://www.bizjournals.com/albany/news/2020/06/30/capital-region-phase-four-reopening.html?fbclid=IwAR3IkGOTmFC78aSBn8w4nQ8gIGmuRJq6CiHjm_28kMpR3qCglQUogxZ_dUU

Free Memory Screenings from the Alzheimer's Foundation of America



The [Alzheimer's Foundation of America](#) does important work and their new Free Memory Screenings (provided digitally, beginning July 8th) are an important part of good health and wellness. Click [here](#) for more information about this innovative program. Thank you to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America for providing this service!

Ready for an ice cream adventure?



You scream, I scream, we all scream for ice cream! In honor of National Ice Cream Month, I wanted to share [this](#) fun post from Saratoga.com, highlighting some of the best ice cream in the Capital Region, featuring spots right here in the 43rd Senate District. If you are ready to beat the heat, be sure to out Mr. Bill's Carhop in South Glens Falls, King Brother's Dairy in Schuylerville, DeVoe's check Rainbow Delights in Clifton Park, The Snowman in Troy, and Humpty Dumpty's Ice Cream in Saratoga Springs. To see all the stops along on this "Legendary Ice Cream Road Trip," click [here](#)!

My monthly column in the Eastwick Press

Page 14
The Eastwick Press
June 26, 2020

Monthly Column From State Senator Daphne Jordan

Governor Cuomo's reckless, irresponsible nursing home mandate cost thousands of senior citizens their lives.

The first, fundamental responsibility of government is to provide for the safety and security of its citizens during a time of crisis, especially for the most vulnerable among us. By that standard, New York State government – and Governor Cuomo in particular – failed New Yorkers during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Smoking Gun Memo

At the height of the COVID-19 outbreak, under Governor Cuomo's direction, the State Department of Health issued a now infamous – and missing – memorandum directing nursing homes and assisted living facilities to accept COVID-19 positive patients. On March 25, the order was issued via the State Health Department. The memo stated the following: "No resident shall be denied readmission or admission to the NH [nursing home] solely based on a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19. NHs [Nursing homes] are prohibited from requiring a hospitalized resident who is determined medically stable to be tested for COVID-19 prior to admission or readmission."

Interestingly, as reported by multiple media outlets, sometime around May 5, the State Department of Health scrubbed that smoking gun memo from its website in a seemingly desperate attempt to cover up this emerging scandal that's attracted national attention. Of course, multiple copies of the memo were already shared and circulated on social media and the State Department of Health's directive has been widely disseminated despite its attempt to hide the evidence and rewrite history.

6,000 Lives Lost – Likely Many More

Governor Cuomo's irresponsible mandate that forced nursing homes to accept COVID-19 positive patients led to the deadly virus spreading like wildfire in nursing homes across our state, resulting in more than 6,000 senior citizens losing their lives. Some estimate the death toll to be far higher, with closer to 10,000 to 11,000 New York senior citizens having lost

their lives due to this order. The painful reality is that we may not know the true toll of this avoidable tragedy for some time. As documented in a recent investigative journalism piece, local Diamond Hill Nursing Home saw 18 of its residents lose their lives to COVID-19, while 58 residents were infected, and 50 staff members fell ill from COVID-19. The state was derelict in its duty of providing proper oversight of, and support for, nursing homes.

All these terrible outcomes, to say nothing of the grief and anguish so many families had to endure, could have been avoided if the Governor hadn't issued his mandate and forced nursing homes to accept COVID-19 positive patients. Thankfully, Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin revisited the Governor's disastrous mandate and not one resident of the County's nursing home died of COVID-19. County Executive McLaughlin's principled leadership saved countless lives, fulfilling the most crucial of government's responsibilities, that being the protection of the lives of its citizens.

State-Federal investigation into Governor's Mandate is Required

I've publicly called for an independent state and federal investigation into Governor Cuomo's mandate. Fortunately, this effort seeking an investigation is gaining traction.

According to a recent news article, all five members of the House of Representatives Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis wrote Governor Cuomo, and the Governors of Michigan, California, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, seeking information to reveal "what science or guidance" was used to make the lethal decision mandating that nursing homes accept Coronavirus patients. It's critical that New Yorkers and all Americans receive these answers so we can ensure accountability and prevent a similar disaster.

In addition to an independent state-federal investigation, we should convene bi-partisan public hearings in the State Senate and State Assembly to call witnesses,

and establish a detailed record of the Governor's mandate and determine who in the administration knew what, when they knew, and if they did anything to try and stop it. The purpose of these hearings is public safety, not politics.

Real Solutions To Protect Nursing Home Residents And Staff

Besides calling for an independent investigation and public hearings, I've also advocated for real solutions to help protect nursing home residents, and the men and women who care for them, from COVID-19. Some of the real solutions I've proposed since May 20 include the following:

- Provide all necessary COVID-19 test kits directly to the facilities who have been scrambling to access them;
- Utilize the National Guard to assist in administering tests and cleansing facilities to provide critical relief;
- Use short swab or saliva tests;
- Provide PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to nursing homes, long term care and adult day care facilities;
- Create a long-term care specific staffing pool;
- Establish regional facilities for COVID positive nursing home patients.

COVID-19 has taken a terrible personal, financial, and psychological toll on our community, state, and nation. We can learn lessons from this crisis and demand accountability to ensure that our state government corrects its mistakes and does a better job protecting some of our most vulnerable populations.

Contact and connect with me

If I can help, call me at 518-371-2751, e-mail me at joerdan@nysenate.gov, visit my Senate webpage at www.joerdan.nysenate.gov, or contact my district office at 1580 Columbia Turnpike Building 2, Suite 1, Castle-on-On-The-Hudson, NY 12033. You can also connect with me on Facebook (Senator Daphne Jordan), Instagram (Senator_Jordan), and Twitter (NY Senator Jordan).

Now Showing

**Hathaway's
Twin Drive-In**

**Bennington
Cinema's**

Images Cinema
*Online Rentals Only at this time,
to support the Cinema*

The Eastwick Press – a fantastic weekly community newspaper covering Rensselaer County – ran my recent monthly column regarding my ongoing call for an independent investigation

into Governor Cuomo's disastrous mandate that forced nursing homes to accept COVID-19 positive patients and tragically caused nearly 6,000 deaths (possibly many more). My column is pictured above and can also be read on-line for Eastwick Press subscribers on the paper's website: <https://eastwickpress.com/news/>. My thanks to Eastwick Press Publisher and Editor Doug La Rocque for running my column and sharing the above image!

Delivering NYS Hand Sanitizer to the Brunswick Community Library





Today, I made another special delivery of New York State Hand Sanitizer, this time to the Brunswick Community Library. I'm pictured above with Sara Hopkins, the library's Director, from my delivery earlier today. It's terrific to continue being able to provide this necessary resource, especially for such a wonderful local library!

Albany Office:

508 Legislative Office Bldg
Albany, NY 12247
518-455-2381

District Office:

1580 Columbia Tpke, Bldg 2 Ste 1
Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033
518-371-2751



THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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