



NEWS

From Bill Magnarelli

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120th Assembly District

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• **I**n less than two years, the 300 block of South Salina Street will be completely renovated and revitalized. The \$25 million project will create 87 apartments and 25,000 square feet of space for stores and restaurants in the Wilson, Bond, Chamberlin and Witherill buildings. The project, named the Pike Block, will connect Salina Street with Armory Square and should be completed by fall of 2011.

“You’ve seen a gradual deterioration of our main street, Salina Street, and I think that this corner is a key to rebuilding downtown Syracuse,” said Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli.

Assemblyman Magnarelli secured a \$2 million state grant for the project.

Two local nonprofit groups, Adapt CNY and the Metropolitan Development Association, worked together to buy the buildings and begin the designs of the renovations. These two organizations plan to transfer ownership to an affiliate of VIP Structures, the developer of the project.

The project is expected to finish at about the same time Centro plans to move its transfer hub from Salina and Fayette Streets to a new facility at Warren and Adams Streets.



Robert M. Simpson, President and CEO of the Metropolitan Development Association, and Assemblyman Magnarelli spoke about funding the proposed Pike Block renovations.



Solvay residents asked about how the Governor’s proposed budget would affect funding of local municipal projects and services.



Residents from Van Buren were adamant that unnecessary spending should be eliminated before taxes were raised. They also expressed concerns about education cuts affecting their children’s opportunities.

• **A**ssemblyman Magnarelli recently held four town hall meetings to hear constituents’ concerns about the state budget and other issues.

The most commonly mentioned concerns were about how the Governor’s proposed \$133.9 billion budget, and its proposed \$4.9 billion spending reductions, would affect local education, municipal and healthcare programs.

“Residents are deeply affected by current economic conditions,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli. “I heard their concerns and suggestions, and I will use this information to advocate on their behalf during budget deliberations.”

Due to the estimated \$8.2 billion deficit, this fiscal year will be extremely difficult. The Governor has proposed \$1.4 billion in cuts to education spending, \$1.8 billion cuts in health care, and \$1.3 billion in cuts to local governments.

“Unfortunately, in a time like this, everything is being considered,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli. “Our efforts will be to minimize the impact on our residents, by trying to maintain as many services as possible. Options such as consolidation of not only government services, but also nonprofits is being considered in an effort to increase efficiency.”



Issues such as hydrofracking, school budgets and taxes, and the proposed tax on soda were topics of discussion at the town hall meeting held at Most Holy Rosary in Syracuse.

- Solar power panels will become a much more common sight in Central New York. An announcement at SUNY ESF called for proposals from companies willing to work with the state to help increase the access to renewable energy. When completed in 2014, the project will generate the equivalent of powering approximately 15,000 homes.

“If New York - and for that matter the U.S. - is ever to make headway in reducing carbon dioxide output and achieve real energy independence, we must start by encouraging these strategic public-private partnerships. The cost of energy has risen dramatically in recent years in a rate not seen in decades. Given these circumstances, we can and must encourage energy efficiency and sustainability in our schools, municipal buildings and public universities such as SUNY College of Forestry,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli. “The photovoltaic systems that will result from this RFP process pave the way for New York to harness the most reliable and clean source of energy – from the sun. I thank Governor Paterson and NYPA for setting a course for us to achieve our energy independence goals and rebuild our high technology economy.”

The solar energy project is part of Governor Paterson’s ‘45 by 15’ program, an aggressive energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative to receive 45 percent of New York’s electricity through energy efficiency and clean renewable energy by 2015.



Senator Dave Valesky and Assemblyman Al Stirpe look on as Assemblyman Magnarelli addresses the crowd at SUNY ESF.



- The Syracuse Technology Garden celebrated its fifth anniversary recently. Assemblyman Magnarelli was one of the guests invited to speak about how the organization has helped the local economy by attracting business and making university-industry connections.

Syracuse Tech Garden fosters new business development by acting as an incubator of technology start ups. It also attracts new businesses to the Central New York area by fostering the connection between upstate technology entrepreneurs, interested investors and available resources.

The Tech Garden is credited with attracting 35 businesses bringing over 100 jobs to CNY.

Exploring Economic Development Opportunities

- Although New York State is in a time of financial crisis, now is the time to set and keep economic development priorities. Doing so now will ensure that the State is ready and able to recover quickly, perhaps even ahead of the curve, when the recession breaks.

There are two bills which are among my priorities for economic development this session: The Empire Revolving Bridge Loan Fund and the Commercialization Technology Partnership Program. Both propose to create realistic opportunities for economic growth from situations in Central New York that already exist.

The Empire Revolving Bridge Loan assists in financing large economic development projects that meet certain green design principles. The bill would authorize the state to bond and offer low interest 3-year loans for these development projects. The loans could be extended three times for 1-year. The Empire Revolving Bridge Loan gets economic development projects that are stalled off the ground by allowing them opportunity for low-interest financing.

The Commercialization Technology Partnership Program would create more opportunities for more in state commercialization and manufacturing of ideas that are developed through research and development in New York State. New York offers the second most funding opportunities for research and development (beat only by California), yet is 43rd in terms of providing money to assist in commercialization. The economic development boom associated with ideas created in research and development is at the commercialization and manufacturing stage, which as a state we allow to be outsourced to other states. Entrepreneurs need capital to develop business plans, prior to receiving seed money. This bill would offer small grants through New York State Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR), to be distributed through local entities to entrepreneurs as they create prototypes and do market research to test the viability of their product. The legislation I introduced advocates that \$5 to \$10 million of the \$100 million presently in the budget under NYSTAR for a new innovation fund program (research and development) proposed in the executive budget be directed into a commercialization fund.

About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 120th Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood and Valley areas of the City of Syracuse, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and was reelected in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008. During his previous five terms in office, Assemblyman Magnarelli has focused his efforts on bringing more jobs to Central New York, lowering taxes, providing our children a better education at every level, improving our healthcare and keeping our families safe. For more information, contact Assemblyman Magnarelli’s District Office at (315) 428-9651 or visit <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/magnarelli>.