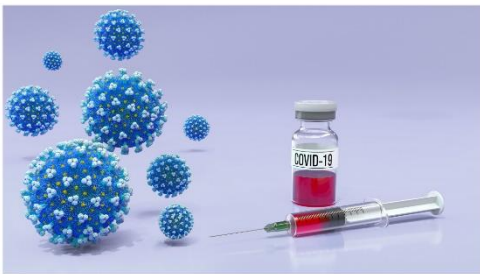




Dear Friends,

This is not the first and likely will not be the last newsletter in which I once again implore you, *if you are eligible and not vaccinated against COVID-19, please do so right away*. **The Delta variant is fast-spreading and dangerous, particularly to those who are not vaccinated, including children under 12 who are not yet eligible.** All across this country – including in the State of New York – there has been a [significant uptick](#) in the positivity rate, the hospitalization rate, and [currently more than 99% of the COVID-19 related deaths are among the unvaccinated](#). Moreover, if you are not vaccinated, I cannot stress enough how important it is that you continue to wear a mask and socially distance.



And for those of you who are vaccinated, **please consider wearing a mask indoors**, particularly if you are among people who are not vaccinated or whose vaccination status is unknown, as even those who are vaccinated can spread the virus. **We are all in this together, and we are NOT out of the woods.**

Scheduled and walk-in appointments [are widely available at state sites](#), including at the Westchester County Center, which has available both the Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer vaccines. You can also look for availability at [non-state run sites near you](#).

[Emergency Rental Relief Application Process Streamlined](#)

An update to my [previous newsletter](#) in May regarding the Emergency Rental Relief Program: **The Governor [announced earlier this week](#) a new streamlined application process to eliminate barriers for those who are eligible and speed up the release of funds.** The new process "immediately relaxes documentation standards for both tenants and landlords and implements a streamlined process for submission of arrears documentation for multi-tenant landlords" effective this past Tuesday.

Additional staff will also be brought on to clear the backlog, including 350 State staff volunteers from various agencies. The NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) expects to be current with all payments for pending, verified applications by August 31.

As a reminder, the 2.7 billion program – passed as part of this year's budget and funded mostly through federal dollars received from the American Rescue Plan – provides relief for low and moderate-income households (at or below [80 percent of the Area Median Income \(AMI\)](#)) that have suffered economically due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and who risk homelessness or housing instability. **For those who are eligible, the program provides rental arrears and temporary rental assistance, as well as utility arrears assistance.** The assistance can be applied for by either the tenant or landlord. If approved, an applicant may receive:

- Up to 12 months of rental arrears payments for rents accrued on or after March 13, 2020.
- Up to 3 months of additional rental assistance if the household is expected to spend 30 percent or more of their gross monthly income to pay for rent.
- Up to 12 months of electric or gas utility arrears payments for arrears that have accrued on or after March 13, 2020.

In accepting the payments from the program for rent in arrears, the landlord agrees to waive any late fees and that the amount provided satisfies the tenant's full rental obligation. Moreover, the tenant cannot be evicted, nor can their rent amount be raised, for a period of one year from receipt of the ERAP funds.

To learn more about the program, including the documents needed to apply, please visit: otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance


[Join me August 3rd - Red Cross Program on Disaster Preparedness](#)

In case you missed Tuesday's email, I am co-hosting a virtual presentation on August 3rd with the American Red Cross, *Prepare, Respond, Recover: What to do When Disaster Strikes*. I hope you will join us to learn more about this important topic. You can register by [clicking here](#).


(If you are unable to join via zoom, you can phone in at (929) 205-6099. Webinar ID: 951 9446 2369)

Join our virtual presentation!
Prepare, Respond, Recover:
What to do When Disaster Strikes
Tuesday, August 3rd @ 5:00pm


Co-Hosted by




Stephanie Dunn Ashley
CEO of the American Red Cross
Metro New York North Chapter



Chris Burdick
New York State Assembly Member
Assembly District 93



**American
Red Cross**



The American Red Cross is a tax-exempt organization and does not intervene, attempt to influence, or show bias in any political campaign or political activity. The Red Cross does not endorse any candidate or ballot proposal, and does not provide or solicit, financial or other support for candidates or political organizations.

SAVE THE DATE - August 14th Food Drive (And School Supply Drive Reminder)

Please **SAVE THE DATE** for our first "Service Saturday" on August 14th. We will be collecting food and other needed items for the [Community Center of Northern Westchester](#).



Please join the office of
Assemblymember Chris Burdick
for a "Service Saturday" food drive
benefitting

**THE COMMUNITY CENTER OF
NORTHERN WESTCHESTER**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14*
10:00 AM -12:00 PM

The Community Center of
Northern Westchester
84 Bedford Road
Katonah, NY 10536

Questions? Contact us at
(914) 244-4450
or burdickc@nyassembly.gov

** If you are unavailable on 8/14, items can be dropped
at our office beginning on Monday, 8/9. Our office is
located at 100 S. Bedford Rd., Suite 150 in Mount Kisco.
The office is open from 9 am-5 pm.*



ITEMS NEEDED

- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Tuna and canned meat
- Cold cereal
- Canned beef stew, soup, and chili
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Pasta, rice, and sauces
- Dried beans
- Baby food (formula, cereal, pureed)
- Diapers, Sizes 5 & 6
- Dried or shelf stable milk

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
COMMUNITY CENTER OF
NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
-AT-
COMMUNITYCENTERNW.ORG**

We will be sending additional reminders as we get closer to August 14th, as well as posting this information on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), so **we hope you will not only join us but please spread the word!**

Also, as we mentioned in [last week's newsletter](#), the beginning of the school year will soon be upon us and there are many students in our communities whose families do not have sufficient means to provide them with the school supplies they need. To help these students, **organizations throughout the district are currently collecting school supplies and financial donations for supplies.** If you are in a position to make a donation to one of these school supply drives, we would encourage you to please do so as soon as possible (click on the images below to learn more).



Community Center of Northern Westchester

ERASE THE NEED

School Supply Drive

31st Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

On Monday we celebrated the 31st Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

As many of you know, I have the great honor of serving on the People with Disabilities Committee in the Assembly, and of being the Chair of the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities. In that capacity I have met with many advocacy groups, parents of children with disabilities, and those with disabilities themselves. I have learned so much and have realized how much still needs to be done.

When children are born with disabilities, navigating the system for services is daunting for parents, even those with time and means. And for those without, it's almost impossible.

For those who need them, retaining quality caretakers when their wages are abysmal is extremely difficult. And finding employment opportunities when you are disabled is beyond challenging and – depending on your disability – sometimes impossible.

Monday we celebrated a step forward that was made 31 years ago. **It was a tremendous victory and I look forward to continuing our work together, to do all that we can to make life for New Yorkers with disabilities even better.**

[New Laws Taking Effect in August](#)

Finally, there are a number of laws that take effect in August, which you can check out by [clicking here](#). If you have any questions about these new laws, please don't hesitate to reach out.



As always, if there are any issues that you would like to see covered in a future newsletter, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov (or simply reply to this email). **Please also follow me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the most up-to-date information.**

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,

Sincerely yours,

DISTRICT OFFICE
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914-244-4450

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