



**Assemblymember  
Chris Burdick  
Assembly District 93**

Dear Friends,

**The 2023 NYS legislative session came to an end Wednesday.** Unlike my first two years in office, when the Governor and Legislature completed and adopted the budget nearly on time for the April 1st start of the fiscal year, this year the process wasn't completed until early May in order to resolve differences between the Governor and the Legislature. The result was a shorter period of time to work on legislation prior to the scheduled adjournment on June 8. As a result, the session was extended to June 9 and then resumed for a two-day period on June 20 and June 21.

**I am happy to report that despite the challenging timeline, it was a productive session.** Below I highlight some of the key legislation passed by the Legislature as a whole, as well as the 14 pieces of legislation I sponsored that made it across the finish line before the end of session.

### **2023 Legislative Session - Highlights & My Passed Legislation**

As I mentioned above, despite the challenges, it was a productive session for the Legislature. We were able to pass a lot of important legislation, much of which now awaits the Governor's signature.

#### ***Election Law***

- Legislation to allow an individual not registered to vote in the state, but otherwise qualified, to register and vote on the first day of early voting. This only is for new registrants and not for changes in party or other changes.
- Early voting by mail, including an application for an early mail ballot online.
- A change in the date of town and County elections (with some positions not covered) from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years.

I voted in favor of the first two bills, but against the third bill as I am quite concerned that national issues will drown out local issues. My vote against the bill was also based on speaking to chief elected officials in my district who expressed strong opposition.

#### ***Environmental Law***

- The Birds and the Bees Protection Act, which restricts the application of certain neurotoxic pesticides (known as neonics) that have been causing the loss of bees and other pollinators critical to food production.

- A bill prohibiting the discharge of any radiological substance into the Hudson River in connection with the decommissioning of a nuclear power plant. This legislation would prevent Holtec from dumping 1 ½ million gallons of radioactive water into the river as part of its “safety plan” to decommission Indian Point.
- Legislation to reclassify class C streams (which are designated to allow fisheries and other non-contact activities) as protected streams; as a result, it will require projects to improve C streams to secure state approval and design a 150 percent span of the full bank.
- A bill that I sponsored to authorize local governments, which have adopted a freshwater wetlands law pursuant to the NYS Environmental Conservation Law, to adopt a local law prohibiting the application of pesticides in wetlands within their borders. With the very recent US Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, which narrowed protection for wetlands, valuable ecosystems are left at risk. It will fall to state and local governments to take action to provide protection, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation simply can’t do it alone.

### ***Other Legislative Highlights***

- To reduce recidivism and enhance public safety, I voted in favor of legislation known as Clean Slate, which will seal the records of formerly incarcerated individuals following a period of eight years since being released for a felony and three years for a misdemeanor. Exceptions to this law include federal convictions, life sentences, sex crimes, and Class A non-drug felonies. The legislation, which is supported by a wide range of business leaders, labor leaders, and reform advocates, is a public safety measure as it reduces recidivism while enabling formerly incarcerated individuals who have paid their debt to society to go back and become productive members of their communities. Should the Governor sign the bill, New York would follow several other states which have adopted similar legislation and whose experience has been positive.
- Legislation vacating convictions of those who were convicted under statutes that were later decriminalized or found to be unconstitutional (this bill is an updated version of the legislation passed earlier this year).
- Legislation to protect doctors, medical providers, and facilitators serving patients seeking abortion and reproductive health services via telehealth.
- A bill to require utility companies to produce utility bills within two months.
- Legislation to protect employees under future employment agreements by prohibiting non-compete provisions. Exceptions include:
  - Agreements prohibiting disclosure of trade secrets, of confidential and proprietary client information; and
  - Agreements prohibiting solicitation of clients of the employer that the covered individual learned about during employment.
- In an important boost for our volunteer ambulance corps, including ambulance services operated by our volunteer fire departments, the Legislature adopted legislation to enable direct payment to EMS agencies for ambulance service billings, enabling such agencies to receive timely reimbursement for their essential services.

- A bill to create a commission to assess reparations remedies for slavery. The commission would provide recommendations that are meant to "reverse such injuries" resulting from New York state's role in the slave trade.

### ***My Passed Legislation***

In addition to the wetlands bill mentioned above, both houses of the Legislature passed the following bills that I sponsored:

