



News from Assemblyman Al Stirpe

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Assembly Speaker Tours District - Dedicates More Capital Funding



As part of his annual statewide tour, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie joined me at **Joseph F. William Memorial Park** on June 18th, to visit the park's new **Splash Pad**.

In a previous Speaker's tour we announced \$250,000 in funding to support the splash pad's construction. It was nearly complete and

operating at the close of summer 2023. The work was finished this year which was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 14th. It's been a resounding success with children and families enjoying it throughout this extremely hot summer.



Speaker Heastie took this opportunity to announce \$3 million in capital funding for the construction of a **Swimming Pool at Cicero-North Syracuse High School**. This is in addition to \$2 million that the Assembly had approved in a previous budget, for a total \$5 million that we are contributing to this project.

The North Syracuse School District has been trying to build a pool since 1968. Fifty-six years later, construction has finally begun and we hope to see it open in early 2026. The pool will have a separate entrance for the public so that they can enjoy swimming in off-school hours.



The annual **Syracuse International Jazz Fest** in June was a huge success with headliners Kenny G, The O'Jays, Gunhild Carling, The Mavericks & Gino Vannelli bringing in crowds totaling 50,000. Regional jazz artists launched the five-day event attracting thousands of fans to downtown clubs and restaurants. As the grand finale, Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University hosted "Return to Community: A Sunday Gospel Jazz Service". The Assembly provided a \$150,000 grant along with a Market NY grant of \$250,000 to support this remarkable free community event.

Plank Road Park on Mud Mill Road received funding for permanent **Pickle Ball Courts and a Tennis Court**.

The courts were officially opened on July 23rd with the help of a \$300,000 Assembly sponsored grant. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country and the Town of Cicero found great demand for courts. The sport is especially popular with seniors, but has caught on with people of all ages.

Courts 1 and 2 are open for walk-on play. Courts 3 and 4 can be reserved by going to CNYPickleball.com.



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LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Building a Better Future for Central New York

Now that the legislative session has wrapped up, it's a great opportunity to reflect on the work we've done to improve the lives of Central New Yorkers and communities across the state. I'm proud to share some key legislative achievements from this session, each aimed at enhancing our environment, supporting local businesses, and improving the well-being of our residents.

A.4563 – To better preserve our natural resources, I passed a bill expanding the **Adopt-a-Municipal Park** program to include lakes. This allows volunteers and community groups to take a more active role in maintaining and caring for our lakes, ensuring these vital resources are preserved for future generations.

A.8036 – Recognizing the ongoing flood risks in the **Oswego River Basin**, I introduced and passed legislation to establish a stakeholder group dedicated to improving water management and flood mitigation in the area. This initiative will bring together local voices to develop strategies that protect our communities from the devastating effects of flooding.

A.9069 – Access to healthy food is essential for our communities. That's why I passed the **FRESH Communities Act**, which provides financial assistance to supermarkets and food retailers in underserved areas. This law increases access to fresh, nutritious food while supporting local agriculture and reducing environmental impacts.

The following bills were signed into law by the Governor:

A.8508 – On the economic front, I took steps to strengthen retirement security by removing barriers for self-employed individuals and employees of non-participating employers to join the **New York State Secure Choice Savings**

Program. By making it easier for more New Yorkers to save for retirement, we're helping to ensure a more secure future for everyone.

A.9584 – Lastly, I assisted a small business by passing a bill allowing the **Grotto**, a local restaurant venue, to obtain a full liquor license. This measure enables the Grotto to better serve its patrons by offering a full range of beverages at events and celebrations.

Each of these legislative efforts reflects our commitment to making Central New York a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

As always, there's more to be done, and I'm looking forward to continuing our work together in the next session.



Another Successful Blood Drive

My 18th Annual Life Saver's Blood Drive was held once again at Driver's Village on July 15th this year. The day was a success, in spite of tornado warnings, filled with great music donated by local artists. One hundred and twenty eight people came out to donate and the Red Cross was able to collect 132 units of blood.



Our top prizes this year were a beautiful sideboard donated by Stickleby & an Apple iPad Pro donated by Gwyn & Patrick Mannion. There were also 4 Mannions there donating blood - some double red! Other prizes provided by Four Seasons Golf & Ski Center, Barado's on the Water, Jake Hafner's Restaurant & Tavern, Driver's Village, Destiny USA, Texas Roadhouse, Vince's Gourmet, Mario's Bakery and Enchanted Forest.

Music was provided by Joey & John, Tommy Reitano, Mark Nanni, Fat Bob's Blues Band, Skip Murphy & Big D, Jane Zell, Ronnie Leigh, the Thrift Store Gypsies and Donna Colton with Sam Troublemaker.

Mark your calendar for next year's Blood Drive • Tuesday July 15, 2025 •

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Johnson Park Concession Stand

My team chose June 10th for our annual stint serving popcorn, ice cream and soft drinks. Despite the chilly weather there was a good turnout of music fans from all over the area to hear the versatile and talented **Fab Cats** play their British Invasion sets.

The **Summer Concert Series** is a great opportunity for the community to get together and listen to all that Central NY has to offer. It's a beautiful venue and there have been many improvements over the years to enhance the experience of the performers as well as the concert attendees.

The **Greater Liverpool Chamber of Commerce** does a great job of putting together the concert series which kicks off around Memorial day. They pull from the large pool of local talent and put on two concerts, most weeks into the middle of August.



ADA March & Celebration

On July 26 we celebrated the 34th anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with a march to commemorate the passage of this landmark civil rights bill. I proudly stood with disabled rights activists and organizations as we spoke about the



need to make our communities more inclusive and accessible to everyone. A special thank you to Agnes McCray and the ADA Committee, ARISE, Access CNY, and all others who organized and participated in this important event.

Old Erie Canal Boat Float n' Folk Festival

This June's Boat Float n' Folk Festival, hosted by Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of New York State Parks and kicked off the 2025 celebration of the Erie Canal's Bicentennial. On Saturday, June 15th I joined hundreds of other paddlers at the Poolsbrook Launch site on the Historic Old Erie Canal as we navigated the calm waters past wildlife and historic aqueducts to the Museum in Chittenango.

This event supports the Chittenango Landing Erie Canal Boat Museum's mission to preserve and promote the history of the Old Erie Canal and its impact on our region. We are truly fortunate to have easy access to it for recreation and to learn from its heritage and historical significance.



Honoring Fayetteville's Finest

On July 20th I was pleased to present Fayetteville Lieutenant/Paramedic, Jeffrey P. Jones, of Fayetteville Fire & EMS with a Proclamation to celebrate his retirement.

Jeff earned a Certified First Responder Certificate before graduating high school. He then joined the Vestal Emergency Squad in 1991 and quickly became an EMT then went on to work professionally for Superior Ambulance in Binghamton. He attended Paramedic school in Pittsburgh then returned to Vestal spending 13 years there. He was later hired by the Fayetteville Fire Department, promoted to Lieutenant and proceeded to train hundreds of students who have gone on to become successful first responders.

Jeffrey is universally esteemed by his colleagues and patients as a compassionate provider of emergency care. He will be missed, we wish him well in his new endeavors and we hope to see his smiling face around town in the future.



Assemblyman Al Stirpe
in partnership with
Empire Recycled Paint Inc. is hosting a
FREE PAINT RECYCLING EVENT!

Saturday, Sept. 28 ♦ 8 A.M. to 12 P.M.



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Please enter on Taft Road
Next to the Circle K

Registration is required. Sign up at
tinyurl.com/Sept28paint

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Saturday Nov 9th 8:30 am-12:30 pm
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