



February 17, 2023

Dear Neighbors,

The Assembly is now wrapping up the second week of Budget Hearings in the Capitol, and my team and I have been hard at work advocating for the needs of the district and fighting for our budget goals. In coming newsletters, I will be providing further updates concerning our specific budget asks. As a reminder, you can watch [live and archived video recordings](#) of Assembly proceedings if you'd like to follow along or review the [Assembly Ways and Means Committee Yellow Book](#) for an analysis of the 2023-2024 Executive budget.



## Celebrating Black History Month

I had the honor of hosting and introducing **Ndaba Mandela**, grandson of former South African President and anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela, to the NYS Assembly intern class at the State Capitol in honor of Black History Month. Mr. Mandela spoke about the life lessons he learned from his grandfather, sharing wisdom and insight into leadership and public service. He left us with two beautiful fundamental messages: **“Dream so big that your dream scares you, because if it doesn’t scare you, you are not dreaming big**

enough!" and "Don't be the leaders of tomorrow. Be the leaders of today."



## Anna in the News

### **Spectrum News Interview on Parks and Trails in Ithaca Area**

I was recently interviewed on Spectrum News, discussing the importance of protecting and expanding access to Ithaca's natural areas by maintaining our parks and trails. You can [watch the interview here](#), where I spoke about the importance of parks and trails in creating healthy, walkable communities and attracting tourism, as well as the need to address the challenges posed by climate change to ensure the future of these important features of our district.

# Community Resources

## Family Planning Opening New Medical Center in Cortland

Family Planning of South Central New York has opened a new medical clinic in Cortland, located at 165 S. Main Street within the Family & Counseling Services location. The center fills a critical need for family planning and reproductive health services that the Cortland area lacked.

From Family Planning: "The new clinic will operate four days a week, offering a full range of both urgent and non-urgent gynecological and reproductive health care services, including birth control, annual exams, UTI testing and treatment, cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, and rapid HIV testing and rapid Hepatitis C testing."

The clinic offers flexible in-person and virtual appointment scheduling. You can find out more at [fpscopy.org](https://fpscopy.org).



## REMINDERS:

### PUBLIC FORUM FOR NYSEG COMPLAINTS

The New York State Department of Public Service (DPS) and Consumer Advocate "are seeking public comment regarding alleged billing, meter reading, and customer service issues affecting customers of New York State Electric and Gas Corporation (NYSEG)." Your input of any difficulties you have experienced are critical in the investigation of the company's overall service performance in the state.

While the virtual public forums and public hearings have passed, you can still [submit a written comment](#) to be part of the investigation. Our district input is critically important to hold them accountable for service issues, such as:

- Delayed or un-received bills
- Bills based on estimates rather than meter readings
- Issues with renewable energy credits/billing reconciliation
- Customer service experiences and delays in service

## **REDISTRICTING FEEDBACK**

The Independent Redistricting Commission draft map would alter our district's border lines, affecting many of district 125's constituents. As a reminder, [here](#) is the letter I submitted to the commission. If you'd like to give feedback, you can still [submit comments to the IRC](#).

# Around the District

## **Stewart Park Funding Celebration**

Last week, I had the pleasure and honor of awarding \$500,000 in NY State Economic Development Funds for the revitalization of Stewart Park. Thanks to the efforts of Friends of Stewart Park, the Wharton Studio Museum, and the City of Ithaca, this funding will provide wonderful enhancements to the park, creating a new splash pad and expanding inclusive and accessible recreation facilities. Stewart Park holds a special place in my heart and childhood memories, and I am grateful I was able to give [remarks at this celebratory event](#).



### Danby Volunteer Fire Company Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

The Danby Volunteer Fire Company is holding a Pancake Breakfast this Sunday, February 19th from 8-11:00 am to raise money to purchase new jaws of life, life-saving hydraulic cutting tools used in rescue efforts. They will be offering \$10 plates to pick up or dine-in. Visit their [Facebook page](#) for more details.

**FEBRUARY FIREHOUSE FLAP JACKS**  
**Drive-Thru breakfast \$10 plates**  
PANCAKES, FRENCH TOAST, SAUSAGE, SCRAMBLED EGGS, HOME FRIES  
**SUNDAY FEB 19TH 8-11 AM**  
Help us get new  
jaws of life!

### 25th Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off

Mark your calendars for the 25th Annual Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off on **March 4, 2023!** Over 40 restaurants will be highlighting their

chili recipes with a multitude of meat, veggie and vegan offerings! Beyond chili, this outdoor festival will feature local farm stands, beverage makers, and other food and gifts. Tickets can be purchased cash-only at the event, or [pre-purchased online](#). [Learn more about the Chili Cook-Off here](#).

Have a safe and restful weekend!

In good health,



Anna Kelles, Ph.D.

Assemblymember, 125th A.D.

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