

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

Date: Friday, August 07, 2020 05:50PM
Subject: Weekly Wrap: Supporting law enforcement, getting real results, commemorating National Purple Heart Day & MORE!



Dear Friend:

Welcome to the August 7 edition of my Weekly Wrap, as the summer continues to fly by! This past week, I showed my strong support for local law enforcement, made more special deliveries of New York State Hand Sanitizer, and also recognized the ribbon cutting and grand opening of a new local business in Saratoga Springs. I also was proud to help deliver a real result that will allow student drivers to take their required pre-licensing course (aka the “five-hour course”) online. This positive development that I advocated for back in July is a big win for families. You can read more about this news, and my commemoration of “National Purple Heart Day” earlier today, in the latest edition of Weekly Wrap.

If you have a question about state government, or need assistance, email me at jordan@nysenate.gov or call my district office at (518) 371-2751. My staff and I are always happy to serve YOU. Have a wonderful weekend!

– **Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District**

Holding the line and backing the blue



Last Saturday, I was proud to attend another terrific, patriotic, pro-law enforcement rally held at our State Capitol. It was a great turnout as we sent a crystal clear, 100% positive message that law-abiding citizens all across our Capital Region proudly BACK THE BLUE!

During my remarks, I said how important it is that we continue providing our courageous police officers with strong, public support. I'm pictured above at Saturday's rally that also featured my good friends Assemblyman Jake Ashby, Liz Joy, Assemblyman [Chris Tague](#), and so many others who were proud to hold the line and stand with law enforcement!

MORE real results for the 43rd Senate District and statewide

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
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SENATOR DAPHNE JORDAN
43RD SENATE DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
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(518) 455-2381

July 15th, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I respectfully write on behalf of constituents and driving schools in my 43rd Senate District asking you to direct the Empire State Development Corporation to develop a plan for the immediate reopening of drivers' pre-licensing courses and exams in a socially distanced classroom setting and to provide guidance for teleconferencing course and exam availability. The pre-licensing course, known more commonly as the "five hour course", is a necessary step in attaining a driver's license, getting new drivers on the road and people to work. Consequently, it is a critical part of our State's economy. Correspondence between my office and Empire State Development revealed that there are currently no concrete plans for reopening beyond the currently available in-vehicle education. It is my belief that, by developing a socially distanced methodology for providing the "five hour course" in classrooms and online, our State can continue to protect public health while simultaneously getting our economy "back on track".

Last October, you signed Chapter 368 of the Laws of 2019. In your own words in Approval Memo 6 of 2019, this bill "would build upon the success of the online defensive driving course, (by providing) students with the convenience of completing the pre-licensing course in the comfort of their own homes." While the Department of Motor Vehicles continues its preparations for providing this pilot program, the difficulties of COVID-19 and its associated shutdown have expedited the need for online availability, a need which you recognized even before the outbreak of this pandemic. Based on correspondence with my office, the Empire State Development Corporation believes using Zoom or other teleconferencing services may be possible under the Vehicle and Traffic Law, but have provided unclear guidance. In communications with driving schools, they seek this guidance as there is great uncertainty as to what they may offer. I respectfully request that you direct Empire State Development to issue clear guidance and parameters for the use of these remote services for accessing the pre-licensing course.

The ability to drive is not merely a "right of passage" for young adult New Yorkers, it is a critical means by which our economy functions. AARP reports that New Yorkers on average have a 31.6 minute commute each way, and in this time of pandemic, even New Yorkers who have access to public transportation may be weary of taking advantage of it. The pre-licensing course is a fundamental step for individuals to fully participate in our economy, and I ask you to ensure that it becomes available to the public as soon as possible by both in-classroom and online means.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Daphne V. Jordan".

Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District

I'm pleased to share that thanks to my advocacy, New York State is now allowing student drivers to take their pre-licensing course (aka the "five-hour course:") online after many individuals were otherwise unable to get their license due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Governor recently announced that New York State will allow the five-hour required course to be offered through video conferencing via Zoom, Go to Meeting, or Skype so driving tests can finally move forward for the many student drivers who've been waiting months.

I became involved in this effort when a 16-year-old from my swim family texted me asking for help, as did a fellow Swim Mom of her 17-year-old son (Jaden Homan and Bethann Erin Silaika, respectively). I wrote to the Governor specifically advocating for him to direct the Empire State Development Corporation to develop a plan for the immediate reopening of drivers' pre-licensing courses and exams in a socially distanced classroom setting, and to provide guidance for teleconferencing course and exam availability. I'm glad the Governor heeded my suggestions.

New York State's COVID-19 mandates made it incredibly difficult for student drivers to obtain licenses. The restrictions forced the cancellation of in-person pre-licensing courses and required the rescheduling of numerous road tests. There was a great deal of confusion among driving schools who were uncertain of what they were able to do (and understandably so!). A copy of my letter to the Governor from July 15 is pictured above. I'm proud to have advocated for and helped deliver this real result that will make a positive difference for families all across my 43rd Senate District and statewide!

Grand opening of the Boiler Room Cut & Shave



Tuesday was the ribbon-cutting and grand opening for the Boiler Room Cut and Shave Co. in Saratoga Springs. The Boiler Room Cut and Shave specializes in precision barbering and clean shaves. Halie Northrop from my office represented me at the ribbon-cutting and presented a New York State Senate Certificate on my behalf to mark the happy occasion. Congratulations to the Boiler Room Cut and Shave owners Dakota McGivern and George Solevo on your grand opening!

