



## Weekly Newsletter Thursday December 23, 2021



**The holidays are quickly approaching and so is the 2022 legislative session. Check out what I was up to last week in preparation for the holidays and the legislative session.**

**\*I originally sent this newsletter on Monday, but it appears that it did not deliver to everyone due to technical difficulties.**

### Albany Updates

This week Governor Hochul finally approved the members of the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force. This was an important win for our region because it will help homeowners and residents alike address road salt contamination that has negatively impacted our environment, waterways, and drinking water supply. I am proud to have authored this bill and I am pleased that Brittany Christenson from Adirondack Action, Gerry Delaney from Town of Saranac, and Dr. Daniel Kelting from Paul Smiths College are part of this task force.

On Monday, I traveled to Albany for a hearing about workforce development programs and strategies for success. As is evident across the North Country, workforce development is economic development and I will continue to work with my colleagues and state leaders to expand important programs such as earning while learning initiatives (see a video of my full remarks [here](#)).



### State Funding Announcements

Over \$8 million in REDC funding for nonprofits and municipalities across our district was also announced this week that will fund numerous projects across our region for community enhancement, expand regional sports and recreational activities, and help municipalities improve water infrastructure. Governor Hochul also announced that \$4.7 million will be going towards Citizen Advocates Harrison Place Project which will expand affordable housing in Malone area. I am proud to support the Harrison Place Project and the REDC Projects from the beginning and look forward to seeing these projects completed.

### Around the District

This week I met with local members of the New York Farm Bureau to discuss their legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session. I also visited Meridian Trot Farm in Champlain for a tour and to further discuss bills that will impact the agricultural industry. Blake Andrew and Allison Harrell opened Meridian Trot in 2015 and I was impressed by their eco-friendly techniques to breed exceptional horses. I also attended One Work Source's and the Workforce Development Institute's STEM Breakfast this week to meet with representatives from the North Country Workforce Partnership, Inc. and the Universität Siegen of Germany, to learn how North Country manufacturing and engineering challenges can be met through the Authentic STEM Project. This international cooperation will partner with North Country businesses to create a global understanding of STEM challenges and to find solutions to these issues.



## Border Restriction Updates

Last week, the Canadian government reinstated testing requirements for those who leave Canada for more than 72 hours. This new requirement will impede the North Country's recovery and will make it extremely difficult for folks to visit loved ones who live across the border during the holidays because of the lack of testing available in our region. There are ways to keep the border open safely and it's critical that we keep moving forward- not backward.

## Getting into the Holiday Spirit

This week was the last week for my Toy Drive to benefit the Christmas Bureau and the support from the North Country community this year was absolutely breathtaking. I want to thank everyone who participated in my toy drive and I want to give a special shout out to Seton Catholic's National Honor Society and Sentinel Ambassador Society who dropped off their donation last week. I also was proud to participate in this year's Wreaths Across America event. It is always an honor to be a part of this event that honors and remembers the veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and I want to thank and recognize veterans across the North Country during this holiday season for serving our country and communities.

Ella and I were also in the holiday spirit this week. First was at her Jingle Bells gymnastic competition where I had a very proud Dad moment when she placed second in the individual competition and first place with her team in the overall competition. We also stopped by to see Jim and Judy at Hill Top Farm to pick out our Christmas tree so that we are ready for Santa this weekend!



## Community Bulletin Board

### Call for Blood Donors

The Adirondack Regional Blood Center is asking for all eligible blood donors to give as the region faces a shortage of blood and blood products.

Blood collected by the Adirondack Regional Blood Center stays in the North Country, helping hundreds people across the region at local hospitals.

The Donor Center at 85 Plaza Boulevard in Plattsburgh is open Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

The Blood Center is also hosting the following blood drives:

- Tuesday, December 21, Adirondack Medical Center, Redfield Room, Noon to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 22, Malone Callfiremen Station, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Thursday, December 23, CVPH Auditoriums, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday, December 27, Champlain EMS, co-sponsor Knights of Columbus, 3 to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 28, Ellenburg Knights of Columbus, 2 to 6 p.m.
- Thursday, December 30, Champlain Centre, 2 to 6 p.m.
- Friday, December 31, Clinton County Advocacy and Resource Center, New York Road, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## **Grant Updates**

### **Adirondack Foundation Generous Acts Funding**

Generous Acts at Adirondack Foundation is now accepting applications.

Interested nonprofits, schools, and communities working to promote basic needs, educational pathways, and economic vitality + civic engagement in the Adirondack region are welcome and encouraged to apply.

The application will remain open and available online until 5 pm on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

To start your application, click [here](#).

There will be a virtual information session about the funding on Tuesday January 11. Register [here](#).

If you cannot make it to the information session, check out their [FAQ section here](#) or contact Adirondack Foundation at 518-523-9904 or email Connie at [connie@adkfoundation.org](mailto:connie@adkfoundation.org).

DISTRICT OFFICE  
202 US Oval  
Plattsburgh, NY 12903  
(518) 562-1986

ALBANY OFFICE  
LOB 551  
Albany, NY 12244  
(518) 455-5943

