



News from Assemblyman Al Stirpe

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THE SAMMYS



It was an honor to present NYS Assembly Proclamations to the 2026 SAMMY Hall of Fame inductees on March 5th. Recognized were **Ian Cattell** for his contributions to the global music scene; the **New York Flyers** as the only active Central New York band to achieve such extensive regional reach; brothers **Don and Dave Martin** posthumously for their over 60 years as pillars of the Syracuse music scene; **Erin Althen** as Music Educator for her 23 year commitment to helping students discover their most authentic, light-filled selves through the transformative power of music.

The Music Center received the Lifetime Achievement award for over **40 years** as a mainstay of the Central New York musicians



community. The center is operated currently by **Buke Babikian**, longtime drummer for the band Stroke, pictured above with **Ellen Kirsch**, life partner of the late **Isreal Hagan**, Buke's irreplaceable band mate.

Helping Hounds Rescue Makes Puppy Bowl



Willie, a puppy that came to Helping Hounds through their partners in Texas, was lucky enough to be in this year's Puppy Bowl. He was featured with the rest of team Ruff on Animal Planet aired Sunday, February 11th.

January marked the end of our fourth annual pet supplies drive held in December to benefit **Helping**

Hounds Dog Rescue and Humane CNY.

As a part of our drive, **Amazon** contributed 30 large boxes of pet and cleaning supplies to Humane CNY to keep them well-stocked throughout the winter season.

Thanks to the community's generosity, there were carloads of supplies collected for the many pets waiting for a new home. We were able to supply both shelters with hundreds of pounds of dog and cat food, toys, pet beds, blankets, leashes, collars, treats, and even doggy advent calendars.

I'd like to say thank you to the people in my district who donated to his worthy cause. Also our collection locations:

Hairy Notions, Suburban Tails, Earthwise Pet Supply, Cicero CountryMax, NOPL, Minoa, Manlius, Cazenovia and Fayetteville Libraries, and Moyers Corners, Fayetteville and Cicero Fire Departments.

Bill to Study Energy Grid Interconnection Passes Assembly

On February 5th, a bill that I sponsored to direct the Public Service Commission to conduct a study on the deployment of energy interconnection processes passed the Assembly (A4127).

The study would evaluate methods to maximize efficiency so that new renewable energy facilities can be more quickly interconnected onto the electrical grid. Currently, there is an interconnection queue, and a study must be completed for each proposed project to ensure that the overall grid system has the capacity needed before a project is allowed to connect to the grid.

When a project in the queue decides not to move forward, all projects behind it must redo their study because the total amount of power entering the grid has changed. This process can cause delays of several years!

Examples of possible methods are: "Connect and Manage"

used by the Electronic Reliability Council of Texas (ERGOT) which has allowed the state to keep up with electricity demands and rise to the top in large-scale solar power nationwide, as it actively manages the grid's capacity during the interconnection process. Another called "Clean Repowering", is an elegant and efficient solution that builds new clean energy resources where grid connections already exist to circumvent the lengthy interconnection queues.

Building new renewable energy and storage where fossil generation is retiring or alongside existing fossil plants could speed up the deployment of energy resources while reducing costs because we don't have to build as much new infrastructure.

The proposed study would analyze these methods along other with interconnection systems, processes, and technologies to ensure maximum productivity in bringing new electric production onto the grid.

Contact Us

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Join Assemblyman Al Stirpe for

EARTH DAY Clean Up

Saturday, April 25th
9 am – 12 pm

Meet At:
The BUDGET INN
901 South Bay Rd
Cicero NY 13039



- Dress for the weather
- Wear sturdy shoes or boots
- Bring Gloves



Retail-to-Retail Alcohol Sales

Last December, Gov. Hochul signed legislation that I authored to allow **on-premise retail licensees (bars and restaurants) to buy a limited number of bottles of alcohol from off-premise retail licensees (liquor stores)**. A reality for many of our small taverns and restaurants is a simple lack of space to hold a lot of inventory, increasing their chances of running out of a particular bottle. Previously, they would be faced with losing business or facing fines if they bought liquor out of their routine shipment schedules, currently every two weeks.

