

THE WEEKLY WRAP

ISSUE NO. 78 | JUNE 18, 2021



NYS SENATOR DAPHNE JORDAN
(R, C, IP, REF) 43RD SENATE DISTRICT



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday and welcome to the June 18 edition of my Weekly Wrap!

BIG happenings this week:

- My commitment to advancing an agenda that strengthens our economy, makes our communities safer and cultivates a better quality of life for all our residents
- New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Recovery Grant Program now open and accepting applications
- New York State hits an important vaccination milestone
- My efforts to hold Government to a Higher Standard
- The Rensselaer County Honor a Veteran Program holds its first event since the COVID-19 Shutdown
- I sent a letter to Governor Cuomo advocating on behalf of our landlords

Other important news:

- Saratoga Race Course to re-open at 100% capacity this summer
- Continuing to call on Governor Cuomo to end the mask mandate on our school age children
- Participating in the Hudson Flag Day Parade
- Attending a picnic fundraiser for the Veterans and Community Housing Coalition
- Honoring Town of East Greenbush Supervisor Jack Conway for being named the 2021 NYS Recreation and Parks Society Elected Official of the Year

As always, I want to hear from YOU. If you have a comment, question, or concern, please email me at 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

Advancing an agenda that

strengthens our economy



FIGHTING FOR A BETTER NEW YORK

I'm committed to advancing an agenda that strengthens our economy, makes our communities safer and cultivates a better quality of life for all our residents. My Senate Republican colleagues and I sponsored legislation that would have accomplished that, but Senate Democrats blocked it from coming up for a vote. These bills include a comprehensive plan to fix our state's unemployment system and help struggling New Yorkers; a package of bills designated to help give law enforcement the support it needs; a Victims' Rights Agenda to give families and victims of crimes the justice they deserve; and a plan to assist in recovery of the restaurant and hospitality industry to help these essential businesses stay open, keep people on payroll and provide desperately needed relief in the wake of COVID-19. Although these important measures didn't become law this year, I remain committed to fighting for common sense policies that help our region and families thrive.

NYS Small Business Recovery Grant Program

New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program: *Now open and accepting applications*



GRANT AMOUNTS

Grant awards will be calculated based on a business's annual gross receipts for 2019

- Annual gross receipts: \$25,000 – \$49,999.99: Award is \$5,000 / business
- Annual gross receipts: \$50,000 – \$99,999.99: Award is \$10,000 / business
- Annual gross receipts: \$100,000 – \$500,000: Award is 10% of gross receipts (maximum grant is \$50,000)

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants must be currently viable and have begun operation on or before March 1, 2019 and continue to be in operation as of the date of application

Eligible Applicants will be required to show loss of gross receipts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic or compliance with COVID-19 health and safety protocols which resulted in business modifications, interruptions, or closures.

INELIGIBLE BUSINESSES

- All Non-Profits, Churches and other religious institutions
- Government-owned entities or elected official offices
- Businesses primarily engaged in political or lobbying activities
- Businesses that received awards from the SBA Restaurant Revitalization Grant Program
- Landlords and passive real estate businesses
- Illegal businesses or enterprises
- Other industry or business types as specified by Empire State Development

MORE INFORMATION

Visit: <https://nysmallbusinessrecovery.com/>

The NYS Small Business Recovery Grant Program is open and accepting applications. Below is some important information about grant amounts and who's eligible. For further information visit the official website:

<https://nysmallbusinessrecovery.com/>

Saratoga Springs Celebrates Longshot the Moose Day

FEATURED

Longshot the Moose Day holiday in Saratoga Springs aims to inspire kids to read

By Lauren Halligan lhalligan@digitalfirstmedia.com

@LaurenTheRecord on Twitter

17 hrs ago Comments

1 of 9



Local author Vicki Adesso Dodd, left, and Saratoga Springs Mayor Meg Kelly, center, smile with Longshot the Moose on the steps of City Hall while holding a proclamation declaring June 15, 2021 Longshot the Moose Day.

Photo provided

Longshot the Moose Day celebrates the anniversary of when a moose, now known as Longshot, unexpectedly visited Saratoga Racecourse back in 2009. The event inspired local author and founder of Saratoga Springs Publishing, Vicki Adesso Dodd, to write "A Moose in my Stable." Following the success of her first book, Dodd wrote two more books in the Longshot the Moose series. The holiday celebrates Longshot the Moose and his role in promoting children's literacy skills. To learn more about this local holiday, click here:

<https://www.saratogaspringspublishing.com/longshot-the-moose>

Participating in the 25th Annual Hudson Flag Day Parade



It was great to be at the 25th Anniversary Hudson Flag Day Parade Saturday afternoon! I was so happy to participate in this patriotic event with Columbia County Clerk Holly Tanner, her daughter Lauren, Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro, and Columbia County Veterans Director Gary Flaherty.

