



NEWS From Bill Magnarelli

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120th Assembly District

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Dear Neighbors,

I would like to invite you to a Community Information Night. I scheduled four of these events throughout the 120th Assembly District as a way of meeting with and hearing the concerns of constituents.

The **COMMUNITY INFORMATION NIGHTS** are on Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. as follows:

February 10 at Most Holy Rosary School cafeteria, 1031 Bellevue Ave., Syracuse

February 17 at Geddes Town Hall, 1000 Woods Rd., Solvay

March 3 at Henninger High School cafeteria, 600 Robinson St., Syracuse

March 10 at Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 Van Buren Rd., Baldwinsville

All sites have free parking and are handicap accessible.

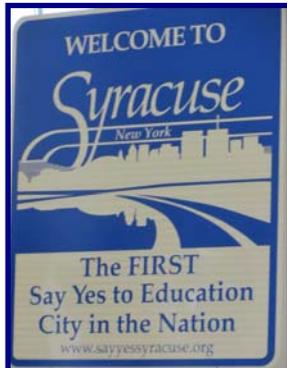
I hope people will take the time to attend one of these nights to learn more about ongoing issues in state government. These meetings allow me to hear directly from you about the issues that are most important to your families. I look forward to receiving feedback and input from my constituents in the 120th Assembly District.

William B. Magnarelli

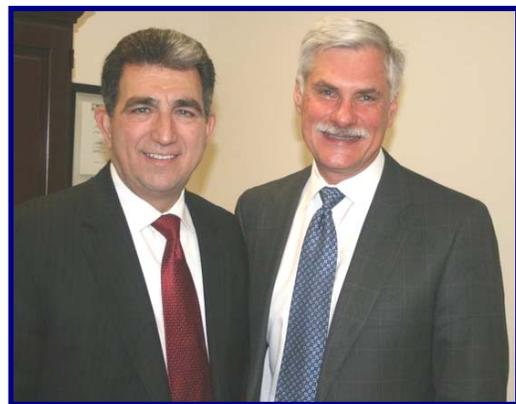
• **M**aking college a reality for more city school students became a bit easier with a significant contribution. Say Yes to Education at the Syracuse City School District recently received \$5 million from SRC, Inc. Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the reception at which the donation was announced. He has been a proponent of the Say Yes to Education program since its beginning.

Two Say Yes Scholars spoke about their educational experience and how the program allows them to attend college. Emily Nugent, a sophomore at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, graduated ninth in Henninger High School's Class of 2009. She hopes to become a teacher in the Syracuse City School District. Gregory White II, a freshman at Syracuse University, graduated from Nottingham High School in 2010. He is currently studying music.

Although four other cities have Say Yes programs, Syracuse is the first city to implement the Say Yes program district wide. Students who attend 10th, 11th and 12th grade and graduate from a city high school are eligible for free college tuition at more than 100 colleges statewide.



Gregory White II and Emily Nugent spoke about how the Say Yes to Education program affected their education and goals.



Assemblyman Magnarelli is photographed with Upstate President Dr. David Smith.

• **A**ssemblyman Magnarelli met with health care professionals at SUNY Upstate Medical University prior to the beginning of the legislative session to discuss pending legislation and budget issues. Upstate is the area's leading employer, only teaching hospital and provides a health care safety net for the region. Governor Andrew Cuomo is calling for substantial cuts across the entire budget, including health care and education.

Amber Alert saves Child from Elmira Legislation Magnarelli proposed would produce same results for vulnerable adults

In January, a child reported missing from his home in Elmira was found in Rochester the same day thanks to the Amber Alert, an early warning system for missing children.

Assemblyman Magnarelli was instrumental in passing the Amber Alert program in New York State in 2002. Since 2002, Amber Alert saved the lives of 525 children nationwide.

Assemblyman Magnarelli is trying to enact a similar system to assist in locating vulnerable adults who are reported missing. The legislation, nicknamed the Gold Alert (A.5220-B/S.2056-B), would enact a similar emergency alert system so the public can aid law enforcement officials when a person medically diagnosed with a cognitive impairment is missing. It would create a partnership with law enforcement agencies, media, transportation agencies, and the wireless industry to activate urgent bulletins.

The bill passed both houses in 2010 and 2008 but was vetoed by the Governor. The AARP and the Alzheimer's Association support the passage of this legislation.

"Just as the Amber Alert has proven to be a life saving tool for missing children, the Gold Alert system can help protect vulnerable adults who become missing," said Assemblyman Magnarelli.

Veterans' Affairs Legislation

As Chair of the Assembly's Veterans' Affairs committee, one of my legislative priorities this year is the Veterans Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Act. The bill requires the New York State Veterans' Affairs Commission to develop and update a New York state interagency plan to improve outreach, assessment, and care for veterans and their families who are experiencing mental health and/or substance abuse problems.

I was disappointed in the governor's veto of the bill last year, as many statewide mental health and veterans advocacy groups supported the legislation. The hope is that the new governor will see the need for the coordination of services that this bill would help enact.

Combat-related mental illness has been and still is a critical issue for American war veterans. Veterans who have served during World War II, Korea and Vietnam are still dealing with the aftermath of war. According to the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, at least one in three Iraq veterans and one in nine Afghanistan veterans will face mental health issues like depression, anxiety, or post traumatic stress disorder.

Unfortunately, the existing service-delivery system lacks the capacity to meet their needs and those of their families. The lack of integrated services is a longstanding problem in the mental health service-delivery system, but with so many veterans returning home with both mental illness and chemical dependency, it is nothing short of a crisis.

This legislation is based on testimony that was offered at a joint hearing with the Assembly Standing Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Mental Health and Alcohol & Drugs on these co-occurring disorders. This proposal calls for an annual state interagency planning effort, which will hopefully begin to address the lack of integrated mental health and substance-abuse services.



For his efforts regarding the Veterans Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Act, Assemblyman Magnarelli received a plaque from the National Association of Social Workers Executive Director, Reinaldo Cardona and Eileen Clinton, Program Coordinator, MSSNY (Medical Society of the State of New York).



• Members of local unions recently met with Assemblyman Magnarelli to discuss upcoming issues at the state level, pending legislation and concerns about budget issues. Union members expressed their concerns about the local economy and business trends. More than 30 members from local unions attended this year's annual meeting organized by Assemblyman Magnarelli.



Assemblyman Magnarelli speaks with Greg Lancette, business manager for the Plumbers & Steam Fitters Local 267 and President of the CNY Building Trades.



Ann Marie Taliercio, area director of UNITE HERE local 150, spoke with Assemblyman Magnarelli after the meeting.



Tax Help

AARP volunteers will prepare simple 1040s for individuals of all ages for free. They will be at Geddes Town Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays until April 13. No appointment is needed.



Assemblyman Magnarelli recently met with Steven Woiler of Dominick Falcone Agency, Molly Higgins of Peerless Insurance, and Nicholas Masterpole, Jr. of Masterpole and Murphy Insurance. They represented Independent Insurance Agents.



Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the fourth annual Eastwood Tree Lighting Ceremony.

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, 2008 and 2010. During his previous six 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>.