Retail-to-Retail addresses this issue by permitting **local bars and restaurants to purchase up to six bottles of wine or liquor per week from a liquor store or retail licensee**. This law supports our smallest businesses and boosts the local economy for taverns, restaurants, and liquor stores alike. **This act took effect on March 5, 2026.**

Free Paint Recycling

DMV Parking Lot
5801 East Taft Rd • 13212

Registration for this event is required.

Sign up for FREE here:

<http://tinyurl.com/AlStirpePaint26>



Save the Date for Assemblyman AL STIRPE'S



July 21
10 am
'til 8 pm

I'm hoping to make this 20th Anniversary Blood Drive the biggest we've ever had. So plan your donation dates to maintain your eligibility for the **THIRD TUESDAY IN JULY**. Remember - You can make a difference that will last a LIFETIME!



Give the Gift of Life

Register using the QR code or visit
<http://tiny.cc/AlStirpe20thBD>



Save the Date!

E-Recycling: Saturday - July 25, 2026
ESM High School • 6400 Fremont Rd.

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

ALL RECYCLING EVENTS ARE FREE



Valentines for Veterans



It's heartwarming to see the stacks of Valentines from our local schools, created by students who hope to brighten a veteran's day with drawings and a message of gratitude.

Thank you to students from **East Syracuse-Minoa, North Syracuse, Baldwinsville, Liverpool and Fayetteville-Manlius**.

Boxes of valentines were delivered to the VA Medical Center, Clear Path for Veterans, VFW 7290 in North Syracuse, the Italian-American War Veterans, Cicero Senior Center, and the Bridgeport VFW.

Celebrating Our 2026 Women of Distinction

Since 1987, March has been officially known as Women's History Month in coordination with the Week of March 8 as International Women's Week. Fourteen years ago, I decided to bring this celebration to a more personal level for our community. Reading the stories of the women whose friends and family are moved to nominate is truly inspiring to me. Our community is made stronger by these people who really make a difference. It is an honor to shine a spotlight and applaud these five individuals for their exceptional works of service, heart and leadership.

Jennifer Kirchoff for **Education**.

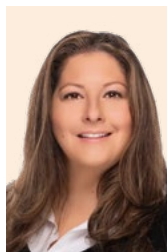
Jennifer is a forty-year educator with East Syracuse-Minoa Schools and LeMoyne College. She has taught more than 3,500 students and future educators with the highest level of excellence and heart. Jennifer spent twenty-three years of service at ESM High School as an English teacher and Support Specialist. She then worked for 10 years at Manlius Pebble Hill School; later becoming Professor of Practice and Coordinator of Clinical Experiences in the Department of Education at Le Moyne College.



Jennifer has volunteered at the National Alliance for Mental Illness and has been asked to speak at the National Convention again this year as an expert on the needs of our most vulnerable individuals. Additionally, she has been a leader and speaker for 35 years at the National Education Association, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. As a volunteer for David's Refuge she has provided weekend respite to over 500 caregiving couples and has been the face of the organization in the community and at resource fairs.

Jennifer and her husband Bill have raised two autistic children with special needs who have both become amazing adults, educators and psychological researchers in their own right.

A leader in every way, she continues to give her heart and soul to the youth in our community. The success of her endeavors can be heard in the halls of ESM, LeMoyne and with all the parents of special needs children in our community!



Maryann D'Addio for **Volunteerism**.

Since 2022 Maryann has served as the Fundraising Committee Chair and Vice President of Erin's Angels. She is not only a volunteer - she is a builder of hope in feeding the future of Central New York. Her work has strengthened Erin's Angels at every level. What makes Maryann truly exceptional is the way she approaches

service: with heart, humility and a fierce belief that every child deserves a full plate and a full future.

