



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe we are entering the last few weeks of summer. Following the extraordinary session I discussed in my [earlier newsletter](#), July turned out to be a busy time, with multiple events celebrating the 32nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as the announcement of state funding for Latino U College Access.

In light of the brutal heat, I did want to make mention of electricity prices, as surging prices affect so many New Yorkers during the summer. The enormous spike in electricity rates at the beginning of the year prompted a number of us in the Legislature to press for action. The most extreme increases were in the Con Edison service area where some bills skyrocketed two to three times average monthly rates. In turn, the New York Department of Public Service (DPS) is pressing Con Edison for action, including utilizing market mechanisms to help moderate rates. DPS has regulatory authority through the rate-setting process. **I will continue to advocate that DPS exercise its authority meaningfully in recognition of so many who are living on a fixed income and making the choice between putting food on the table and paying for electricity.** That is an unacceptable choice.

On a lighter note, I attended the South Salem Fire Department Parade on Wednesday, always a fun time! One of the most popular evenings of the year in Lewisboro, the parade takes place on the first day of the annual South Salem Fire Department Carnival. Truly a wonderful night.



[Celebrating the Anniversary of the ADA and the Passage of New Disability Legislation](#)

July marked the 32nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Last month I joined with [Westchester Disabled on the Move, Inc. \(WDOMI\)](#) to **celebrate the anniversary** at Ebersole Ice Rink in White Plain's Delfino Park. It was an inspiring event that featured speakers including WDOMI Executive Director Maria Samuels, inspirational speaker and inclusion consultant Geri Mariano, author and activist Annie Chiappetta, and health advocate and Greenburgh Disability Advisory Committee member Amit Patel. I was also joined by a number of my colleagues in government, including NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, NYS Senator Shelley Mayer, County Executive George Latimer, County Legislators Ben Boykin, Terry Clements, and Jewel Williams Johnson, and White Plains Mayor Tom Roach. *Visioned by Sound*, a music group made up of high school students from Scarsdale High that focuses on blind composers and blind musicians, also performed.

You can watch the full event [here](#).



And on July 26th, the actual anniversary of the ADA, I was **honored to join colleagues, disability leaders, and advocates with Governor Kathy Hochul for a [bill signing ceremony](#), where she signed legislation to uphold and strengthen rights for people with disabilities.** Among the bills signed was legislation relating to supported decision-making by people with intellectual, developmental, cognitive and psychosocial disabilities, legislation that establishes a public awareness campaign to combat the stigma and stereotyping of individuals with developmental disabilities, and legislation to replace outdated derogatory language used to describe people with developmental disabilities in New York State law.

It is impossible to recognize all those who got these bills over the finish line, though special mention goes to Senator John Mannion, Chair of the Senate Committee on People with Disabilities, Assemblymember Tom Abinanti, Chair of the Assembly Committee on People with Disabilities, Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, Doug Hovey, Executive Director of [Independent Living, Inc.](#), and

Kim Hill, who was recently appointed as the Governor's Chief Disability Officer.



[Click here](#) to read more about the bills and view the ceremony.

[Latino U College Access Funding](#)

I was first introduced to [Latino U College Access](#) (LUCA) early on in my term as an Assemblymember by LUCA alum, Princeton graduate, and now Bedford Town Board member Andrés Castillo. He told me that I simply must meet Shirley Acevedo Buontempo and learn about her organization. I was blown away.

LUCA empowers first-generation Latino youth on their path to college and graduation through individualized mentorship and culturally relevant, bilingual programming for students and their families.

Ever since that first meeting, I have tried to help them in any way that I can. Last year I was able to obtain a small grant for the organization.

Recently, State Senator Shelley Mayer and I joined with other members of the Westchester Delegation to announce \$350,000 in funding that was provided to LUCA in the 2022-23 budget. These funds will be used to increase services in White Plains, Ossining, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown and Elmsford, and expand services to Port Chester, New Rochelle, Peekskill, Bedford and Mount Kisco.

We were joined at the press conference not only by LUCA's amazing staff, and the superintendent of the White Plains School District Joseph Ricca, but two of LUCA's inspiring alumni. Jocelyn Nieto and (our incredible intern) Kate Hidalgo spoke eloquently of what being a Latino U Scholar, and the support the program had provided, had meant to them.

You can view the press conference [here](#).



