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News from John McDonald — December 23, 2018

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

[*My New Leadership Role*](#)

I am very excited to have been appointed by Speaker Heastie to serve in a leadership role as Vice Chair for Majority Steering for the upcoming legislative session.

I am grateful to Speaker Heastie for entrusting me with this leadership position and believe my experience serving the 108th Assembly District as a former Mayor, small business owner, health care practitioner and active community member will be well-suited to this new role. I look forward to working in this policy-making capacity and as part of the team that will set the agenda for the People's House.

[*Redburn Development*](#)

Governor Cuomo recently announced that Schenectady-based Redburn Development Partners will invest at least \$78 million to transform seven properties in the heart of downtown Albany. The project will involve the renovation and rehabilitation of seven outdated and neglected properties, representing more than 450,000 square feet of space, to create new mixed-income apartments, commercial and retail space, and much-needed parking.

As someone who supports and recognizes the importance of historic preservation, I'm excited that these downtown Albany properties will be renovated, rehabilitated and transformed. These investments will pay dividends by bringing more residents and visitors to the area and breathing

life into vacant and underused buildings. I thank the Governor for supporting investments like this in the Capital Region, and Redburn Development for helping to write the next chapter in Albany's history.

Read the full press release [here](#)

DISTRICT NEWS

[U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#)

The State Education Department and Commissioner MaryEllen Elia recently nominated 25 New York State high school seniors for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The Presidential Scholar recognition is one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Every year, one young man and one young woman from each state are named as Presidential Scholars.

I sincerely appreciate the nomination of Ondia Logan of Albany High School that was put forth by Commissioner Elia as part of an elite group of women and men for the Presidential Scholars program. This prestigious program recognizes the talent and commitment of these future leaders. Ondia's dedication to her community and education is respected and this honor, in my opinion, is one of many to follow. Thank you to Commissioner Elia and the Regents for their continued efforts to shine a light on these bright stars throughout New York State.

For the full list of those nominated check out the press release [here](#)

[Fraud Prevention Workshop](#)

Capital Region BOCES and the SEFCU financial literacy team will be coming together on **Wednesday, January 16** to present a fraud prevention workshop at the newly opened West Hill/Arbor Hill Literacy Zone (388 Clinton Ave).

The event will begin at 5:20 PM and is open to all community members. RSVP's are not required but encouraged so that educators will have enough materials for all that attend. All questions and RSVP's can be directed to Cody at 518-694-4567.

Check out the flyer [here](#)

IN THE NEWS

[Opioid Fellows Program](#)

Please check it out [this NEWS10 piece](#) with Jamie DeLine for some insight into the upcoming Opioid Fellows program I am participating in over the next several months.