

# SUMMER 2019 HIGHLIGHTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

## New York Senator Rachel May 53rd State Senate District

Dear Friends,

While the legislative session ended in June, these last months have been packed with opportunities to connect with constituents all across the district. I have hosted and participated in numerous information sessions, roundtables and hearings on complex topics that will help lay the groundwork for policy and budgetary initiatives in the 2020 session. I am especially pleased that several of my downstate colleagues took time to visit upstate and join in on many of these events that showcased Central New York voices and the unique needs—and strengths—of those who live and work here. I am reminded daily just how special this region is—and how incredibly fortunate I am to represent you in Albany. Read on for a quick snapshot of some of the people and events that make this work such a pleasure.

Rachel

### Senate Majority Leader Visits CNY Communities, Farms

In August, Senator May had the pleasure of hosting Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for a visit to the 53rd District. They met with staff and young leaders from the Onondaga Earth Corps to learn about their conservation work and their environmental stewardship.

They followed that with a tour of The Brady Farm in Syracuse. A project of Brady Faith Center, it is the sixth-largest urban farm in the country. Located on six acres of previously vacant urban space, the farm serves as an important source of fresh produce for the local community and as a great hands-on educational resource.



### CNY Roundtable Focuses On Youth Mental Health Issues



Several of Senator May's Senate colleagues joined her in August for a roundtable program on youth mental health services. Senators Velmanette Montgomery and David Carlucci both attended the roundtable event.

The group met with more than two dozen local mental health and youth wellness advocates from Onondaga, Madison and Oneida counties, all of whom provided crucial insight into the current state of services in the Syracuse and Central New York regions. Participants shared some of their program successes as well as challenges they continue to face in working to meet the growing need for mental health services among our young people.



## Madison County Roundtable Tackles Opioid Epidemic

Members of the Senate Joint Task Force on Opioids, Addiction and Overdose Prevention came to Madison County in August to learn more about the opioid crisis and its impact on Central New York families and communities.

Rural communities are some of the hardest hit by this health care crisis, and the roundtable gave the legislators an opportunity to hear directly from those on the front lines. Participants, including experts, community leaders and other stakeholders, explored measures and potential strategies for curbing the damages of opioid use disorder and provide support for those who are or have been affected by this epidemic. The topics discussed included access to Narcan, ways of overcoming the stigma of addiction, and building stronger connections between agencies and government entities.

(Left) Senator May with (from left) Sens. David Carlucci, Gustavo Rivera, Betty Little and Peter Harckham.



## First Annual State of the Youth Rally Draws Strong Turnout

Senator May joined with the organization Community Partnership V.O.I.C.E. (Violence Overcome by Involving Community Effort) in hosting the first annual State of the Youth rally in June at Onondaga Community College. The rally brought young people together to discuss challenges they face, provide resources to them and their families, and foster dialogue with respected members of the community.

Along with Senator May, panelists included the Rev. Colette Matthews-Carter, Clifford Ryan, Deka Dancil, Will Rogers, Tenekqua Cauthen, Lepa Jones, Jimmy Oliver, Sgt. Matthew Malinowski, and Syracuse Police Officer Joseph Commisso.







## Celebrating CNY People and Places

(Top) Senator May and Greg Olsen, executive director of the NY Office for the Aging, honoring Syracuse resident Ruth Colvin as New York Senior of the Year.

(Center, left) Congratulating U.S. Navy veteran Edward Stone, whom Senator May named a New York Senate 2019 Veterans Hall of Fame honoree.

(Center, right) Honoring Eva Williams, principal of Van Duyn Elementary School in Syracuse, as the Senator's 2019 Woman of Distinction honoree.

(Bottom left) Joining in the CNY Pride Parade.

(Bottom right) The dedication of Delphi Falls County Park in Madison County.





## Senator Rachel May Summer 2019 Highlights



(Clockwise from top left) At the annual Mary Nelson Youth Center Back-to-School Supply Giveaway; speaking at a veterans' memorial event in Wampsville; with OG's Against Violence to honor Clifford Ryan with the Liberty Medal; raising a cup of milk with Senate colleagues at the NY State Fair in honor of Central New York; chatting with some 4-H prizewinners at the fair; and enjoying a visit to Madison County Open Farm Days.