



Dear Friends,

March is crunch time for the Governor and the Legislature to ensure that New York State's 2024 budget is adopted on time (the fiscal year starts April 1 and ends March 31). Throughout the budget process, members of the Legislature advocate for the inclusion of budget items and legislation that may or may not find their way in whole or part into the budget. There also are efforts to remove certain items from the budget. Meanwhile, ongoing discussions are taking place between the Legislature and the Executive.

Now that the budget hearings have concluded, the Legislature next week will adopt a resolution, known as the One-House Budget, which embodies the Legislature's proposed budget. The next step will be further negotiations between the Executive and the Legislature. In an effort to best represent the interests of my Assembly District, I have been pressing on both legislative and budget issues. **I am optimistic that we will adopt a prudent, fiscally-sound budget, which is responsive to the needs of the state and the 93rd Assembly District.**

Not only has it been a busy time in Albany, but also back home! **I recently teamed up with NYS Senator Shelley Mayer to hold a Coffee & Conversation at the Laughing Horse in Harrison.** We were joined by County Legislators Nancy Barr and Catherine Parker (with a cameo appearance by County Executive George Latimer!). Thank you to everyone who took the time to come out. We heard from residents on a variety of pressing concerns, including the deteriorating condition of many state roads, Con Edison's sky-high bills, the dire need for affordable housing, and access to legal services for tenants and the immigrant community.



For Senator Mayer and me, the top priority in Harrison is getting the residents of 3 Calvert – who have been displaced for over 100 days due to a fire in the building – back into their homes. Senator Mayer and I are urging the Town of Harrison to allow the residents to move back into the building, provided the owner enters into a stipulation with the town to install sprinklers. Every indication is that the owner is willing to do this, and we hope there is soon a resolution and that these residents are allowed to return home.

February was the month of Valentine's Day and our 'Valentines for Veterans' program. **I am so grateful to the children, teachers, and parents who helped ensure we had beautiful, heartfelt Valentine's Day cards for our veterans, thanking them for their service.** 4,000 Valentines were created this year from schoolchildren from the following schools in my district:

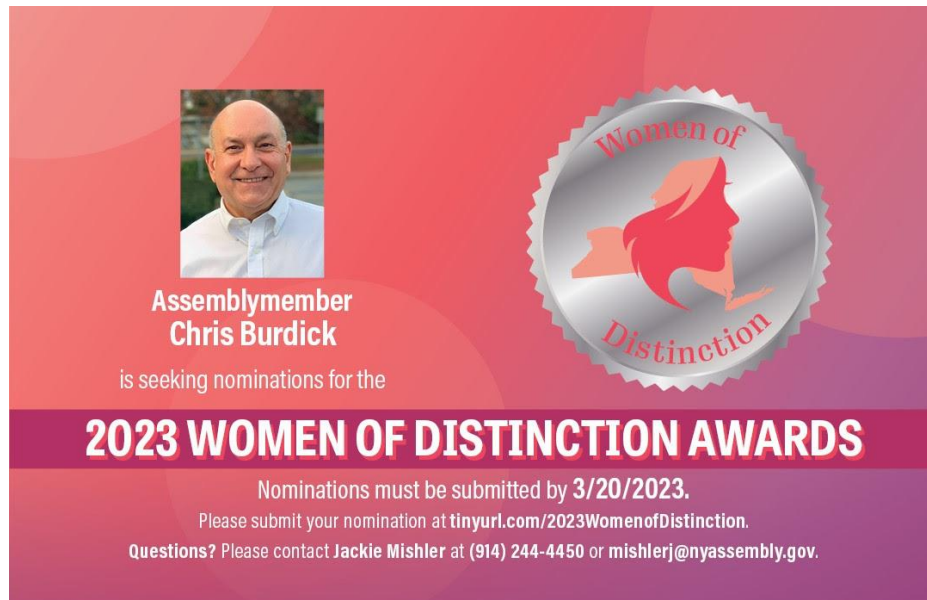
- Bedford Village Elementary School
- George Washington School (White Plains)
- Increase Miller Elementary School (Goldens Bridge)
- Katonah Elementary School
- Mamaroneck Avenue Elementary School (White Plains)
- Mount Kisco Elementary School
- Parsons Memorial Elementary School (Harrison)
- Pequenakonck Elementary School (North Salem)
- Post Road Elementary (White Plains)
- Pound Ridge Elementary School
- Samuel J. Preston Elementary School (West Harrison)
- West Patent Elementary School (Bedford Hills)

I had the absolute pleasure of visiting the VA in Montrose, where we greeted veterans with Valentine's messages.



