



# SENATOR JIM ALESI



Community Update: Week Ending 09/07/2011

Dear Neighbor,

The fall season, back-to-school season, is an exciting time of year but it can also be a daunting one. Preparing students for the new school year can be challenging for parents as they face the high cost of clothing, school supplies, and other education-related costs. That is why I want to remind you that New York State has eliminated the four-percent sales tax for clothing and footwear items under \$55.00. The four-percent state portion of the sales tax was eliminated in an effort to help consumers save money while bringing in additional revenue to stores throughout New York State. I am pleased that this exemption has been re-established for hardworking, over-burdened taxpayers in our District. The elimination of this tax will ease the burden many families face while preparing their children for another school year. As always, I wish all students returning to school and their families a safe and successful year of learning!

Sincerely,

Jim

## Senator Alesi's 2011 Summer Reading Program Concludes

Thank you to all students throughout the District who participated in my annual Summer Reading Program [www.nyread.com]. This year's program featured a brand new website that allowed parents and students to sign up and record their progress in an online reading journal. The new website also allowed participants to view popular books for specific age groups. If you and your children haven't finished completing the reading profiles and reading logs, please do so by Saturday, September 10th to ensure your child receives his or her certificate.

I welcomed the opportunity to sponsor the Summer Reading Program again this year as a way to keep school-age children in the mindset of learning throughout the summer months. Students who continue reading throughout the summer maintain a strong foundation from the previous school year and will have a head-start on the new school year. I congratulate the young students who submitted Summer Reading logs this year and wish all students a rewarding school year. Great work!

To read more interesting books, September is National Library Card sign-up month. Celebrate with a trip to your [local library](#) to explore all the great books and resources available!

## HURRICANE IRENE



HERE'S HOW WE CAN HELP

### Hurricane Irene: New York's Clean-up and Response Efforts.

Hurricane Irene hit parts of New York particularly hard with high winds and torrential rain causing property damage and power outages for thousands of New Yorkers. As families across New York State continue to experience hardships in the wake of Hurricane Irene, efforts are being made to keep residents up-to-date with [relief information](#). For more specific information on road closures or delays, or other park and facility closures in the Adirondacks or Catskills, please visit the [NYS DOT](#) or [NYS DEC](#) websites.

New Yorkers have a long and proud tradition of providing aid and relief to those in need, and many have been asked to support their neighbors. Governor Cuomo launched the "[Labor for Your Neighbor](#)" initiative over the Labor Day Weekend to gather volunteers for areas where the storm brought extensive damage. Over 2,000 New Yorkers signed up to volunteer on local clean-ups of public and private property through the initiative. Please visit the [NYS Office of Emergency Management](#) for additional Hurricane Irene disaster recovery details. As always, the [American Red Cross](#) has additional relief information.

Also, emergency response teams and volunteers have been busy across NYS in the days following the hurricane to ensure that all New Yorkers and their families' needs are being met. Governor Andrew Cuomo mobilized more than 2,500 members of the National Guard in advance of Hurricane Irene's arrival and today, about 50 New York Army National Guard Soldiers from Rochester will leave for Greene and Delaware Counties to aid in the relief effort. The troops will provide traffic control, assist in volunteer efforts and support regional recovery missions in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene while NYS DOT is focusing its efforts on repairing dozens of roads and bridges damaged by the hurricane.