



NEWS From Bill Magnarelli

March 2017

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Magnarelli Advocates for Youth Mental Health

Back in 2014, representatives of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) approached Assemblyman Magnarelli and asked for his help in securing beds locally for youth with mental illness. Because of the limited inpatient services for youth in local facilities, many families were forced to travel to surrounding regions in order to visit their children in other facilities. The Assemblyman then convened meetings with local youth mental health advocates and practitioners.

In late 2014, Assemblyman Magnarelli received a call from Congressman John Katko asking to join in this issue, as the Congressman heard that the Assemblyman was researching the details and possible solutions. In March 2015, the Youth Mental Health Task Force was created co-sponsored by Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli and Congressman John Katko to address the lack of a sufficiently integrated system for child and adolescent mental health inpatient and outpatient services in Central New York.

In 2017, after two years of dialogue and participation with local mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers, NAMI, grassroots health care organizations and advocates, CNY hospitals, and local government officials, the CNY Mental Health Task Force Report was issued. The Task Force released its final, comprehensive report outlining the largest gaps in youth behavioral and mental health services in CNY and provided recommendations to improve access to care.

On March 6, Assemblyman Magnarelli and Congressman Katko took part in a press conference at SUNY Upstate Medical University to celebrate the opening of the program for youth and young adults at risk for suicide. Also in attendance were President of SUNY Upstate Danielle Laraque-Arena, Dr. Robert Gregory, Director of High-risk Psychiatry and David and Lisa Craig, parents of Corey Craig who lost her battle with mental illness in 2006.

Assemblyman Magnarelli said, "Families in CNY should not be forced to send their child hours away to get the proper mental health care. These families are already in crisis and the lack of local treatment options only compounds their stress." The Assemblyman continued, "I commend the Task Force in highlighting barriers to appropriate and essential needs of our youth with mental illness. However, to service the needs of patients, youth mental health services must be expanded to include more community based resources. A major factor in providing these vital services is for private insurance companies to step up and meet this challenge, as well as provide coverage for youth in our State-run facilities."

Assemblyman Magnarelli recently introduced new legislation in the Assembly that would increase access to mental health services. NYS Assembly Bill A.6465 would require insurance policies to provide coverage for services related to the diagnosis and treatment of mental, nervous or emotional disorders or ailments.



Save the Date

Community Information Night

6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 16,
Geddes Town Hall, 1000 Woods Rd,
Solvay, NY 13209

FREE E-Recycle Event

Saturday, May 20, NYS State Fair,
Co-Sponsored by Assemblyman Bill
Magnarelli and Senator David Valesky

FREE E-Recycle Event

Saturday, July 29, Destiny USA, Co-
Sponsored by Assemblyman Bill
Magnarelli, Assemblywoman Pam
Hunter and Senator David Valesky

CNY Volunteer Fair

Tuesday, Sept. 19, Destiny USA (third
floor Canyon area)

CNY Veterans Parade & Expo

9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, NYS
Fair Center of Progress building

Community Information Nights

Assemblyman Magnarelli held two of his four 2017 Community Information Meetings. Residents attended the meetings at Van Buren Town Hall on Feb. 16, and at the Cecile Center in Syracuse on March 2. Questions were asked regarding proposals that are included in the proposed 2017-2018 NYS Budget. Also discussed at the meetings was the report issued by the Consensus Committee on Government Consolidation.



FIXING PROBLEMS WITH STAR PROGRAM

"I am announcing that the Assembly Majority has introduced legislation reforming the state's School Tax Relief (STAR) program to roll back barriers to fair, timely tax relief (A.5969).

Our focus should always be on helping families get ahead, buy homes and invest in our neighborhoods. Unfortunately, we've now seen that last year's STAR changes overburdened families and seniors and made the program so much harder than it already is. This legislation helps provide homeowners with the property tax relief they deserve.

Changes were made to STAR last year that included switching administration of the program over to the state Department of Taxation and Finance, instead of local assessors, altering how certain homeowners receive their tax relief.

Before last year, all eligible homeowners saw a yearly reduction in their school property tax bill. Now, all new homeowners – those who bought their first home and those who moved to a different home – have to pay a higher school tax bill and then register for a rebate check from the state, which they are supposed to receive each fall. Although the amount of the benefit is the same, the new system is incredibly inconvenient for the affected homeowners.