Under Maryann's leadership, fundraising has evolved into an act of community building where people are invited

into a shared mission and shown exactly what their partnership helps create. Programming has become more strategic, sustainable and aligned with long-term goals while donations have increased year after year. Maryann is the type of person whose presence inspires: she shows up early, stays late and listens.

Outside of her incredible work at Erin's Angels, Maryann volunteered for a local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association from 2006-2018, which helps patients and families facing Alzheimer's and dementia with support, education and resources.

Outside of her professional and nonprofit work, Maryann enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling and volunteering with various community organizations.

Anne Saltman for **Outstanding Service in Community/Civic Affairs**.

Anne holds a Master of Science in Water Resources from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Alfred University.



Her professional career spanned more than thirty years of environmental leadership in Central New York as Executive Director of the NYS Federation of Lake Associations. She then became the Principal Planner at CNY Regional Planning and Development Board. Since her retirement in 2018 she has continued in a volunteer capacity. Through the United Climate Action Network, she writes the annual report: Climate Change in Cazenovia and Neighboring Communities. Anne was instrumental in working with the town to secure a weather monitoring system.

In 2020, Anne Saltman began volunteering with the American Red Cross deploying to natural disaster areas in Florida, California, and Mississippi. She also currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Cazenovia Area Community Development Association, and continues her service as a board member of the League of Women Voters of Cazenovia and the Public Library. Anne is a member of the Madison County Environmental Management Council, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and the SUNY ESF Alumni Association.

Anne is steady and deeply committed maintaining an active and balanced life as a wife, mother, grandmother, athlete and friend. Our community is stronger, better informed and more resilient because Anne is part of it.



Monica Browning Success in Business.

Monica goes above and beyond in multiple capacities to enrich her community. In 2018, she opened Monica Browning Photography, in the village of Manlius. Since then, she has not only shown entrepreneurial spirit by opening a thriving new business but has turned it into a cornerstone of the community.

Her photography services are sought after to capture family moments, graduation photos and professional head shots. Monica also donates a significant amount of time and resources to photograph school events such as theater performances, sports teams, and clubs at no cost. She also donates to local community events, charities and offers sponsorships to schools and organizations. Monica has partnered with her husband, Lt. Col. Mark Browning, to open "Of Moose and Mind Bookshop", also in the village of Manlius, with a goal to create a space for the community to come together. They regularly host community events such as separate book clubs for adults, tweens and teens; launch parties for local authors; painting events; kids story-times and a planned summer bookstore crawl.

Monica finds time to give back to her community working with her neighbors and meeting with government officials. She spearheaded the 'Enders Road Sidewalk Initiative,' has served on the Parent-Teacher Association and on the leadership committee of her neighborhood Homeowners Association. At home, Monica and Mark have fostered underprivileged children to provide them with a chance for a brighter future.



Sarah Matt, MD Service in Health Care.

Dr. Sarah Matt is a true force of nature, a practicing physician, a high-powered executive with an MBA, and a published author. She's on a mission to tear down the traditional boundaries of healthcare using cutting-edge technology like telemedicine and AI to bring quality care to people regardless of where they live.

With more than 20 years of experience at Oracle Health and NextGen, Dr. Matt has built systems that have reached underserved patients across the globe. She's an in-demand speaker on digital transformation and wrote *The Borderless Healthcare Revolution*. Her passion is to share her vision for a more equitable and accessible healthcare system.

Despite her national profile, Sarah is deeply committed to her roots in Central New York. An FM graduate, she holds degrees from Cornell University and Upstate Medical University as well as an MBA from UT-Austin. She keeps her clinical connection strong treating uninsured patients at the Mary Rose Clinic in Oneida. She also teaches first year medical students at Upstate Medical University.

Outside the healthcare arena, Sarah still embraces an action-packed life. Since her days at Cornell, she has served her community as a volunteer firefighter, most recently here in Fayetteville. She is a former Rotarian and is President of the Salt City Roller Derby League. She lives in Fayetteville with her husband, her four active sons, and three energetic dogs. Sarah truly operates at full speed in every dimension of her life.

