

# THE WEEKLY WRAP

ISSUE NO. 117 | MARCH 18, 2022



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



Dear Friend:

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

## **BIG happenings:**

- American Red Cross Legislator of the Year Ceremony
- Sons of the American Legion Squadron 1450 Breakfast
- Rensselaer County Honor a Veteran Ceremony
- Senate Republicans and Local Leaders Call to Suspend the Gas Tax
- My Call for Hearings Following SUNY Invitation of Cop-Killer
- NY Tech Valley Regional FIRST Robotics Competition
- Tour of Curtis Lumber with Senate Minority Leader Rob Ort
- My statement on the Senate One-House Budget

## **Other important news:**

- Happy St. Patrick's Day
- Discover Saratoga Annual Meeting
- Averill Park NYSSMA Performance
- Business to Check Out:
  - Crow Cottage

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!

– Senator Daphne Jordan, 43rd District

# IN THE NEWS



## NY Senate leader Stewart-Cousins: Blame Gov. Hochul for bail law, too

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins on Tuesday tried to foist some of the blame for Albany refusing to tighten its lax bail reform laws onto Gov. Kathy Hochul, saying the governor is clearly in Stewart-Cousins' camp on the matter.

[Read Article](#)



## Legislators push to suspend New York gas tax

By suspending the State's 48 cent gas tax, an individual filling up a 20 gallon tank would save \$10 on average. This is real money going back into the pockets of hard-working New Yorkers. We cannot wait any longer! We owe it to every New Yorker to help make ends meet during this time of unprecedented inflation. I welcome my colleagues across the aisle to join us and support S8483 to suspend the gas tax.

[Read Article](#)



### Senate GOP outlines budget priorities ahead of Democrats' plan

State Senate Republicans this week outlined budget priorities to cut taxes for small businesses, find a path to relief at the gas pump, expand child care, increase funding to implement pretrial services and discovery, bolster charter and technical schools, along with a host of proposals to address the health care sector.

[Read Article](#)



### Health Agency Under Cuomo 'Misled the Public' on Nursing Home Deaths

The administration of former Gov. Andrew Cuomo failed to publicly account for the deaths of about 4,100 nursing home residents in New York during the pandemic, according to an audit released Tuesday by the state comptroller, Thomas DiNapoli.

[Read Article](#)

## American Red Cross Legislator of the Year Ceremony





March is American Red Cross Month and today, I was honored and privileged to be the only legislator from Eastern New York to be awarded the 2022 New York State Legislator of The Year by the American Red Cross. I'm proud to have a strong, productive partnership with such an impactful organization that turns compassion into action by assisting people all over the world in the face of disaster. Thanks to the hard work of Red Cross volunteers, and generous donors, the Red Cross is able to help people facing the biggest crisis of their lives. I also want to thank Keven Coffey, the CEO of the Red Cross of Eastern New York for everything he has done for our community and for this recognition today.

Going forward I will be sponsoring even more events including community blood drives in the City of Troy, on May 23rd, in the City of Saratoga Springs, on May 26th, and an emergency preparedness seminar in Clifton Park, on April 28.

To learn more about the Red Cross or to donate visit their website.

[RedCross.org](https://www.RedCross.org)

## Sons of the American Legion Squadron 1450 Breakfast



On Sunday, I was thrilled to see so many people supporting and eating a delicious

and plentiful breakfast made by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 1450 at American Legion Post 1450 in Halfmoon on Sunday. Please support your Veterans Service Organizations!

## Legion Post 1450

# Rensselaer County Honor a Veteran Ceremony



Monday, Rensselaer County honored the life of World War II veteran, and longtime resident of Lansingburgh Joseph M. Spairana, Sr. It was my honor to present to his family a Senate Proclamation and a New York State Liberty Medal, the highest award a New York State Senator can present to individuals for exceptional heroic or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers and their community.

Mr. Spairana joined the Army in February of 1942 and was assigned to the 6th Armored Division, the "Super Sixth", as a crewman on a medium tank. Cpl. Spairana and the 6th Armored Division were deployed to the European theater and landed in Normandy in July of 1944. The Super Sixth would serve under General George S. Patton on his legendary drive across France and counterattack during the Battle of the Bulge. Cpl. Spairana would serve in Europe until February of 1945 when he was sent back to the United States.

After being discharged from the Army, Cpl. Spairana went on to raise three sons,



Jeffrey, Joseph Jr., and Jan, with his wife Josephine. Joseph Spairana continued to serve his community when he became the Director of the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency in the 1970's, and later as a Veterans Counselor at Hudson Valley Community College. He was also a member of the VFW, the Disabled American Veterans, a neighborhood commissioner for the Uncle Sam Boy Scouts Council, and a former Democratic committeeman in the City of Troy's 10th District. Joseph was also an active member of St. Augustine's Church, where he was a longtime member of the Bingo and Bazaar committee, and an usher for over 35 years.

Thank you to Joseph Spairana for your service to our Nation and State and for being such an active member of the community.

[Read the biography](#)

## Press Conference to Suspend the Gas Tax



Monday I stood with my Republican Legislative Colleagues and Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro to continue our call to deliver tax relief to New Yorkers. The bill I have co-sponsored along with my Senate Colleagues, would [#suspendthegastax](#) until September 1st. This would put real money back into the pockets of New Yorkers who are struggling to make ends meet thanks to rising prices and inflation.