Celebrating Flag Day



June 14th was Flag Day, and I am so thankful that we can wave our flag high, with the red symbolizing hardiness & valor, the white symbolizing purity & innocence, and the blue symbolizing vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The stripes remind us of our history establishing the 13 colonies, and the stars remind us of our 50 states creating one unbreakable nation. Flying our flag high reminds us of the freedom that our troops have fought for, and I am forever thankful for that. God Bless America!

Rensselaer County Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony



The Rensselaer County Honor-A-Deceased-Veteran Ceremony was Monday morning, where Sergeant Howard A. Richards was designated a recipient of the Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate. Sergeant Richards enlisted in the United States Army on November 11, 1942, in Albany, New York. After attending chemical warfare school, he spent his illustrious military career as Chief of Section 844, supervising 16 men in firearms. Our nations' veterans deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked for their service and for their dedication to their communities, their state and their nation. Thank you to my amazing staff- my Community Liaison, Halie Northrop for speaking and presenting the Liberty Medal on my behalf, and my Director of Constituent Services and Rensselaer County Legislator Daniel Casale for being there as well!

Holding Government to a Higher Standard



Over 15,000 seniors dead in a nursing home scandal and cover-up. Multiple accusations of sexual harassment. A shady book deal. Ongoing state and federal investigations. The amount of controversies and potentially criminal behavior surrounding Governor Cuomo is unconscionable and can no longer continue to go on. I've called on the Governor to resign, but since he's refused it's become vital that the Legislature take action. Just before Legislative Session concluded, I helped take the next steps in holding the Governor accountable by successfully securing funding for impeachment. This money will be used to conduct interviews and investigations, and to hold the hearings necessary to ensuring this governor's actions receive the scrutiny they need. Now that this funding is secured, it's time for the Legislature to fully conduct this investigation and provide New Yorkers with the answers and transparency they deserve.

Special Picnic to Support Our Veterans



It was great to see all these wonderful people (above) at Tuesday night's special picnic in Saratoga County! It was a fundraiser for the Veterans and Community Housing Coalition, which serves homeless veterans and their families. Everyone brought some products (cleaning goods, paper products, toiletries, gas cards, grocery cards, etc...) and we filled the bed of a pickup truck. Pictured above are some fantastic people: Frank McClement, Saratoga County Veterans Services Director; Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh; Scholarship winner Maggie Partlow, from Shenendowa High School; and Saratoga County Clerk Craig Hayner & his wife Carolyn, who generously donated ice cream for dessert. For more information on the Veterans and Community Housing Coalition, check out their website: <https://www.vchcnny.org/>.

**Saratoga Race Course to re-open at
100 percent capacity this summer!**



Exciting news for racing fans this week, as the New York Racing Association announced that Saratoga Race Course will re-open at 100 percent capacity this summer! For additional information on the 2021 season, visit the New York Racing Association's website at <https://www.nyra.com/saratoga/>.

Continuing to call on Governor Cuomo to end the mask mandate on our school aged children



This week, Governor Cuomo lifted all COVID-19 restrictions. New York State is now fully reopened. With that welcome news, the governor must take the next step, and most important step. He needs to do what parents and educators have been begging him to do and end the mask mandate on school-aged children!

With 70% of New Yorkers having received at least one dose of the vaccine, positivity rates under 0.5% and the incoming summer heat making it harder to breathe with a face covering on, there is no longer any need for children to wear masks.

Large-scale venues, restaurants and businesses are allowed to reopen at FULL capacity. An overwhelming majority of adults are vaccinated. Kids 12+ are eligible for the vaccine. Toddlers and preschool-aged students are not required to wear masks.

Corrupt Cuomo still wields unilateral power. He should use it to lift the mask policy, then let local school districts, parents and health officials make the appropriate mask policies for their schools going forward. If he refuses, then the state Legislature should immediately reconvene to repeal these unnecessary restrictions on school children.

It's long past time to do the right thing and unmask our children!

Honoring Town of East Greenbush Supervisor Jack Conway



On Wednesday evening, I presented East Greenbush Town Supervisor Jack Conway with a New York State Senate Proclamation, honoring him for being named the 2021 NYS Recreation and Parks Society Elected Official of the Year! The Elected Official of the Year Award is presented to an individual who provides exemplary support to parks and recreation, and has made significant contributions to the parks and recreation field through active participation, advocacy or through policy and legislation. Congratulations to Supervisor Conway on receiving this prestigious honor!

Continuing to Advocate on Behalf of our Landlords

Today, I wrote to Governor Cuomo today urging his Administration to finally fix the problems with a state program that's supposed to be helping landlords. I've

heard from COUNTLESS landlords from my 43rd Senate District and all across the state re: the financial devastation they're facing due to COVID-19, the economic downturn, and state programs that are hurting, not helping. Landlords are small businesses and face incredible financial hardships. Some landlords have not been paid rent, or received state relief, for 17 months! This cannot continue! Read my letter here:

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



ALBANY OFFICE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 508
ALBANY, NY 12247
(518) 455-2381

DISTRICT OFFICE
1580 COLUMBIA TURNPIKE
BLDG. 2, STE. 1
CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON, NY 12033
(518) 371-2751

EMAIL: JORDAN@NYSENATE.GOV
WEBSITE: JORDAN.NYSENATE.GOV

June 17, 2021

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

RE: Urgent need to rectify serious programmatic deficiencies of the State's
Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I write advocating on a matter of the utmost and urgent importance to countless landlords across New York State, and especially my 43rd Senate District, many of whom are struggling financially because of the unintended consequences of a state policy.