My appreciation also to all the veterans committees and volunteers who helped to deliver Valentines across my district and beyond to American Legion and VFW posts, individuals, and the VA Hospital in Montrose. A special thank you to the Montrose VA for their gracious help.

And now that we are in March, it is Women's History Month! In honor of that, **my office is seeking nominations for the 2023 Women of Distinction Awards, where we will once again recognize some of the many accomplished women of the 93rd Assembly District.**



Assemblymember
Chris Burdick
is seeking nominations for the

2023 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

Nominations must be submitted by **3/20/2023**.
Please submit your nomination at tinyurl.com/2023WomenofDistinction.
Questions? Please contact Jackie Mishler at (914) 244-4450 or mishlerj@nyassembly.gov.

Please [submit your nomination here](#) by **Monday, March 20**, with awards to be given out at a ceremony this spring (please stay tuned for details!). Please note:

- **We ask that you only nominate ONE person** for the 2023 awards.
- **Nominees MUST reside in the 93rd Assembly District**, which includes the towns of Bedford, Harrison, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pound Ridge, and a little over half of White Plains (*if needed, please reach out to us and we can confirm an individual's district*).
- **Nominees must NOT have been previously recognized as a 93rd Assembly District Woman of Distinction.** [Click here](#) for last year's winners (last year was our first year).

Questions? Please contact Jackie Mishler at (914) 244-4450 or mishlerj@nyassembly.gov.

[The Governor's Housing Compact & An Opportunity to Learn More](#)

One of the aspects of the budget that is of greatest concern to me is the Governor's proposed "Housing Compact," which is a plan for 800,000 new housing units within 10 years, predicated on a system of requiring municipalities to meet certain percentage increases in their housing stock within three years. For Westchester, the requirement is a 3% increase and for upstate communities, it is 1%. It is a complicated system overriding local zoning by requiring local governments to authorize the construction of residential dwelling units within a half-mile of any non-seasonal rail stations. The closer the municipality is to New York City, the greater the density requirements. **Speaking with elected representatives,**

residents, and planning personnel, I have concluded that the Governor's proposal is unworkable, unattainable, and if attempted, would lead to severe adverse impacts if implemented.

I have been pressing for critical changes to the Governor's plan. I feel strongly that the plan should emphasize affordable housing and not simply an overall increase in housing stock. Instead of penalties, I believe that we should be using incentives for municipalities and developers to create new housing and infrastructure. This would provide flexibility rather than a one-size-fits-all, top-down approach, which will not work since not all municipalities have the same needs, layout, environmental concerns, etc. **Bottom line: we need to take action to address a prolonged crisis in affordable housing, but we need an approach that is reasonable and crafted to the circumstances of each municipality.** I am cautiously optimistic that substantive changes in the Housing Compact will be negotiated with the Governor in response to concerns that my colleagues and I have raised on behalf of the communities we represent.

This is a complicated and important issue that I know many have strong feelings and serious questions about. **To that end, please join me on March 15th @ 7 pm (via Zoom) for a Q&A regarding the NY Housing Compact, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Northeast Westchester. [Click here to register.](#)**

**Q&A: The NY Housing Compact
Come Join Us!**
**Guest speaker:
Assemblymember
Chris Burdick**

MODERATED BY
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Northeast Westchester

**ZOOM EVENT
MARCH 15 @7 PM**

The New York Housing Compact includes local participation requirements and incentives to achieve housing growth in every community to help solve New York's housing crisis. What is it all about? Hear Chris Burdick at this Q&A to learn more.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF NORTHEAST WESTCHESTER

[Two Very Special Introductions](#)

One of the absolute honors and pleasures of my job is to be able to formally welcome and recognize some of my amazing constituents on the Assembly floor. I recently had two such opportunities.

This past Wednesday, I had the honor of welcoming and recognizing Kacie Rooney. Kacie graduated last year from John Jay High School in Cross River, the first student with Down syndrome to graduate from the school in four decades.

