

# THE WEEKLY WRAP

ISSUE NO. 80 | JULY 2, 2021



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



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday and welcome to the July 2 edition of my Weekly Wrap!

**BIG happenings this week:**

- Stephentown Memorial Library ribbon cutting event
- Visits to the Villages of Castleton-on-Hudson and Philmont
- Press conference advocating for small business landlords
- Celebrating the new resilience garden at SUNY Empire State College

**Other important news:**

- Halfmoon Farmers market season
- East Greenbush YMCA Summer Food Kickoff Event
- Grand Opening of Infinite Care in Halfmoon

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! I hope everyone has a safe and patriotic Fourth of July!

– Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District

## Happy Independence Day, Let Freedom Ring!



As we gather again, TOGETHER, to celebrate our incredible nation this July 4th, my partners in federal, state, and local government and I wanted to share some of the timeless words of our Founding Fathers and the Declaration of Independence, and offer our thoughts and praise for the patriots who defend, protect, and serve America. Let's renew our commitment to America's powerful, founding ideas and ideals and remember the words we live by. Happy Independence Day, God bless America, and let freedom ring!

You can watch our special July 4th video here:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/video/daphne-jordan/special-july-4th-message>

Incredibly proud and honored to partner with Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin; Congresswoman Elise Stefanik; NYS Senator Jim Tedisco; NYS Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh; NYS Assemblyman Jake Ashby; Saratoga County Clerk Craig Hayner; Saratoga County Sheriff Michael Zurlo; Columbia County Sheriff David Bartlett; Rensselaer County Sheriff Pat Russo; Washington County Sheriff Jeff Murphy; Rensselaer County Clerk Frank Merola, and Columbia County Clerk Holly Tanner, all of whom made the time to be part of this special July 4 video. THANK YOU!!! Be sure to read, appreciate, and LIVE the timeless words of our nation's Declaration of Independence at the National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>.

## Stephentown Memorial Library Ribbon Cutting Event



I was happy to take part in the Stephentown Memorial Library's terrific StoryWalk ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday afternoon! Mary Fellows with the Upper Hudson Library System's (UHLS) Youth and Family Services was instrumental in obtaining a grant for the library from the UHLS to be able to do the StoryWalks. I'm featured in these fun photos with Berlin Central School District Superintendent A. Joseph Dhara, Mary Fellows, Library Trustees, Sarah Thompson and Jennifer Peabody, as well as Library Director Kim Roppolo and her sons. StoryWalks are a picture book presented on posts along a walking path or trail so that children and families can read the story together as they walk along the path. Started at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in Montpelier, VT, you can now find StoryWalks all over the country! The Stephentown Memorial Library has a total of 3 StoryWalks. The library installed its first on the Corkscrew Rail Trail last year and it has been very popular with local families. The two new StoryWalks will help the community enjoy nature and foster reading skills right on the library grounds and on the athletic field across from the library. This will help connect families who don't have easy access to the Corkscrew Rail Trail and who might be visiting the library to take part in the enjoyable StoryWalk experience. The StoryWalk on the athletic field was established with the support of the Berlin Central School District. The Stephentown Memorial Library also kicked off its popular Summer Reading program on the library grounds with an interactive storytelling session that featured a visit from Crosby the Reading Dog, and live music from Mike McMann. Congratulations to the fantastic team at the Stephentown Memorial Library and UHLS on Saturday's wonderful event! I encourage everyone to check out a great



book at the Stephentown Memorial Library and enjoy one of its StoryWalks! You can visit the Stephentown Memorial Library's website [here](#).

## Halfmoon Farmer's Market



# HALFMOON FARMERS MARKET

*Open every Wednesday  
3:00pm – 7:00pm rain or shine*

*Abele Park, Harris Road, Halfmoon Municipal Center*

## Wednesday, June 30, 2021

### Over 25 Vendors

**New Vendor**



**Check Out Our Food Trucks**

The Mac Factor



The Hungry Traveler




WE WILL HIGHLIGHT  
FOUR OF OUR VENDORS  
EACH WEEK.




**The Nut Lady**



*Chocolate IS Self-Care*



**Spring Into Health With Pam**



Be sure and stop by the Halfmoon Farmers Market on Wednesday afternoons, featuring over 25 terrific vendors — you can also pick up dinner from one of the many food trucks on the way home! To learn about about the Halfmoon Farmer's Market, click [here](#), and for more information on local Farmers Markets in your area, visit the New York State Department of Agriculture and Market's [directory](#).