Specifically, I request that your administration take immediate action to address the serious, significant, and systematic shortcomings that have been identified within the State's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

While this measure was initially well-intentioned – and supposed to provide economic relief to help low and moderate-income households at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability by providing rental arrears, temporary rental assistance, and utility arrears assistance – the initiative's real-world deficiencies have severely financially hurt small landlords. Over a dozen small landlords indicated to me that they have gone 17 months without rental payments and the results have been devastating to them and their families.

As currently constituted, ERAP requires active tenant cooperation for a landlord to secure the money they are rightfully owed. The practical reality of this provision, as shared with me by many landlords, is that some rent scofflaws have absconded from rental premises without working with their landlord in sharing necessary information. Their failure to do so effectively prevents the processing of rightful claims by landlords to recoup their losses via ERAP. The result is that landlords are

effectively denied the financial relief they were promised by New York State and thus face long-term fiscal damage.

Without question, this serious programmatic deficiency must be rectified immediately. At a minimum, in the absence of rightful, active, and wholly appropriate cooperation by their tenant, landlords that are unable to secure necessary documentation from a renter should be granted a good-faith exception to ERAP's provision requiring this information so they can receive their necessary financial relief.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, landlords have faced countless challenges. Along with the previously identified deficiencies regarding ERAP, until recently, \$1.3 billion in federal COVID-19 assistance was withheld by the state. This funding was to be specifically distributed to tenants and landlords and, inexplicably, had been delayed since December 31, 2020.

Landlords are business owners, many are small businesses, and most have been struggling, desperately trying to keep their heads and finances above water during the economic downturn. Small landlords have neither the cash nor the credit to cover their costs when the rents are not paid. In fact, most small landlords do not make a great deal of money from the rent payments that they use to cover their costs. Small landlords annually incur significant operating, maintenance, and repair expenses and carry large loans and mortgages that must be paid back under the threat of default. Countless landlords from across my 43rd Senate District, and throughout our state, have taken a massive financial hit due to COVID-19.

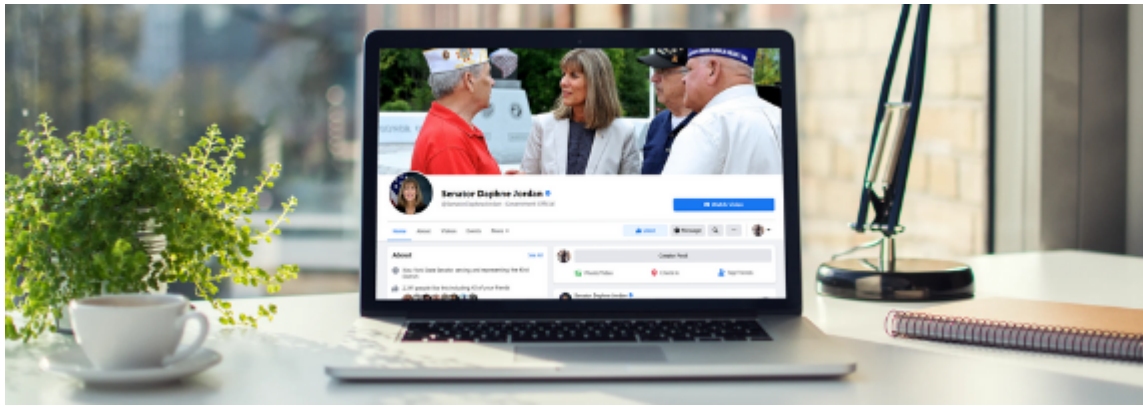
Regrettably, when landlords have turned to the State Attorney General's Office seeking assistance in recouping financial losses, they are informed that they need to hire an attorney. The reality is that the vast majority cannot afford to do so. Frankly, landlords should not have to acquire legal representation in an attempt to recoup their losses. The state program put in place to help them should work and deliver the promised assistance.

Accordingly, I urge your Administration to undertake all necessary actions to address the identified problems with ERAP so a state program that ostensibly was supposed to help landlords does not further penalize them and add to their considerable financial burdens.

Sincerely,

Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District

**Stay up-to-date with me throughout the week
on Social Media!**



FACEBOOK

TWITTER

INSTAGRAM

YOUTUBE

VISIT MY WEBSITE

Albany Office:
188 State Street, Legislative Office
Bldg.,
Room 508
Albany, NY 12247
518-455-2381

District Office:
1580 Columbia Turnpike
Building 2, Suite 1,
Castleton-On-the-Hudson, NY 12033
518-371-2751



THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE