

THE WEEKLY WRAP

ISSUE NO. 136 | AUGUST 26, 2022



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



Dear Friend:

Happy Friday and welcome to the August 26th edition of my Weekly Wrap, or in this case the Monthly Wrap! It felt very odd not to be able to communicate with you during the Senate mandated mass email blackout for the past month. But that's over and here it is . . .

BIG happenings:

- Saratoga Springs Fire Department Station #3 Groundbreaking
- Saratoga County Honor a Deceased Veteran Program
- Hoosick Falls Battle of Bennington Commemoration
- Woman of Distinction Megan Quillinan
- MACSC receives check from Saratoga County and supplies from My Office
- Unveiling of two new Historical Markers in the Town of Halfmoon

Other important news:

- Halfmoon Family FunFest was this past weekend
- Participating in the Schuylerville Turning Point Parade
- Halfmoon's Champlain Canal Walk
- Honoring WSWHE BOCES Superintendent James Dexter on the occasion of his Retirement
- Halfmoon Seniors Annual Picnic
- Ribbon Cuttings
 - Quad Graphics Veterans Wall
 - Town of Copake Historical Exhibit
 - Foursurance

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

– Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District

IN THE NEWS



Pat M. Casale

Former Assemblyman Pat Casale was an incredible public servant and a good, caring friend to all. My heart and deepest condolences go out to his family, especially to his son, Dan who is a close friend and work colleague. Dan Casale carries on his Dad's spirit of public service as a Rensselaer County Legislator and my Director of Constituent Services. Memory Eternal.

[Read Article](#)



Ronald Riggi, Saratoga Springs businessman, philanthropist, dies at 80

On August 14th Saratoga Springs lost one of its most prominent citizens. Ronald Riggi was a great philanthropist and promoter for Saratoga Springs, where he sat on the Board of SPAC, and was the secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Saratoga Regional YMCA. Along with his wife Michele, Ronald left an indelible mark on the Saratoga community, and his presence will be sorely missed.

[Read Article](#)



Businesses say new state 'COVID tax' too costly

When we began our budget negotiations this year, my New York State Senate Republicans colleagues and I insisted New York State pay back its \$9 Billion debt to the federal government. Instead, the \$10 Billion surplus the State had was spent willy-nilly and it's no surprise State finances are back in the red. Businesses who are still trying to recover from pandemic losses are now being hit by rising unemployment taxes; they should not be asked to pay this. Perhaps we should ask the Majority Leader and the Governor to use their personal slush funds of taxpayer money to pay off this debt AND to STOP SPENDING... SPENDINGSPENDING money they don't really have.

[Learn More](#)



Churchill: A warning from New York's farms

Every day we are hearing from more and more upstate farmers about how lowering the overtime threshold to 40-hours will devastate upstate farms. This attack on rural communities will only serve as a gift to the Democrat Majority's friends in big labor right before an election. Everyone else, farmers, consumers, and farm workers will be hurt by this change.

[Read Article](#)

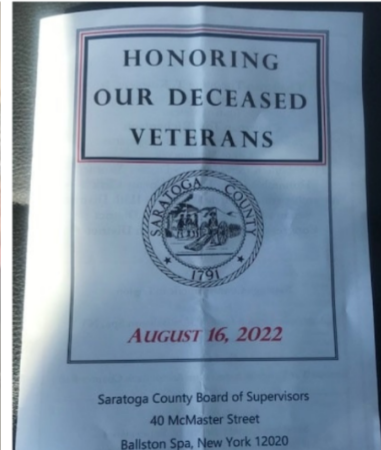
Saratoga Springs Fire Department Station #3 Groundbreaking



Nothing good comes easy. Fire Station #3 in Saratoga Springs is 25 years in the making. I first learned of the project in my first official meeting as Senator in early January of 2019 when I met with Public Safety Commissioner Peter Martin. One of the asks from the meeting was for me to talk to NYRA and to explain that NYRA's land at the northeast corner of the Saratoga Race Track was needed by the City of Saratoga Springs for a fire station. That conversation was had and months later, Mayor Meg Kelly and NYRA had an agreement. The new station will accommodate an ambulance, multiple fire trucks and allow the Saratoga Springs Fire Department to respond faster to emergencies on the east side of the City and Saratoga Lake. I was thrilled to be a part of the ground breaking and to present a New York State Senate Certificate to Mayor Ron Kim, Public Safety Commissioner James Montagnino and Fire Chief Joseph Dolan to commemorate the groundbreaking. Thank you to the brave men and women of the Saratoga Springs Fire Department for keeping the city safe 24 hours a day everyday!

Saratoga Springs Fire Department

**Saratoga County Honor a Deceased Veteran
Program**



It was my distinct privilege to honor US Navy Veteran Christopher Sgambati as he was honored posthumously at this month's Saratoga County Honor a Deceased Veteran Program. Sgambati was a true embodiment of what it means to serve. He began his service to our nation during WWII in the Pacific Theater where he served aboard the USS LST 614. After returning home from the war he was a life member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a founding member of the Italian American War Veterans Peter Purcell Post #21, all while serving the people of Mechanicville as County Supervisor for 30 years.

In 2015, my predecessor, Senator Kathy Marchione honored Chrisopher Sgambati by inducting him into the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame for his dedication to our country, wellbeing of our veterans and contributions to his community. It is truly right that he be honored for his community work that spans decades. In addition to his work with veterans he was also a dedicated fan and timekeeper for the Mechanicville High School Basketball Teams for over 65 years, and served on the Mechanicville Housing Authority for over 30 years, 10 of those years as Chairman. He was a man of faith and devotion, attending mass and singing in the choir for his congregation at the Church of the Assumption.

While we honored him at Saratoga County's Honor a Deceased Veteran Program, we felt his absence. He participated regularly in the monthly ceremony and was a tireless advocate for the Veterans Memorial in Mechanicville's Talmadge Park. A member of the Mechanicville Veteran's Council, Chris Sgambati connected with veterans at the local level, and worked every day to honor them through his dedication to seeing their needs met.

The greatest compliment I can pay Christopher Sgambati is that he cared. He cared about the people he worked for, the men he served alongside, and the community

he represented. For the people of Mechanicville and Saratoga County, Sgambati is synonymous with SERVICE. It was my honor to present his family with a NYS Senate Proclamation and NYS Commendation Award.

Hoosick Falls Battle of Bennington Commemoration



On August 16th, Hoosick Falls celebrated the 245th anniversary of the Battle of Bennington. A key part of the Saratoga Campaign, this battle was the first time American forces defeated the British Army under the command of General John Burgoyne. Following the defeat, the British Army would fall back to the Hudson River and was eventually forced to surrender at the Battle of Saratoga. Though often overlooked, without the sacrifices of the American soldiers at Bennington, it is possible that the turning point in the Revolutionary War would not have happened. This year there is a new QR system that will allow visitors to listen to the reenactment on their phones!

Thank you to all those who have used their time and talents to preserve this important part of American history. It was so nice to see Assemblyman Jake Ashby, David Pitylk of NYS Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, Joyce Brewer from Friends of Bennington Battlefield, and Heather Mabee, Chair of the Saratoga/Capital Region Parks Commission and also representing Saratoga DAR. As we approach the 250th anniversary of the Saratoga Campaign, it is more important than ever to honor the sacrifices of these brave soldiers, who fought so hard in order that we could live free. God Bless all those who fought at

Bennington, and God Bless all those who have worn the uniform of the United States since.

[Learn More](#)

Woman of Distinction Megan Quillinan



Women of
DISTINCTION
HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Megan Quillinan

Megan Quillinan was my selection to be a 2022 NYS Senate Women of Distinction honoree. I look forward to hosting a celebration with Megan and her family and friends in the near future! Read her impressive biography below:

Megan Quillinan is the Executive Director of the Mechanicville Area Community Services Center (MACSC). She is a respected community leader with an extensive track record of helping those in need.