## Visiting the Village of Castleton-on-Hudson



A wonderful, fun, and very informative visit with Castleton-on-Hudson Mayor Joe Keegan Monday afternoon! Mayor Keegan and I visited several locations throughout the Village including the Wastewater Treatment Plant (which had a \$8 million makeover and is the only such plant operating in Southern Rensselaer County), Riverfront Park, Castleton Public Library (where we're pictured with Library Director Melissa Tacke discussing the Library's terrific and popular Summer Reading Program), the Village Hall, and concluding with Schodack Island State Park (look at these fantastic views pictured above). Monday was an incredibly insightful tour, the latest of my ongoing meetings with local elected leaders across my 43rd Senate District. I thank Mayor Keegan for being so generous with his time today and look forward to our next visit!

## Press Conference Advocating for Small Business Landlords





Great press conference Wednesday morning with my good friend and colleague Senator Jim Tedisco where we advocated on behalf of landlord small businesses that have been financially devastated by policies like the rent eviction moratorium that have had serious unintended consequences. My thanks to Joseph Tronco; Dennis and Mary Ryan; Rosie Karame, Mortgage Tax Supervisor at Rensselaer County Re-Elect Frank Merola - Your Rensselaer County Clerk's Office; and Chris Morris, Founder, and Executive Director, Schenectady Landlords Influencing Change, for taking part in today's press conference and sharing the heartfelt, incredibly moving stories of the serious fiscal hardships they've endured and are still enduring. Our news release (Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh and Assemblyman Jake Ashby support this effort and are quoted in the release) can be found on my NYS Senate webpage at the link listed right below:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/daphne-jordan/senator-daphne-jordan-and-senator-jim-tedisco-stand-and-0>

You can read some of the media coverage of our press conference below:

Daily Gazette:

<https://dailygazette.com/2021/06/30/landlord-advocates-continue-to-push-for-immediate-help-with-unpaid-rent-during-pandemic/>

Troy Record:

[https://www.troyrecord.com/news/jordan-tedisco-advocate-for-small-business-landlords-hit-by-rent-eviction-moratorium/article\\_07c30608-d9c4-11eb-83b8-33c1cf7930b5.html](https://www.troyrecord.com/news/jordan-tedisco-advocate-for-small-business-landlords-hit-by-rent-eviction-moratorium/article_07c30608-d9c4-11eb-83b8-33c1cf7930b5.html)

Times Union:

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Landlords-say-they-re-going-broke-making-up-for-16284903.php>

CBS 6:

<https://cbs6albany.com/news/coronavirus/lawmakers-advocate-for-landlords-devastated-by-eviction-moratorium>

Facebook video:

<https://www.facebook.com/JamesTedisco/videos/120383580168755>

## Visiting the Village of Philmont



Any day that I can be in Columbia County is a GREAT day! That's why it was so great having an opportunity to visit with Village of Philmont Mayor Brian Johnson and Deputy Mayor Doug Cropper on Wednesday. We discussed local priorities, especially public safety. The Village of a Philmont is also a proud Purple Heart Community an ongoing non-partisan, grassroots effort that I'm proud to lead all across my 43rd Senate District to help recognize and honor America's best and bravest! My thanks to Mayor Johnson and Deputy Mayor Cropper, we'll be talking again very soon!

## National Clean Beaches Week



This week (July 1-7) is National Clean Beaches Week! New York's beaches are some of the finest in our nation and it's important that we preserve them for this generation and generations to come. If you're interested in participating in an event or taking action to keep our beaches pristine, visit:

<http://www.cleanbeaches.com/events.html>

## East Greenbush YMCA Summer Food Kickoff Event





### Rensselaer County CARES!

That was the strong, positive message delivered by my good friend Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin at Rensselaer County's 47th Summer Food Kick Off Event, hosted by the Greenbush Area YMCA Thursday morning.

I was proud to participate in, and speak at, this important event and stand with Rensselaer County Legislature Members Daniel Casale, Kelly Hoffman, and Tom Grant.

This fantastic event marked the start of the 10-week summer food program that runs from July 1 thru August 31 at locations throughout Rensselaer County. All told, there are 22 sites in the County where free lunches will be available. The program ensures that kids have access to healthy meals when school is not in session, is free to all kids under the age of 18, and to persons with disabilities over age 18, who participate in school programs for the disabled.

The purpose of the Summer Food Program is to ensure that children ages 18 and younger have access to nutritious meals while the kids are out of school in areas of need, at no cost to them. Meals must be served where 50% of the children are eligible for free and reduced cost meals, as an extension of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program provided during the school year.

Yesterday's successful kickoff event featured 120 great kids, as well as Valley Cat Mascot Southpaw, several members of the Albany Empire Football team, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the United Way.

The Rensselaer County Department of Youth has been a sponsor of the USDA/NYS Education Summer Food Program since it began in 1974, making this the 47th year in operation.

Last year, Rensselaer County successfully served a total of 23,828 meals during the 10-week program at 12 sites across Rensselaer County. This year, Rensselaer County anticipates serving 124,710 meals! That's incredible!!

