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Saratoga County Clerk Craig Hayner announces Donate Life Month kickoff

Annual initiative encourages enrollment in organ donor registry

BALLSTON SPA – As the calendar turns to April and “Donate Life Month” kicks off, Saratoga County Clerk Craig A. Hayner is encouraging residents to register as organ donors when they conduct business at any of the three Saratoga County Department of Motor Vehicles locations.

The Saratoga County DMV is partnering with Donate Life New York State, in observance of National Donate Life Month, to raise awareness of the lifesaving impact made by organ, eye, and tissue donors.

Donate Life NYS is the statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase organ, eye and tissue donation in New York State through collaborative advocacy, education, research, and promotion.

Statewide, more than 80% of donors sign up while completing a transaction at a DMV. During April — and every month — Saratoga County DMV customers can enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry when conducting a license, permit, or non-driver ID transaction. Anyone aged 16 and older can enroll in the New York State Donor Registry, regardless of their medical history.

“We are honored to support Donate Life New York State in its efforts to spread awareness and expand the organ donor registry,” Hayner said. “Organ donation saves thousands of lives each year, yet many more are still waiting. That’s why we are committed to the DMV’s vital role in boosting donor enrollment.”

While more than 3,600 lifesaving organ transplants were performed in the state last year, nearly 8,000 New Yorkers remain on the national organ transplant waitlist. In 2024, approximately 350 patients awaiting an organ transplant in New York State died because the organ needed to save their lives was not donated in time.

The theme of 2025’s Donate Life Month, “Let Life Sing!” takes its inspiration from birds, one of the most welcomed and visible signs of spring.

As part of the local effort, the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors earlier this month unanimously passed a resolution recognizing April as Donate Life Month, encouraging staff members of Saratoga County departments and agencies to participate in Donate Life’s “Blue and Green Day,” which is April 11.

Saratoga County’s enrollment has increased steadily in the years since the County DMV began promoting Donate Life Month in 2014. According to the most recent statistics from Donate Life NYS, at the end of 2024, 74% of the eligible population in Saratoga County was enrolled in the registry. In 2013, it was just 39%. “It’s been very encouraging to see our county’s enrollment numbers climb over the years,” Hayner said. “However, more work still needs to be done to ensure everyone who needs life-saving organ donations gets them.”

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