Ms. Quillinan is a determined advocate for community-based development through mutually respectful relationships built with employees, volunteers, and partners, focusing on public demand for MACSC.

As MACSC Executive Director, Ms. Quillinan is a hands-on leader, overseeing grant writing, administration, fundraising, community relations, personnel management, and the development of responsive community-focused programs.

Also in her role, Ms. Quillinan successfully tripled the agency budget to over \$1 million with diversified funding streams including State and local grants, fundraising, collaborative community partnerships, and increase of revenue-yielding programs. She recently celebrated her 21st anniversary with MACSC.

Ms. Quillinan's passion lies in service to the community. She is always striving to ensure that staff, board, and volunteers alike understand the MACSC's vital role in building stronger neighborhoods, developing programs based on community need, and forging partnerships founded on what is best for children, seniors and all residents.

Ms. Quillinan earned her Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from Skidmore

College. She is credentialed in Family Development from Cornell University and Family Development Leadership from the University of Connecticut, and is a Bridges Out of Poverty Certified Trainer. She is a graduate of Leadership Saratoga and completed City Year, one of the initial AmeriCorps programs.

Ms. Quillinan has continually been recognized and lauded for her tireless advocacy, heartfelt compassion, and highly effective leadership through prestigious awards, including the Capital Region Chamber's Nonprofit of the Year, Mechanicville Citizen of the Year, Chamber Angels Honoree, National Community Advocacy Award, and the Community Inspiration Award.

A loving mother, Ms. Quillinan has four children, ages 29, 22, 14, and 11, with Dave, her soul mate of 25 years.

Woman of Distinction Video

MACSC receives check from Saratoga County and supplies from My Office



Mechanicville Area Community Services Center, Inc. is a terrific non-profit organization which services residents in Mechanicville, Stillwater, Waterford and surrounding areas. Executive Director Megan Quillinan and staff provide a food

pantry, summer camp and after school care for children, domestic violence services, assistance for seniors and more to help those in need. Town Supervisor, Tom Richardson presented a \$40,000 check from Saratoga County in support of MACSC to Megan Quillinan. The money was received by the County from ARPA - the American Rescue Plan 2021. Mayor of Mechanicville Mike Butler and Public Safety Commissioner Fred Hosley and I were in attendance for the presentation. I was happy to drop off a number of COVID tests and booklets from my office that will support MACSC's backpack program. If you or anyone you know needs tests please contact my office as we still have plenty to send out.

MACSC Website

Unveiling of two new Historical Markers in the Town of Halfmoon



August 2nd was a special day in the Town of Halfmoon. The Church Hill Historic District was officially added to the State and National Registries of Historic Places. These buildings, including 78 Church Hill Road, known as the Oakcliff House, 57 Church Hill Road, known as the Taylor House, 66 Church Hill Road, known as the Octagon House, and 90 Church Hill Road, known as the Noxin-Van Hoesin House, were built shortly after the completion of the Erie Canal in the early 19th century. They are a reflection of Halfmoon's first commercial hub, the Hamlet of Crescent,

and the important role it played along the Canal. Thank you to John Szemansco Jr. the owner of Oakcliff Bed and Breakfast for hosting the ceremony today. Thank you to the residents of the District that worked for years to bring the registry listings to fruition and thank you to Town Historian Lynda Bryan and the Halfmoon Historical Society for preserving Halfmoon's History with historical markers. Halfmoon and Saratoga County are full of rich history that is so important to preserve.

The Town also celebrated 5 generations and 166 years of Betts Farm and its importance to Halfmoon with a historical marker dedicated by the Halfmoon Historical Society. Founded in 1856 by Hiram Betts the farm has been the home to five generations of the Betts family and is currently owned by Bill Betts. The Betts Farm is the oldest established farm in Halfmoon, starting out as a dairy farm for milk and butter and was the site of the Town's only cider mill for many years. The Betts family has been integral to the Town of Halfmoon through the generations, including Frank Betts who was one of the first trustees of the Newtown one room schoolhouse where first through eighth grades were taught. Like I said before, we have a lot of rich history here and I am always happy to celebrate and embrace it.