- [A00266](#) requires state agencies to conform any of their websites to the most current version of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines adopted by the World Wide Web Consortium for accessibility for people with disabilities.
- [A00343](#) requires the Public Service Commission to issue regulations providing that utility companies, such as Con Edison and NYSEG, provide vine trimming for the maintenance of utility poles for the purpose of preventing disruption in service or personal injury.
- [A00345](#) requires greater transparency in long term care insurance by requiring the superintendent of the Department of Financial Services to make public any rate filing or application submitted by long term care insurance carriers and that notices be provided to policyholders on premium rate increases.
- [A00398](#) requires employers who contribute to the state unemployment fund to inform their employees of their right to file for unemployment benefits at the time of being laid off, a reduction in hours, or an interruption in employment resulting in total or partial unemployment.
- [A00621](#) expands the scope of a bill I sponsored and became law last year by adding to the preferred source procurement list charitable non-profits for the blind that contract with state agencies.
- [A00969](#) amends another bill I sponsored that became law last year, known as the FIRE HATE Act, which was among the package of bills signed following the overturn of *Roe v Wade*. The amendment sets damages recoverable in a cause of action for unlawful interference with protected civil rights established under the FIRE HATE for individuals traveling to New York for the purpose of reproductive health care (including obtaining an abortion) and gender-affirming health care.
- [A05806](#) expands the permitted use of proceeds from the lease of lands located at the State University of New York at Purchase to support full-time faculty positions.
- [A05814](#) designates the portion of the NYS Route 121 beginning at its intersection with Route 35 Old Post Road and ending with its intersection at Gideon Reynolds Road in Lewisboro as the "John Jay High School Veterans Memorial Highway," to honor and commemorate JJHS alumni who died during their service in the armed forces. The impetus for this bill was a memorial that was first proposed by Grant Vialardi, a senior at John Jay High School (and later an intern in my office!), in cooperation with the Lewisboro Veterans Advisory Committee. Initially, the memorial was to be installed on the grounds of the high school, but a current capital improvement project has prevented this from being accomplished.
- [A06291](#) updates the New York State Fire Code by requiring the issuance of regulations to establish that owners of high-rise buildings (buildings over 75' in height) provide an

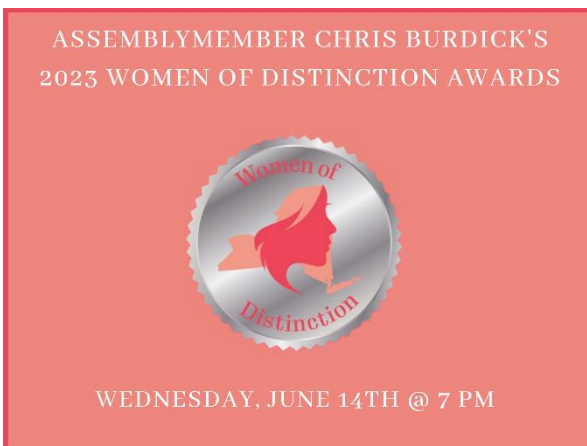
emergency evacuation plan for people with disabilities.

- [A06480](#) increases employment opportunities in state agencies for people with disabilities and disabled veterans by providing that the 1,700 civil service positions to be filled by any such individuals may be filled by both full-time or part-time workers.
- [A07247](#) expands the purposes of the South Salem Exempt Volunteer Firemen's Benevolent Association by updating its charter.
- [A07439](#) extends the authority of the Department of Environmental Conservation to manage a certain fish known as scup.
- [A07511](#) expands a pilot program to permit four eligible pediatric residential health care facilities, including the Sunshine Children's Home and Rehab Center in New Castle, to serve medically fragile children after the age of 21, so that those who rely on the rehab facility for life-supporting care can continue to stay and not be transitioned out.

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## 2023 Women of Distinction Awards

On Wednesday, June 14, I was so pleased to have the opportunity to honor 39 amazing women from the 93rd Assembly District at the Mount Kisco Public Library.



<u>Honoring</u>		
Lisa Abzun	Shoshana Dweck	Jane Pieragostini
Jill Becker	Rosemary Lshghi	Alexandra Rosenberg
Bobbi Bittker	Nisa Geller	Laurel Rossi
Lauren Brois	Nicole Goudey-Rigger	Karen Sabath
Ellen Calves	E. Annette Nash Govan	Stacey Saiontz
Dominique Cartica	Andi Gray	Karin Shiel
Deirdre Casper	Sharbari Bose Kamat	Elaine Summers
Bobbie Cohlán	Maureen MacKenzie	Keira Treanor
Jessica M. Colón	Kathy Manning	Allison Turcan
Michele Coram	Cheryl Melton	Dolores Vidal-Roy
Deirdre Courtney-Batson	Gretchen Menzies	Lucy Buetti Von Dietsch
Katherine Daniels	Chandana Nallan	Alexandra Whalen
Ronni Diamondstein	Claudia Pastore	Elizabeth Galani Zimmerman

These women are extraordinary and have done so much to contribute to their communities and the people around them, and in many different and varied ways. Often with little or no recognition... so we were thrilled to be able to give it to them and to thank them for all that they do!



If you were not able to join us live for the event, and are interested in learning more about these incredible women, you can watch the ceremony by [clicking here](#).