Thursday morning's event also featured ice cream sundaes from Stewart's Shops. My thanks to: County Executive McLaughlin, Debbie Fleming, Summer Food Project Manager, Alec Wright, Summer Food Coordinator, Jim and Joe Russo from J.R. Proprietors, the Greenbush Area YMCA, Executive Director Shannon Romanowski and Director of Operations Callie Mosie, Rensselaer County Commissioner of Social Services Theresa Beaudoin, and Rensselaer County Commissioner of Youth, Pierce Hoyt for this wonderful event!

G-R-E-A-T things are happening in Rensselaer County!!

## Celebrating the new Resilience Garden at SUNY Empire State College



Thursday afternoon, I had the good fortune to speak at, and take part in, the special public dedication ceremony for SUNY Empire State College's beautiful, poignant Resilience Garden.

SUNY Empire's Resilience Garden will serve as a lasting symbol of hope and perseverance, marking one of the most challenging, painful, and trying times in our state and nation's history as we battled the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here's the inspiring backstory to SUNY Empire's Resilience Garden...

Last fall, SUNY Empire State College staff planted dozens of Asiatic lilies and gladioli at the entrance of 113 West Avenue, creating what is now the College's

Resilience Garden. The flowers celebrate the compassion and courage of the college community during the pandemic while honoring all New Yorkers impacted by COVID-19.

Yesterday's dedication event coincides with the July 6 reopening of SUNY Empire's physical locations throughout New York State. During the pandemic, SUNY Empire moved to a fully online model to serve its students and keep their goal of earning a college degree within reach. The College is now poised to resume its online, in-person, and hybrid-learning model.

The flowers (originally bulbs from her garden) were donated to the College by Lisa Johnson (who I'm also pictured with in these accompanying photos) a project coordinator at SUNY Empire, and symbolize the promise of new beginnings as we slowly emerge from the darkness of the pandemic.

Thursday's Resilience Garden Dedication was a terrific, celebratory event that I was proud to speak and take part in with Nathan Gonyea, Officer in Charge, SUNY Empire (whom I presented a NYS Senate Certificate to celebrate today's special occasion), Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, Todd Shimkus, President of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, Sue Epstein, Assistant Vice President SUNY Empire, and Elaine Caruso Roberts, Student Speaker.

I also learned yesterday that SUNY Empire also awarded \$225,000 in grants to over 900 students to help those financially impacted by COVID-19.

SUNY Empire State College (SUNY Empire) is a FANTASTIC institution of higher education that meets students where they live: at the intersection of work, family, and life responsibilities. SUNY Empire educates 17,000 students per year in person, online, and through a blend of both, at locations in every region of New York and at eight international sites worldwide.

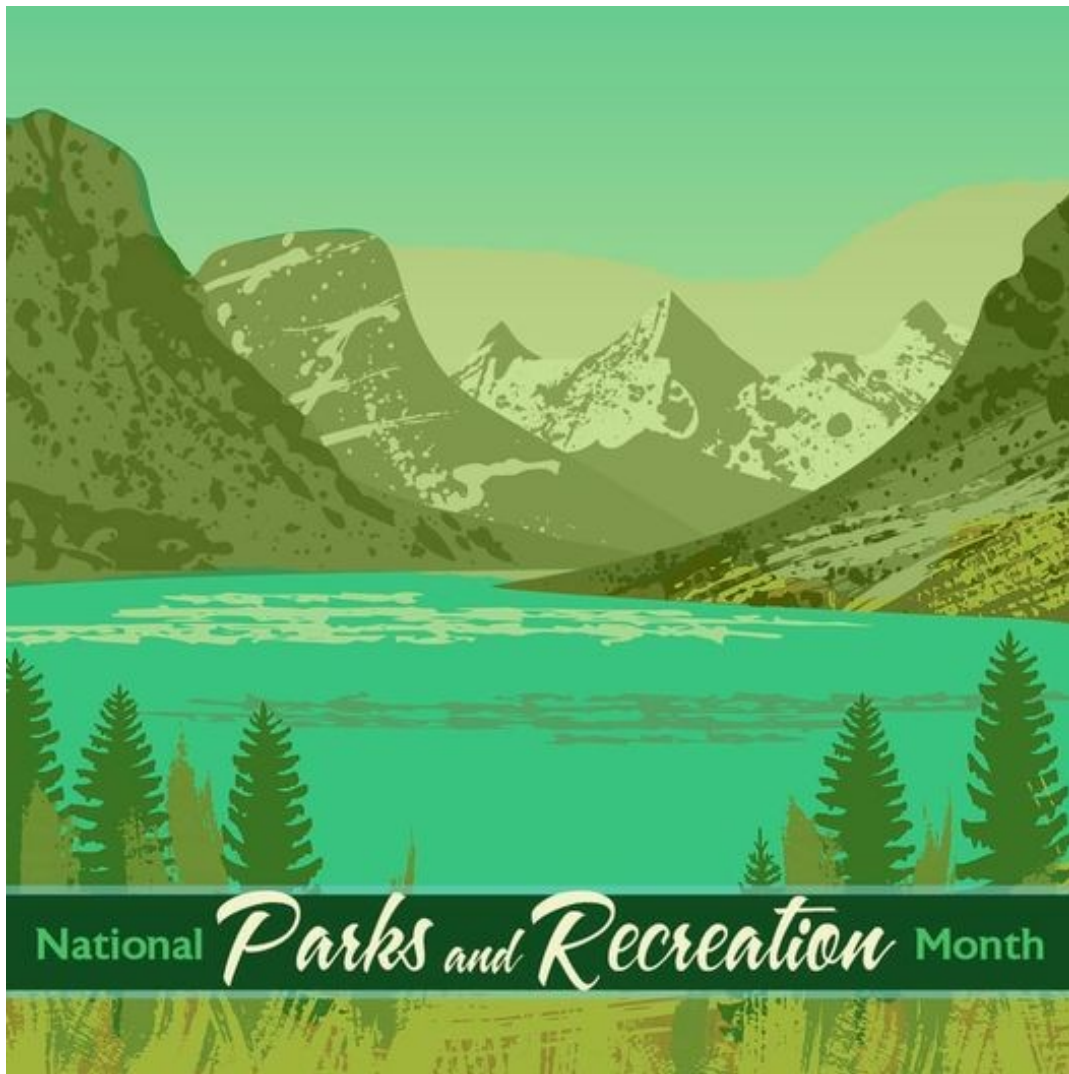
Together with one of SUNY Empire's 700 faculty mentors, each student designs their own individualized pathway to a college degree that accommodates their schedule and awards credit for prior college-level learning.