[Learn More](#)

Halfmoon Family FunFest was this past
weekend



The Halfmoon Family FunFest was in full swing Saturday afternoon! There were lots of families and youngsters eagerly waiting to ride around in the Halfmoon Waterford Fire District Engine No. 1. I was lucky enough to ride in the Captain's seat along with Town Supervisor Kevin Tollisen. Even though the temperature got hot out in the sun, community members had snow cones and ice at the ready. Thank you to the Hillcrest Fire Department, West Crescent Fire Department, and Halfmoon Waterford Fire Department, along with the Town of Halfmoon, for putting on such an interactive family fun day!

Participating in the Schuylerville Turning Point Parade



The Turning Point Parade on August 7th in Schuylerville had a BIG crowd to celebrate the Battle of Saratoga, which was the turning point in the Revolutionary War. The parade was also part of the 250th-anniversary celebrations of the Battle which will continue for the next 5 years until 2027. It was great to see so many local groups including, the Saratoga Chapter of the American Revolution, the 2nd Continental Artillery Regiment from Fort Edward, American Legion Post 278, local fire departments, the Saratoga County Sheriffs and New York State Police, and many many more. Thank you to everyone who came out today to celebrate this key moment in our nation's history..

Halfmoon's Champlain Canal Walk



Great turnout for Halfmoon's Champlain Canal Trail Walk & Picnic in the Park! We started out at the Upper Newtown Trail head and walked to Lighthouse Park where we feasted. If you haven't been on the trail, it's peacefully beautiful and I promise you will enjoy it. When I was Halfmoon Councilwoman, I was the Town liaison to the Halfmoon Trails and Open Space Committee; we got a lot done. The Committee is looking for a few new members. If interested contact the Town. I enjoyed my time with Committee members Henny O'Grady, Mike Meyer and Chairman John Mitchell. And of course, I always enjoy the company of Supervisor Kevin Tollisen, Deputy Supervisor Paul Hotaling and Board members John Wasielewski and Eric Catricala. Halfmoon has wonderful trails and I hope you take advantage of them.

**Honoring WSWHE BOCES Superintendent
James Dexter on the occasion of his retirement**



On the night of August 11th I had the honor of joining WSWHE BOCES to celebrate the retirement of Superintendent James Dexter. For 12 years James Dexter served the 31 school districts and 38,000 students covered by Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES. He was dedicated to BOCES' mission of providing an education to students that allows them to follow their passions and prepare them to enter the workforce. Senator Dan Stec and Assembly Members Assemblyman Matt Simpson and Carrie Woerner and I presented a Joint Legislative Proclamation to Superintendent Dexter in recognition of his years of faithful service. Congratulations Jim!

[WSWHE BOCES Website](#)

Halfmoon Seniors Annual Picnic



It was a beautiful day, and we had a big crowd for the annual Halfmoon Senior Picnic this past Wednesday. I had such a great time with my good friends from Halfmoon including Town Supervisor Kevin Tollisen, and Town Clerk Lynda Bryan. If you are interested check out the Halfmoon Senior Center website.

Halfmoon Senior Center



Quad Graphics Veterans Wall



Last Friday I attended Quad Graphics' unveiling of a permanent Veteran's Wall at their facility in Saratoga, and presented Kevin Brasser, Plant Manager with a Senate Certificate for this notable recognition and honor of the veterans they employ. It was a privilege to hear General William C. Martin, Founder of Initiatives Group, give an inspiring speech outlining the importance of learning from and listening to our veterans, their needs, and the values they learned, through their service, which they instill in our communities.

I joined my colleagues Assemblywoman Mary Beth Walsh and Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, to honor the brave men and women who have returned home from service and continue to work for their communities. It was great to sit and visit with Saratoga County Veteran Services Director Frank McClement and to see Saratoga City Deputy Mayor Angela Rella in Attendance as well.