[Read the bill](#)

## Call for Hearings Following SUNY Invitation of Cop-Killer



I am extremely concerned both as a State Senator and SUNY mom that our institutions of higher education are giving convicted murderers a taxpayer funded platform from which to speak. The State Senate must investigate current SUNY speaker policies to determine how this could have happened. Read my full statement below:

[Read My Statement](#)

## NY Tech Valley Regional Robotics Competition



Tuesday morning I had the opportunity to go to the New York Tech Valley FIRST Robotics Competition at the MVP Arena. For those who don't know, FIRST Robotics is an international high school competition where teams design and build robots to play unique games. This regional competition featured teams from not just the Capital Region but also from across the country, and the world. I had a great time visiting with a couple of the local teams that were competing this week, Shenendehowa Central School District's Team 20, and Ballston Spa Central School District Team 3044. These tech-savvy students, and their adult mentors, have done an amazing job with their robots. Good luck to all of the teams as they compete for a chance to go to the championship in Houston, TX. #NYTechValleyFRC

Tech Valley FIRST Website

## Tour of Curtis Lumber with Senate Minority Leader Rob Ort





This week Senate Republican Leader Senator Rob Ortt, Assemblyman Jake Ashby, and I took a tour with the NFIB-NY at the Curtis Lumber Company in Castleton-On-Hudson. At a time when inflation and supply chain issues are hammering our small businesses, it is more important than ever to stand with them as they work to overcome these challenges. Thank you to Curtis Lumber and NFIB for inviting my colleagues and me to tour this great facility and show us what it means to be an exemplary small business.

Curtis Lumber Website

## My Statement on the One-House Budget



This week I voted to protect taxpayers by opposing the Senate Democrat's one-house budget. The Senate Democrat's proposal demonstrated how totally out-of-

touch they are with the needs, concerns, and true priorities of hardworking, law-abiding New Yorkers. The spending blueprint put forth by the Senate Democrats was about advancing partisan politics, not ensuring good government. The Senate Democrats' one-house budget spends too much – and that increased spending will be paid for by taxpayers – and failed to include common-sense solutions needed to address New York's critical economic, affordability, and public safety challenges.

[Read my full statement](#)

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Yesterday was St. Patrick's Day! I hope everyone had a chance to celebrate.

Discover Saratoga Annual Meeting



Thank you to Darryl Leggieri, President of Discover Saratoga NY, for the invitation to your annual breakfast meeting Thursday morning. Discover Saratoga helps promote businesses and events in Saratoga and ensures visitors have the best information available. It was great to see so many friends including Clifton Park Town Supervisor Phil Barrett, Skip Carlson, VP of External Affairs at Saratoga Casino, Todd Shimkus, President of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, Carm DeCrescente, Vice President of DeCrescente Distributing Company, and Anthony DeMarco, President of Adirondack Bank. To learn more about all of the wonderful things Saratoga has to offer, check out:

[Discover Saratoga Website](#)

## Averill Park NYSSMA Performance





Music in Our Schools Month continues with Averill Park performing on the Empire State Plaza today. These talented musicians did a fantastic job as I could see numerous people walking by and stopping and listening. Thank you Band Director Michael Blostein for the invite to enjoy your students' music. Music is good for the soul and put an extra bounce in my step today.



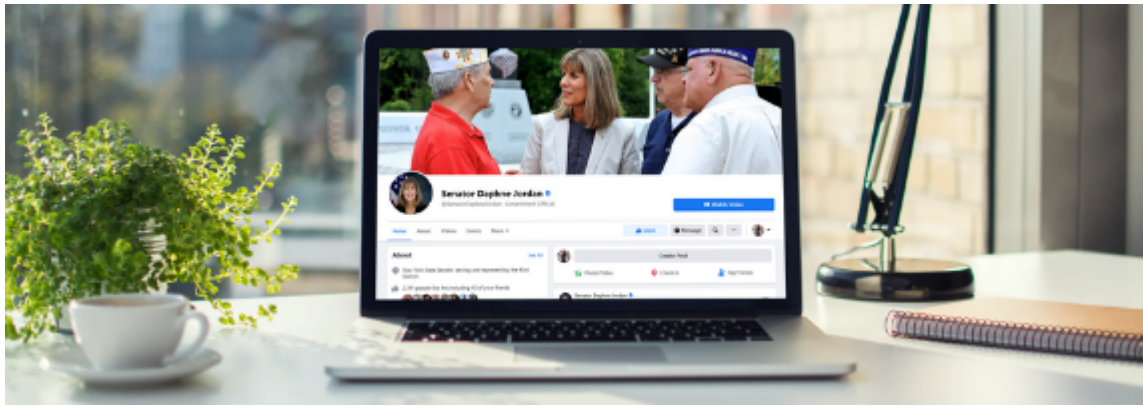
Crow Cottage



Tuesday was the ribbon cutting for owner Jody Sauca and Crow Cottage in Chatham. This woman-owned business offers an extraordinary gathering of hand-picked primitive goods, country decor, and simple treasures from the past. Handcrafted furniture, handmade from local artisans, woven throws and pillows made in the USA, and their own Black Crow Candles. Thank you to the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce for helping celebrate as this new business sets to open this weekend!

[Crow Cottage Website](#)

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



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VISIT MY WEBSITE

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## THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE