



Dear Friends,

What a difference a year makes! Last year, many families were forced to spend Thanksgiving apart due to the pandemic. This year, many will have the opportunity to spend the holiday enjoying good food, conversation, and simply being together. **I wish you and your family a safe, happy and healthy Thanksgiving.**



On the subject of Thanksgiving, and the Thanksgiving spirit, **I would like to give a shout-out to Bedford's Temple Shaaray Tefila (TST) which, for over 20 years, has hosted a program that provides thousands of Thanksgiving meals for those in need.** Every year, hundreds of volunteers of all ages and faiths come together in support of this effort (thank you so much to those who donated to Saturday's food drive!).

Even last year amidst the pandemic, the TST Thanksgiving Program found a way to safely provide pre-cooked meals, groceries, and supermarket gift cards to over 3,000 people in need.

On Monday night, I had the honor and privilege of addressing those who were there preparing meals (including many impressive teenagers), presenting TST with a citation honoring their work on the Thanksgiving Program. And who can pass on the opportunity to carve a turkey?



I am pictured above with Gary Cohn and Rich Leroy (who head up the program), along with TST Interim Executive Director Leslie Lichter.

My thanks to Gary, Rich and everyone involved with this incredible undertaking. Even more amazing is that TST hosts a similar program at Christmas, which is right around the corner! If you are interested in learning more about it, please reach out to my office at burdickc@nyassembly.gov and we will connect you.

COVID-19 Booster & Pediatric Vaccine Availability

COVID-19 boosters are now available to all eligible adults ages 18+! To be eligible you must have:

- Received a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series at least six months ago (*six months since the second shot*); or
- Received a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at least two months ago

Boosters are recommended for additional protection, especially for those over the age of 50 and those with underlying conditions.

No matter what vaccine you received originally, you can choose to receive *any* of the three vaccines as a booster (Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson). Boosters are available at [state-run locations](#) and through many pharmacies and health care providers.

Also, as I discussed in my [last newsletter](#), the **CDC has approved the Pfizer pediatric COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11**. New York State [has created a website](#) to answer frequently asked questions and to help parents find vaccine providers for their children. Please note, while the pediatric vaccine is not being offered at most state-run locations, **the state has opened a pediatric site at the Westchester Medical Center - Maria Fareri Children's Hospital**. Please [click here to schedule an appointment](#) (*required*).

Alternatively, the state is encouraging parents of children in this age group to contact their "pediatrician, family physician, local county health department, community-based health center, or pharmacies" to arrange for the vaccination. To that end, the Westchester County Department of Health is providing first doses of the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11 this coming Saturday, November 27, in White Plains. [Click here for available appointments between 10 am and 2 pm.](#)

First Dose Pfizer
COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic
for ages 5 - 11

Saturday, November 27
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

White Plains Clinic
134 Court Street
White Plains, NY 10601

To make an appointment, visit
westchestergov.com/health

A parent or legal guardian must be present.

Hurricane Ida FEMA Aid - Application Deadline 12/6

For those who suffered damage as a result of Hurricane Ida, please note **the deadline to apply for FEMA assistance is Monday, December 6**. If you suffered damage not covered by insurance, please don't miss out! [Click here for more information](#) and to learn how to apply.

And please don't hesitate to reach out to my office at (914) 244-4450 or burdickc@nyassembly.gov if we can be of any assistance.



Individuals Affected by
Hurricane Ida can still apply for
FEMA Disaster Relief!

Deadline to Apply is
December 6th, 2021

Apply now at DisasterAssistance.gov or call
the FEMA Hotline at 1-800-621-3352

Moving Ahead with Legislation Regarding People with Disabilities

As a member of the NYS Assembly Standing Committee on People with Disabilities, **I am introducing legislation to help parents and caregivers of public school children with disabilities (many of whom are unable to speak for themselves) assert their rights under their individualized education program (IEP).**

The legislation relates to a school district's use of restraint holds or of seclusion to prevent children from hurting themselves or staff. While many parents and caregivers can ask their children how school went for them, there are children with disabilities who are non-verbal or otherwise unable to communicate when they have been restrained or put in seclusion. The legislation would provide a mechanism for notifying parents and caregivers of their right to refuse certain interventions for their children – such as restraint holds and seclusion (absent extraordinary circumstances) – and would require same-day notification where such interventions have been utilized.

In addition, following the October 20 Public Hearing on programs and barriers to employment opportunities for people with disabilities, I will be introducing legislation early in 2022 to help improve such opportunities. I'll be reporting on the legislation in the coming weeks as it develops.

Recent ArtsWestchester Grants

As mentioned in a [previous newsletter](#), I joined with my Westchester colleagues in the NYS legislature to secure \$1 million in funding for [ArtsWestchester](#), the leading arts support organization in the state. Those funds, along with continued support from Westchester County, allowed ArtsWestchester to launch its #RestartTheArts initiative earlier this year.

I am delighted that ArtsWestchester already is putting those funds to use awarding “micro” grants to small performing and visual arts groups. While the grants may not be enormous, they are extremely important as seed money to launch these groups' programs and initiatives. In the 93rd Assembly District, the [Friends of Chappaqua Performing Arts Center](#), under the direction of Tracy Stein, was awarded \$1,500; [Katonah Classic Stage](#), under the direction of Trent Dawson, was awarded \$1,800; and a Harrison theater group, under the direction of Tara Meddaugh, was awarded \$1,950.

These groups are bringing the arts alive as we emerge from the pandemic.

Upcoming Town Hall on the 2022 Legislative Session

Finally, **please SAVE THE DATE for my upcoming Town Hall on the 2022 legislative session, which will take place on Monday, December 13 at 6:00 pm.** This will be an opportunity not only for me to discuss the legislation I will be working on, but an opportunity to hear from you. What are your ideas and concerns? What would you like to see the state legislature working on?

I will be sending additional information shortly, but if you would like to register, [please click here](#).



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](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for the most up-to-date information.**

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Burdick". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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