



# NEWS

## From Bill Magnarelli

March 2011

**District:** 333 East Washington St., Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 428-9651 **Albany:** LOB 837, Albany, 12248 (518) 455-4826

120<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

Magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us

As the newly appointed Chair of the Assembly's Standing Committee on Local Government, I am responsible for overseeing the committee's effectiveness in meeting the needs of New York State's local governments. The goals of this committee include monitoring the problems of local governments', developing legislative remedies and researching new proposals to better serve the citizens of the State of New York.

Local governments provide vital services and resources to the citizens of New York State, and I am committed to ensuring their needs are met. As a former majority leader of the Syracuse Common Council, I understand that local counties, cities, towns, and villages have the ability to offer specialized support to the unique needs of their residents in a way that larger government structures cannot. I am devoted to addressing the concerns of the constituents in the 120<sup>th</sup> District, and with this recent appointment I will be devoted to addressing the needs of local governments and governing municipalities throughout New York State.

*William B. Magnarelli*



Geddes Town Hall

## Town Hall Meetings

Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli hosted four Community Information Meetings during February and March 2011. The sessions were held at Most Holy Rosary School and Henninger High School in the City of Syracuse and at the Geddes Town Hall in Solvay and the Van Buren Town Hall in Baldwinsville. Approximately 200 people took advantage of the opportunity to see a power point presentation outlining Governor Cuomo's proposed NYS 2011-2012 budget, to ask questions and hear directly from Assemblyman Magnarelli. In addition, the Assemblyman highlighted the Legislature's perspective on the review process and progress being made to deliver the budget on time April 1, 2011.

Although the interactive sessions focused mainly on the proposed cuts in this year's budget, a number of local issues were addressed in each locality. The issues ranged from school cuts to municipal consolidations to the status of local road projects.



Above: Henninger High School  
Right: Most Holy Rosary  
Far Right: Van Buren Town Hall



• **Susan McSweeney** has retired after 12 years as Chief of Staff for Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli to assume responsibilities as Operator of assisted living facilities Highland, Manlius and Hamilton Homes for Adults.

"I enjoyed the years that I worked with the Assemblyman immensely. It was a pleasure to be able to help the constituents, businesses, organizations and especially the schools within the 12th district."

Assuming the duties of Chief of Staff will be **Christine H. Slocum** who brings 19 years of government experience to her 120th District Office position. Previously Christine held the positions of Executive Administrator for Assemblyman Al Stirpe, served as Deputy Town Supervisor of Salina, was Budget Analyst for Oswego County and Co-Budget Director for the Albany County Executive.



• **B**lodgett Elementary Student Council Reps and Sylvia Martinez-Daloia recently met with Assemblyman Magnarelli in Albany.

• **A** vital piece of equipment in providing cross-country skiing arrived at the Sunnycrest Park Association, thanks in part to Assemblyman Magnarelli and City of Syracuse Commissioner of Parks, Baye Muhammad.

Assemblyman Magnarelli secured \$12,000 in the 2009 budget to replace a snow mobile machine known as the “snow-gator” and its implements to groom cross-country ski trails.



Posing with the new “snow-gator” at Sunnycrest Park are (left to right) Tom Bryant, member of Sunnycrest Park Association Board of Director; David Baker, member of Sunnycrest Park Association Board of Director; Mike Behnke, Sunnycrest Park Association President; Assemblyman Magnarelli; John Walsh, Deputy Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs; two local skiers; and Baye Muhammad, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs.

“We want people to know that monies secured in past budgets are not impacted by this year’s budget cutbacks. Volunteer groups like the Sunnycrest Park Association make it possible for City parks to provide invaluable and unparalleled opportunities for many winter sports enthusiasts not only from inside the city, but countywide and beyond,” said Assemblyman Magnarelli.

Commissioner Baye Muhammad congratulated the Sunnycrest Park Association for assisting the City Park’s Department in developing cross country skiing as a winter recreation opportunity at Sunnycrest Park.

“Over the last three winters, approximately 3,000 skier-trips were counted on Sunnycrest ski trails which included youth and families,” said Commissioner Muhammad. “In addition, the Syracuse City Schools started a cross country ski program for all the public schools. Henninger High School conducts cross country ski classes on a regular basis.”

The “snow-gator” is an Artic Cat and is anticipated to provide 10-years of service for the Sunnycrest Park Association. The trails are also used by the Syracuse University Cross-Country team.

## Assembly budget protects seniors, rejects drastic cuts to EPIC

Slashing Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) funding would have a dire effect on local Seniors. That’s why Assemblyman Magnarelli voted in favor of an Assembly budget proposal restoring \$34 million of the governor’s proposed cuts. While the Assembly made some difficult decisions to close the \$10 billion budget deficit, they recognized their obligation to protect seniors’ access to quality, affordable health care.

The EPIC program currently provides over 300,000 enrollees with secondary coverage for prescription drug costs. The Assembly’s proposal restores funding to ensure no program benefits are eliminated.

The Assembly rejected the governor’s plan to force all EPIC participants, regardless of financial hardship, to join a Medicare Part D drug plan. The Assembly’s proposal also continues the vital ‘wraparound’ coverage for prescription drugs not covered by Medicare, as well as state payment assistance for Part D premiums and deductibles. Eliminating this aid could cost seniors up to \$1,000 or more annually. Many older New Yorkers are on fixed incomes, making any reductions to EPIC especially disastrous.

“We can’t put seniors in a position where they must choose between putting food on the table and the medicine they need. Restoring EPIC funding in our budget ensures that seniors receive the support they need during these difficult times,” Assemblyman Magnarelli said.



• **T**o address concerns about the upcoming budget, Assemblyman Magnarelli recently met with members from PEF, including Ryan Delgado (Albany), Jemma Marie Hanson and Marion Fox (both from Brooklyn), Hal Friedman, and Peter Banks (SUNY Upstate).



• **S**tudents of the Year were recognized in the Assembly Chamber. Students from the Syracuse area, Kholida Bilalova, Maynard Bland, Mahirwe Dina Ndeze are joined by Valerie Dorfer (facilitator, Syracuse literacy zones) and Jennifer Gillette (case worker).



• **A**ssemblyman Magnarelli participated in a legislative panel on mandate reform sponsored by the New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials at City Hall. Syracuse Common Councilors, town and village leaders from throughout Central New York asked the legislators questions about funding and mandates.

## About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 120<sup>th</sup> 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>.