Thank you to Kevin Brasser, Quad Graphics Plant Director, Mike Prime, Retention and Acquisition Specialist, Larry Manning, People Development Leader, and Chuck Clark, Guest Speaker and Press Department Head, for putting on this beautiful ceremony and inviting me to attend and observe our community heroes.

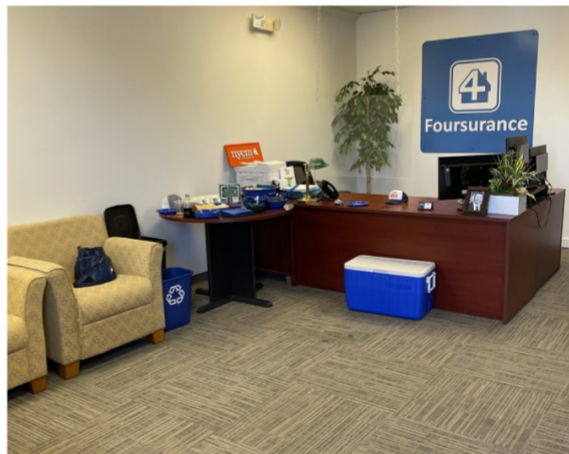
Quad Graphics' Website

Town of Copake Historical Exhibit



On August 13th the Town of Copake celebrated the opening of a new historical exhibit in the Town Hall. For over two years artist Nick Fritsch, Town Historian Howard Blue, and former Town Clerk Vana Hotaling have been working together to finish the exhibit. Their work highlights many important events in Copake covering the original German founders to the ice harvesting at Bash Bish Falls. This beautiful exhibit would not have been possible without grants from the Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation and the Bank of Greene County. Thank you to everyone for their hard work on the exhibit, and congratulations to the Town of Copake for their efforts to preserve their unique history. If you haven't stopped by the Town Hall to check out the exhibit, I strongly recommend it! It was a wonderful display of Copake's history, and truly a walk back through time.

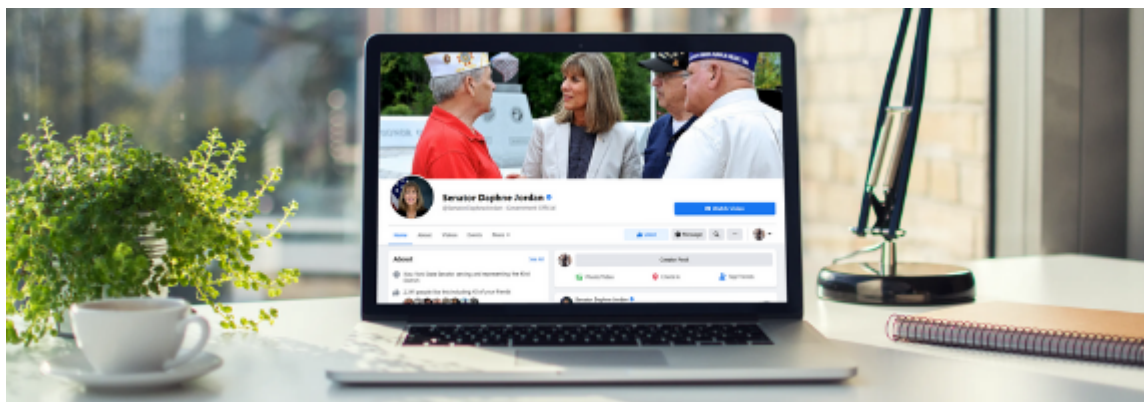
Foursurance



Congratulations to my neighbor Don Ferlazzo and his team on the opening of Foursurance! Located on Route 9 in Halfmoon, they are a full-service insurance agency that will help your family protect what matters most. Thank you to the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce for helping welcome this great new business.

Business Website

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



FACEBOOK

TWITTER

INSTAGRAM

YOUTUBE

VISIT MY WEBSITE

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