To make matters worse, countless homeowners reported receiving their checks much later than they were supposed to, or in amounts that fell far short of what it should have been, leaving hardworking families in a bind and making it difficult for them to pay their school tax bill on time.

The Assembly Majority's legislation reverses these changes and transitions the program back to the way it was, providing all homeowners with their deserved tax relief upfront as a reduction in their school tax bill. Administration of the program would also be returned back to the hands of local assessors, and further, the bill requires the state to help localities in notifying residents of these new changes so that all qualified homeowners receive the exemption.

I'm working to make sure homeowners get their tax relief as smoothly as possible. The STAR changes have resulted in far too many headaches for homeowners – from delayed checks, to higher tax bills and less money in New Yorkers' pockets. We heard families' concerns loud and clear and are taking action.

If I can be of assistance to you in this matter, please call my district office in Syracuse at 315-428-9561 or email magnarw@nyassembly.gov"

Bill Magnarelli

Presenting E-Recycling Profits



Assemblyman Magnarelli presented a proceeds check to Interfaith Works, a local social services agency which helps to resettle refugees, for its volunteers who assisted with the E-Recycling event held in November 2016 at DestinyUSA parking lots. Along with Assemblyman Magnarelli is Beth Broadway, Executive Director of Interfaith Works, and Jay Subedi, Housing Services Coordinator as well as other staff members.

Refugees and new Americans, which included people from Bhutan, Somalia and Cuba, helped to unload 262,075 lbs. of small electronics and large TVs. The total weight filled 14.5 tractor-trailer loads.



Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli also presented a proceeds check to the Board of Directors of the Butternut Community Police Center for the agency's help in bringing over 40 volunteers, teens and adults, to assist with the E- Recycling event held at Destiny USA in November 2016. The Butternut Community Police Center provides programs for youth throughout the year.

Roaring Into Town

Assemblyman Magnarelli joined the Landmark Theatre as they announced that *The Lion King* will kick off the 2017-2018 Famous Artists Broadway Theater Series with a three-week run. A cast and crew of more than 100 people are expected to spend five weeks in Syracuse to rehearse and perform the play, staying at local hotels and eating at area restaurants. Albert Nocciolino, President and CEO of NAC Entertainment/Famous Artists said touring shows like *The Lion King* are made possible with the help of \$400 million granted in theater tax credits from New York State. Assemblyman Magnarelli provided \$6.5 million in grant funding for a new stage and other improvements for the Landmark in 2006. He has also provided \$220,000 in grant funding for an elevator project which will begin soon.

Assemblyman Magnarelli at the Landmark Theatre with Albert Nocciolino, president and CEO of NAC Entertainment/Famous Artists, and Bill Fisher, Deputy Onondaga County Executive at The Lion King announcement.



CNY Solidarity Coalition



Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli met with CNY Solidarity Coalition members to listen to their concerns on what they believe is a unique threat posed by President Trump's agenda, including repealing of the Affordable Care Act, the travel ban on refugees, immigrants, and visitors from certain Muslim-majority societies, and several of the President's Cabinet nominations. In requesting the meeting with Assemblyman Magnarelli, the Coalition wanted to foster community ties with elected officials and to strengthen opposition to hateful rhetoric and violence in our CNY region, the state, and around the U.S.

New 1199SEIU Vice President



Assemblyman Magnarelli attended a reception for Kevin Lockhart 1199 SEIU Vice President of the Central New York Office. Prior to this promotion, Kevin began as a new worker organizer and then an Administrative Organizer. He is also a U.S. Army veteran and previously worked at Rosewood Nursing home.

Recent Advocacy Meetings in Syracuse and Albany

Assemblyman Magnarelli continues to meet with advocacy groups on a regular basis to discuss state issues and budget concerns that affect them. Here are some of the groups:



Assemblyman Magnarelli met with CNY members of the United Neighborhood Houses of NY in Albany.



Henninger High School Students met with Assemblyman Magnarelli in his Syracuse District Office.



Members of ARISE met with Assemblyman Magnarelli in his Syracuse District Office.



Members of MACNY, Manufacturers Association of Central New York, met with Assemblyman Magnarelli in Albany.



Assemblyman Magnarelli met with librarians and patrons of Onondaga County's Library system.

About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129th Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood Valley and Downtown 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, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. During his 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>.