



SENATOR JIM ALESI

Community Update: Week Ending 07/29/11



Happy Birthday Henrietta Senior Center!



I was privileged to attend the 20th anniversary of the Henrietta Senior Center this week. Having secured state funding for the center, I have had the opportunity to watch the center, from its infancy, grow and expand. The Henrietta Center is one of the most active senior centers in Monroe County – offering dozens of programs including exercise and fitness classes, health and nutrition counseling and various health and transportation services. Many of the guests had been active in the center when it was first established 20 years ago and I enjoyed sharing stories and listening to fond memories of the center from its members.

Protecting Our Children

Along with my Senate colleagues, I am supporting the “Protect Our Children Act” (S.5862). This comprehensive legislation makes sweeping changes to the state’s child protection laws, fixes the shortcomings of state law to protect children and ensures that perpetrators are appropriately punished. This legislation not only makes it a felony for neglecting to report a child’s disappearance within 24 hours but there are more than two dozen provisions in this legislation, many of which ensure harsher felony penalties and creates the new crime of aggravated murder of a child with a life sentence without parole. We owe it to our children to strengthen the laws to better protect them before abuse turns fatal and to provide better tools to help law enforcement obtain justice should such a tragedy occur.

Finger Lakes Regional Council



On Tuesday, I joined Governor Cuomo at Monroe Community College to announce the launch of the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council. One of ten Regional Councils throughout the state, the Finger Lakes Council will allow for local leaders in business and academia to have direct input into how the local economy is shaped – applying their expertise to our unique region. As the Senate Chairman of the Joint Budget Conference Committee on Economic Development, I worked with Governor Cuomo during the budget process to help craft the Regional Councils.

Regional Co-Chairs for the council are Wegmans Food Markets CEO Danny Wegman, and University of Rochester President Joel Seligman. Through a Consolidated Funding Application, the ten Regional Councils will apply and compete for \$1 billion in state funding as part of their individualized economic plans. The council’s purpose as a coordinated center for economic development will convey the message that New York is truly “Open for Business.”

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