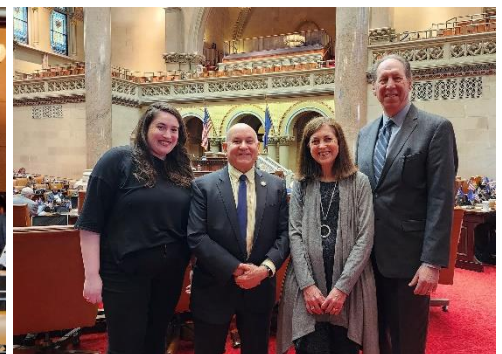


A remarkable young person, Kacie has already accomplished so much. She is a volunteer reader at the Country Children’s Center, an enthusiastic member of a special needs Cheer Team in Mahopac, a member of the John Jay Unified Bowling and Basketball Team (associated with the Special Olympics), and participates in programs at GiGi’s Playhouse (Down Syndrome Achievement Center) in Westchester. Kacie currently works at John Jay High School in the Assistant Principal’s Office, having previously served for several years in the John Jay Athletic Director’s Office and as a teacher’s assistant in the John Jay Introduction to Theatre Program.

In the past, Kacie and others with Down syndrome might have been dismissed and marginalized (and far too often, that is still the case). **I am awestruck by Kacie's tenacity and perseverance in overcoming challenges.** She is an inspiration - not only to others with Down syndrome, but to all of us. It truly was my honor to have Kacie and her proud (and excited!) family with me on the Assembly floor.

([Please click here](#) to view my introduction of Kacie.)

I also recently had the honor of joining my colleague, Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal, in introducing Chappaqua resident Andrea Weinreb. Andrea, a cancer survivor, suffered lymphedema – a swelling of the arm, leg, or other parts of the body due to a build-up of lymph fluid. Often brought on by cancer treatment, it can be debilitating.





Recognizing that up to 10 million Americans also suffer from it, Andrea and her husband Bruce set to work to raise awareness and funds. Andrea joined the [Lymphatic Education & Research Network](#), becoming the founding member of its NYS chapter.

Assemblymember Rosenthal and I were joined by the entire Assembly in saluting Andrea by passing unanimously Assemblymember Rosenthal's resolution honoring her for her work. She was joined in Albany by her husband, daughter, and other lymphedema awareness advocates. **To learn more about lymphedema, please visit lymphaticnetwork.org.**

(To view my introduction of Andrea, [please click here](#).)

Combating Climate Change: Home Energy Upgrade Incentives, Electric Vehicle Incentives & The Power of Trees

Thank you to everyone who joined Senator Pete Harckham and me for last month's virtual Town Hall, presented by [Sustainable Westchester](#), to learn more about heat pumps and the different tax incentives, credits, and rebates available. **If you missed the program and would like to watch it, please [click here](#) or on the image below.**



In the meantime, if you are considering making upgrades to your home to make it more energy efficient, or purchasing a new electric vehicle, now might be a perfect time. New tax credits are [here!](#)

You can help create a green future!

Inflation Reduction Act tax credits and rebates are here



You could save thousands on:

- ★ Energy-efficient home renovations
- ★ Appliances
- ★ Vehicles purchased this year

The federal Inflation Reduction Act's new tax credits and rebates can save you money on goods and services that can make your home more energy-efficient and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (including a credit covering up to 30% of qualifying purchases of renewable energy technology, with no cap on the total purchase price, including labor, permits, and inspection). For more information, including availability and income eligibility, [please click here](#).

Not sure where to begin? [The EmPower New York Program](#) is offering free home assessments and clean-energy technology to eligible participants.

The EmPower New York Program *is here to make your home energy-efficient – for free!*



Find out today if you're eligible for no-cost assessments and clean-energy upgrades to your home!

To find out if you are eligible, [please click here](#). You can apply for EmPower [online](#), by mail, or by calling 1-877-NYSMART.

Considering purchasing a new electric vehicle? The Inflation Reduction Act's tax credits can also help you save money on both new and used energy-efficient electric vehicles purchased after Jan. 1, 2023.

Take charge of your green future!



Tax credits are available for electric vehicles and charging equipment!

- Up to \$7,500 for new
- Up to \$4,000 for used
- Up to \$1,000 to install charging equipment

For more information, [please click here](#).