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## [Lewisboro Coffee & Conversation](#)

**Residents of Lewisboro (or anyone else interested!), please join me tomorrow at 10:00 am at the Lewisboro Town Hall for Coffee & Conversation. I will be joined by Town Supervisor Tony Gonalves and County Legislator Erika Pierce.**

JOIN ASSEMBLYMEMBER CHRIS BURDICK FOR

# COFFEE & CONVERSATION

WITH LEWISBORO TOWN SUPERVISOR  
TONY GONALVES  
&  
COUNTY LEGISLATOR ERIKA PIERCE

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24  
10:00AM**

Lewisboro Town Hall  
11 Main Street, South Salem, NY 10590

Questions? Call (914) 244-4450  
or email [burdick@nyassembly.gov](mailto:burdick@nyassembly.gov)

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## **Celebrating Pride!**

Here in New York, we pride ourselves on our Pride! I am grateful that I am in a position to work on legislation to help remove barriers and ensure that New York leads the country in being a safe haven for the LGBTQIA+ community. **Although we celebrate Pride in the month of June, we must work to ensure that every person feels respected, included, and heard every month of the year.**

Pride was in the air at the Westchester County 2023 LGBTQ+ Pride Flag Raising in White Plains earlier this month. County Executive George Latimer partnered with the Westchester County LGBTQ Advisory Board, The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center, and the Westchester County Board of Legislators to celebrate Pride Month. It was an honor and joy to join the celebration.



**Congratulations to two of my district's libraries, White Plains Public Library and Lewisboro Library, for being honored by the County for their work to foster and support the Westchester LGBTQ+ community.**

And the celebrations aren't over! **This coming Sunday, June 25, the Bedford, Lewisboro, and Pound Ridge *Pride in the Park* will take place, beginning at 2 pm at the Lewisboro Town Park, 1079 NY-35 in South Salem.**

Bedford\* Lewisboro\* Pound Ridge



**PRIDE IN THE PARK**  
**SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2023**  
**LEWISBORO TOWN PARK**

**2pm - Drag Queen Storytime with Cicatrix**  
 in collaboration with the Lewisboro Library

**3pm - Pet Pride Parade**  
 prizes for the best dressed pet!

**3:30pm - Flag Ceremony**  
 Mondaire Jones, former U.S. Congressman &  
 Member, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

**4:00pm - Drag Queen CICATRIX!**

**4:30pm - Puppets for Hire**

**Food Trucks** - Taco-ish & Wrappers Delight

**ArtsWestchester's ArtMobile and much more!**

**FREE & FAMILY FRIENDLY!**

**ARTSW**  
 ARTSWESTCHESTER

**LEONARD LITZ**  
 LGBTQ foundation

**THE LOFT**  
 COMMUNITY CENTER

@LewisboroCelebratesPride

And on Thursday, June 29, from 7-8:30 pm, please consider joining [A Celebration of Pride and Joy: Panel Discussion](#) at the Pound Ridge Library, 271 Westchester Avenue in Pound Ridge.

## [Lewisboro's Inclusive Playground Opens](#)

It was an incredibly proud day for the Town of Lewisboro earlier this month with the ribbon-cutting for its new, inclusive playground at the town park. It all began in 2019, when a small group of dedicated and enthusiastic residents, led by Valerie Cancro, created a vision for a state-of-the-art play space for children of all ages and all abilities. They were tenacious in pursuing that vision, drawing incredible enthusiasm and support from the entire Lewisboro community.

Former Town Supervisor Peter Parsons, current Town Supervisor Tony Tony Gonçalves, and the entire Town Board embraced it, as did I. I was thrilled to secure \$400,000 in NYS grant funding for the project, truly one of my proudest achievements since joining the NYS Assembly.

And seeing all the children rush to try out the new playground... what a spectacular moment!





## Congratulations to our Senior Experience Interns!

For a month we were lucky enough to have four wonderful high school seniors do their "Senior Experience" with my office. Instead of attending their regular high school classes, they spent that time with my office, learning about how the Assembly works and helping out my staff.

Their final project for this internship was to create two of their own bills and find existing bills that they strongly support. All four students -- Julia Sun, Ian Rhodes, Matthew Loew, and Michael O'Donnell -- put so much time and thought into this project, and we were all extremely impressed by their hard work.



These presentations followed a trip to Albany that many of the interns took earlier this month. In addition to Ian, Michael, and Julia (whose family joined us), our intern Divya Sharma, a high school junior, joined accompanied by her mother. They all got a tour of the Legislative Office Building and the Capitol, and I was pleased to be able to introduce them on the floor of the Assembly Chamber, where they were able to observe democracy in action! My district office staff members Christina Rae, Iris Weintraub, Amy Rivera, and Heather Miekko Lackey also came to Albany. It was an exciting day all around.



We are very grateful to our interns, have enjoyed seeing all that they have achieved, and know they have very bright futures ahead of them.

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### Final Thought: Juneteenth

Finally, this past Monday was Juneteenth, a day to celebrate freedom and the continued fight for racial equality.

Sadly, in too many places in our country now, remembering and learning from the mistakes of our past is now considered something to be scorned, mocked, and banned. **I am proud to live in a state that recognizes the importance of acknowledging and learning from the darkness in our past so that we can strive to be our best selves in the future.** And while we may not be there yet, we continue to work every day to get just that much closer.



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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](mailto: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,



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