As the former owner of two successful small businesses, I know how important it is that we support and strengthen job creators, especially given the urgent need to get our economy moving again and help over a million unemployed New Yorkers return to work. If you know of an upcoming small business ribbon cutting/grand opening, email me at jordan@nysenate.gov so my office and I can help recognize the special event!

Making more NYS Hand Sanitizer special deliveries



It was great being out in my 43rd Senate District this week making more special deliveries of New York State Hand Sanitizer.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, I've personally delivered hand sanitizer to 45 small businesses, non-profits, and local governments all across the 43rd District! These deliveries give me a terrific opportunity to meet with my constituents and learn more about their needs. Hand sanitizer is such an important resource that helps keep people healthy and is part of a safe, sensible reopening.

My first stop on Wednesday was at Hoosac School in Hoosick and I'm pictured above with Headmaster Dean Foster. For those who may be unfamiliar, Hoosac School is a boarding and day school with 200 students from 31 different countries. It's 130 years rich in tradition, with strong academics and elite sports teams in tennis, hockey, basketball, soccer, and lacrosse. Hoosac School is a true gem and it was great to visit and learn about it.

My second stop was LaBella Pizza in Wynantskill. I'm pictured above with Matt, the pizzeria's Manager.

My third stop was a place near and dear to my heart (and I'm proud to say a place that I helped found), the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library. I'm pictured above with Alex Gutelius, the Library's Director. It was terrific seeing everyone!

Recognizing National Farmers Market Week



This week marked "National Farmers Market Week." Our upstate farmers work hard every day to ensure we have fresh, locally grown food on our tables and my 43rd Senate District is home to hundreds of farms, and many great farmers markets. Now more than ever, it's important to support our farmers, because without our farms, there would be no food. I also am proud to serve on the Senate Agriculture Committee and advocate for our hard-working family farmers. To see where you can go to support your local farmer and pick up some delicious local produce, visit: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/farming/farmers-markets>.

Highlighting law enforcement heroes making a real difference

 63°MENU

State trooper saves woman in Wilton

**Kumi Tucker**
Updated: August 05, 2020 06:45 PM
Created: August 05, 2020 06:30 PM



Trooper Saves Woman

LATHAM - Trooper Kyle Parkes has been with state police for eight years.

I was proud to highlight the heroic efforts of New York State Troopers Kyle Parkes and Taylor Salaway in recently saving a woman's life in Wilton. Law enforcement takes an oath to serve and protect — and that's exactly what they

did! Below is the link to the News Channel 13 story so you can hear more about these heroes and this positive story: <https://wnyt.com/.../new-york-state-police-trooper-k.../5817984/>

Proudly saluting Hometown Heroes for the 43rd Senate District!

Thank you!

Hometown HEROES

43RD NYS SENATE DISTRICT

Proud to again recognize some terrific #HometownHeroes from my 43rd Senate District for all they're doing to help the community.



This week's Hometown Heroes for the 43rd Senate District feature some of the best qualities of generosity, kindness, and making a positive difference for the benefit of others. The Hometown Heroes honored here are The Sugar Fairy Bakes of Mechanicville, and Tom Bullock, State Farm Agent serving Saratoga County. Hats off to both of these Hometown Heroes!

The Sugar Fairy Bakes, Mechanicville

The Sugar Fairy Bakes of Mechanicville made and donated 426 sugar cookies for the Mechanicville School District graduates, as well as organizing and stuffing bags with goodies and gift certificates she collected from local businesses to hand to the graduates at Mechanicville Central School. The Sugar Fairy Bakes is a New York State licensed, ServSafe certified, and insured from-scratch home baker with 30-years' experience using only the highest quality of ingredients in making delicious cakes, pies, pastries, bread and more.

Tom Bullock, State Farm Agent

State Farm Agent Tom Bullock recently visited the Mechanicville Community Center to help support the wonderful local food pantry and neighbors with a very generous \$500 food pantry donation. The Tom Bullock State Farm Insurance Agency office proudly serves Saratoga County with insurance and service needs, and gladly gives back to the community.

Commemorating National Purple Heart Day





Today, Friday, August 7, is recognized as “National Purple Heart Day.” I was proud to commemorate this special day by taking part in the Town of Canaan’s National Purple Heart Day ceremony held earlier today. The pouring rain couldn’t dampen our spirit of patriotism and profound gratitude for America’s

heroes that was on full display at this special event.

Today we honored the service and sacrifice of U.S. Marine Corps Corporal Charles N. Girdler Jr., U.S. Army Private FC Richard C. Hatch, and United States Marine Corps Private FC Vernon L. Warren, all of whom faithfully served America during World War II. All three men were awarded the Purple Heart, which is America's oldest, and one of our most venerated, military decorations for individuals killed or wounded in combat fighting in the armed forces of the United States.

I'm pictured above at today's ceremony with Canaan Town Supervisor Brenda Adams, Columbia County Director of Veterans Services Gary Flaherty (who is pictured honoring Private FC Hatch), and family members honoring Corporal Girdler and Private FC Warren, respectively. Also pictured above is Dodie Gearing, Canaan Town Historian, and the organizer of today's special event.

I spoke at the ceremony and also presented the families of the three Purple Heart recipients New York State Senate Certificates of Recognition to commemorate the occasion.

Today was a continuation of my ongoing work to recognize and salute the heroism of America's Purple Heart recipients. May God bless these true American heroes and all who wore (and wear) our nation's uniform, courageously serving and sacrificing to defend our freedom.

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THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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