[Monkeypox Vaccination Clinics Available](#)

Late last month, Governor Hochul declared a [state disaster emergency](#) in response to the outbreak of monkeypox in New York, which allows the state to respond more swiftly and provide additional resources for vaccines. As of the writing of this newsletter, there have been 2,187 cases [reported](#) in New York, 52 of them in Westchester. The CDC [recommends](#) getting vaccinated for monkeypox if you have been exposed to monkeypox or if you are more likely to get monkeypox including:

- People who have been identified by public health officials as a contact of someone with monkeypox
- People who know one of their sexual partners in the past 2 weeks has been diagnosed with monkeypox
- People who had multiple sexual partners in the past 2 weeks in an area with known monkeypox

The Westchester County Department of Health is making vaccinations available by appointment. Please [click here](#) for more information about monkeypox and [here](#) to schedule an appointment for your first (of two) doses (*if no appointments are available, please check back as additional appointments are frequently being added*).

988 Mental Health Crisis Hotline

For those who may not have read about this, and as a reminder for those who have, **the new National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is staffed by trained counselors who can help connect people in crisis with local resources.** To learn more, [click here](#).

Experiencing a mental health crisis?
Call or text 988

The **new 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** can help people dealing with mental health or substance use crises.



Excelsior Scholarship Funding Deadline August 31

If you (or your child) are a SUNY or CUNY student who is eligible for an Excelsior Scholarship, and have not yet applied, don't miss the August 31st deadline!

The Excelsior Scholarship, in combination with other student financial aid programs, allows students to attend a SUNY or CUNY college tuition-free. The program covers tuition for eligible SUNY and CUNY students. For the 2022-23 academic year, families who earned \$125,000 or less in the tax year 2020 are eligible to apply. Learn more by [clicking here](#).



On a related note, one of the positive outcomes of the Legislature's [robust funding](#) for the SUNY system is the recent announcement that SUNY has [automatically waived application fees](#) for every single student at the 500 high schools statewide with the highest percentages of students receiving free lunch. **Additionally, any student at any high school in the state who receives free lunch will also have their fees waived. This means that more than 60% of all 12th graders in New York are eligible to apply to up to 7 SUNY campuses at no cost to themselves or their families.** In its announcement, SUNY noted that this action is possible thanks in part to increased investments for public higher education in the current state budget.

[Westchester Airport Hearing](#)

For those of you who are concerned about the future of Westchester County Airport, I would encourage you to attend one of two public engagement sessions the county is holding in **September**. The Tuesday, September 6th session will take place at the Chappaqua Center for the Performing Arts, and the September 13th session at Harvest Time Church in Greenwich, CT.



Westchester County is relaunching the Public Engagement Program on the Master Plan for Westchester County Airport.

An aerial photograph of the Westchester County Airport, showing the runway, taxiway, and surrounding buildings and greenery.

Join us for an Open Conversation to see what's "On the Horizon" for the Airport.

- **Tuesday, September 6 at 6 p.m.**
Chappaqua Performing Arts Center
480 Bedford Road
Chappaqua, NY 10514
- **Tuesday, September 13 at 7 p.m.**
Harvest Time Church
1338 King Street
Greenwich, CT 06831

[New Flood History Disclosure Requirements for Landlords](#)



Attention landlords and those looking to rent! **Beginning Monday, August 15th, all landlords are required to provide prospective commercial or residential property tenants with a copy of the Flood History Disclosure form.** The form will detail whether the property has experienced flooding anytime within the previous ten-year period.

[Click here to download the form.](#)

[Congratulations to Our Area's First Women Eagle Scouts](#)

Recently, I joined Katonah-Lewisboro Troop 301 at the South Salem Fire Department, to celebrate the very first young women to earn the rank of Eagle Scout in our community. It was a proud moment for new Eagles Violet McCann and Katherine Barbarakis, who joined the troop when it was founded in 2019. It was incredible that they were able to complete the rigorous requirements in such a short period of time and during the pandemic. These remarkable young women, led by Troop Leader Crystal Kennedy, truly are an inspiration to all of us.



Civil Air Patrol Induction



Finally, I was honored to recently have been inducted as an NYS Legislative Member of the [Civil Air Patrol](#) (CAP), the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force, at their Wing headquarters at the Westchester County Airport.

Founded in 1941, CAP has a proud history as a public service organization, carrying out emergency service missions in the air and on the ground. With a mission statement of "Supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space and cyber power," their missions run a wide gamut, from taking to the air to locate a missing person from a nursing home to providing help in times of disasters.

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, flowing style.

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