Now in its 50th year, SUNY Empire awards approximately 3,000 degrees annually and 94 percent of graduates stay in New York State. Today, more than 91,000 SUNY Empire alumni are entrepreneurs, veterans, and active members of the military, professional athletes, teachers, medical professionals, and leaders in their field, as well as in their communities.

Congratulations to SUNY Empire on this fantastic, uplifting event!

## Observing July as "National Parks and Recreation Month"





July is “National Parks and Recreation Month.” With the pandemic in our rearview, there’s no better time than right now to get out and enjoy our national parks and all they have to offer!



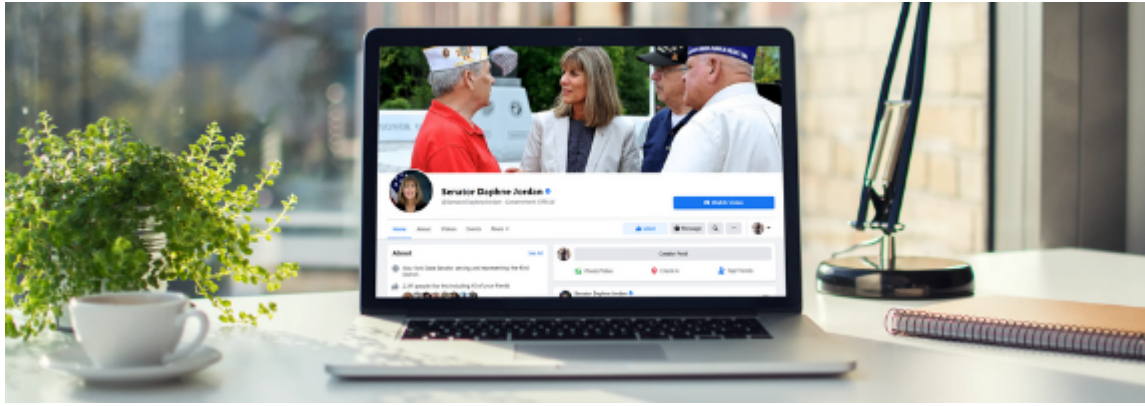
Infinite Care



Great ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday afternoon for Infinite Care, located at 1406 Route 9 Halfmoon, for their second location. Infinite Care had opened February, 2020, and, unfortunately, had to shutdown because of COVID-19 (March 2020). Thankfully, Infinite Care reopened in January of 2021! My Community Liaison, Debbie Curto, is pictured above at the ribbon-cutting ceremony with Ruth Ann Turner, Director of Infinite Care's Childcare, Preschool, and Wrap Around Program. Debbie presented a NYS Senate Certificate on my behalf to commemorate the happy occasion! Infinite Care's GREAT motto is to "Learn through love and love to learn." Infinite Care Clifton Park's environment fosters social, emotional, cognitive, and language development of each child, creating lifelong learners. Congrats to the entire team at Infinite Care!

<https://infinitecarecliftonpark.com/>

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