Finally, while on the subject of combating climate change, **please consider joining me in attending [Bedford 2030's 'The Power of Trees,'](#) to learn more about the critical role trees and other natural systems play in supporting healthy ecosystems, promoting biodiversity, and combating climate change.**


This family-friendly event will feature leading experts, hands-on activities, and tips and resources to protect our local tree canopy and promote climate-friendly land practices. It is free for students ages 5-18 (with student ID), as well as for those attending only the Expo. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

It's not just the power of trees, but the power of **COMMUNITY** that can cause true change.

the power of trees

A BEDFORD 2030 COMMUNITY FORUM
 March 25 • 9am–1pm
 Fox Lane High School

50+ INTERACTIVE EXPO BOOTHS
 CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES
 NATURALISTS, ARBORISTS, LAND EXPERTS
 TIPS, INFO, & ACTIONS



Karen & Bruce Sabath James Attwood, Jr. & Leslie Williams Olivia & John Fari Michaelene & Jonathan Durst Wendy Beitzberg & Strauss Zelnick

Single-Use Plastic Foodware Now Only Provided 'Upon Request' in Westchester

While on the subject of the environment, **congratulations and thank you to County Legislator Erika Pierce, whose [legislation](#) 'Upon Request' recently passed unanimously the County Board of Legislators and was [signed into law](#) by County Executive George Latimer.** The law is aimed at reducing the amount of waste in Westchester's waste stream by:

- Providing that no food service establishment shall provide single-use food or condiment packages to any dine-in or take-way customer unless specifically asked;
- Banning single-use plastic beverage stirrers or "splash sticks" (although retail food stores may still sell packages or boxes of single-use sticks to their customers);
- And that when requested, single-use items and packets must be provided individually and not in the package containing multiple items.

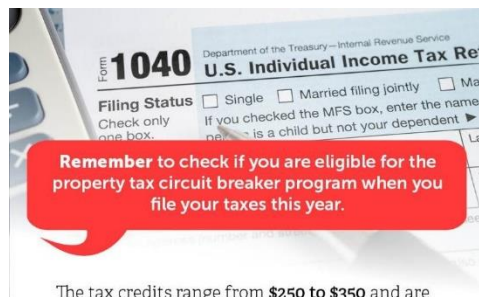
Not only will this cut down on waste, but it will save money for our local businesses, who will no longer feel the pressure to automatically provide these items, many of which simply end up in a drawer or unused in a landfill.

A win for our local businesses and for the environment.

Helpful Information As We Approach Tax Season

With tax season upon us, I wanted to make you aware of some helpful information.

For those earning less than \$250,000 a year, based on the proportion of their income spent on property taxes, you may be eligible for a property tax relief credit, commonly known as a "circuit breaker" plan. For more information or to find out if you are eligible, [please click here.](#)



The tax credits range from \$250 to \$350 and are available to those making less than \$250,000 a year and spend more than 6% of their income on property taxes.

Need help doing your taxes? New Yorkers whose 2022 income was \$73,000 or less may be eligible to file their state and federal income tax returns for free through the state's partnership with the Free File Alliance. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Additionally, the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer **free basic tax return preparation for seniors**. For more information or to see if you are eligible for these services, [please click here.](#)

[3/27-3/31: Apply for TSA Pre-Check at the Westchester County Airport](#)

From Monday, March 27 through Friday, March 31, Westchester County Airport will be working with the TSA to offer travelers the opportunity to enroll in the TSA PreCheck program here in Westchester.

This special five-day enrollment period will be available daily at Westchester County Airport, 240 Airport Road in White Plains, from 9 am-noon and 1-5 pm. Enrollment will be available in the terminal arrivals area near the baggage claim carousel.



Reminder: I want to hear from you!

Finally, thank you to everyone who has taken the time to respond to my issues survey, either [online](#) or by mailing it in. **The survey is still active and I want to hear from you.** If you haven't yet taken the short survey, please take a couple of minutes and share your thoughts by [clicking here](#).

2023 NYS Assembly Issues Survey — 93rd AD

Hearing from you allows me to do my job better, and rest assured my staff and I are reviewing each and every response.

As always, **please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide.** You can always reach me at burdickc@nyassembly.gov or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help. Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued 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.