



# NEWS Sept./Oct. 2017 From Bill Magnarelli

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## A Busy Time in Central New York

As a New York State Assemblymember, I attend Legislative Session in Albany from January through June. This is the time of year that we research, propose and vote on hundreds of pieces of legislation for the State, and pass a yearly Budget of more than \$150 billion. These legislative and budget bills affect services provided by state government, local municipal governments, schools, health and human service agencies, law enforcement, and other services which affect residents' everyday lives.

During the rest of the year, I spend time visiting the various organizations, neighborhoods and communities of the 129<sup>th</sup> District, meeting with individuals, business and school officials, and members of various agencies that enrich and support our families and community. It is through these meetings that I continue to learn more about the real issues affecting people's lives locally.

This is an integral part of being an Assemblymember, enabling me to better connect with the people I am serving. These interactions also allow me to determine whether certain legislation and policies may positively affect lives, and/or what else might be done.

The local community consists of an ever-changing combination of people, service providers, businesses, and non-profit organizations. The needs of the community are also always changing. One way to address changing needs is to meet with the people who are dedicated to serving the community. This newsletter includes some of the events and meetings I attended with my constituents.

In addition, many of my Assembly colleagues visited Central New York during the summer. Along with the NYS Fair, some of the places that were highlighted during these visits included the Lakeview Amphitheater, Syracuse University Carrier Dome, the Syracuse Marriott Downtown and the Landmark Theater.

Although many people view the job of an Assemblymember to be a "part time" position due to the Legislative Session in Albany being conducted during the first six months of the year, I firmly believe that during the time that we are not in Albany equally matters. Listening to my constituents and experiencing the uniqueness of Central New York keeps me informed and prepared for the months ahead.

*William B. Magnarelli*

## CNY Volunteer Fair Welcomes Those looking for Opportunities

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual CNY Volunteer Fair at DestinyUSA attracted over 500 members of the community who were interested in spending time helping others. Representatives from more than 50 non-profit organizations were available with information about what they do. The participants represented a variety of non-profits serving the community in the fields of healthcare, animal protection, social services, museums, and many others. The ages of community members who attended the event ranged greatly as well. Students attended from area high schools and colleges to find opportunities to volunteer to earn credit for graduation and to investigate career paths. Many retired people attended too and expressed a desire to stay active in the community, using their years of knowledge and experience to give back.



## Assembly Members Tour the NYS Fair

NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie joined Assemblyman Magnarelli at the NYS Fair on Armed Forces Day where they participated in the special ceremony to honor the men and women who have served our nation in each branch of the military. Many of their colleagues in the Assembly including Central New York members Stirpe, Magee, Hunter, Jenne, Jones, and Bronson also attended. In addition, Assembly members from downstate, many bringing their families, also visited the Fair.



Assemblyman Magnarelli with his NYS Assembly Colleagues at the Assembly's information booth in the Center of Progress Building at the NYS Fair.



Assemblyman Magnarelli speaking at the Armed Forces Day Ceremony.

## Reading in the Summer

During the summer, Assemblyman Magnarelli encouraged young children to continue reading and learning through the NYS Assembly Reading Challenge. Local libraries distributed pamphlets on which children and their parents could record their reading accomplishments.

In August, Assemblyman Magnarelli visited several libraries, including White Branch Library (pictured), to take part in their celebrations and distribute certificates.



## Local Elected Officials Participate in Respectful Civil Discourse Debate



Assemblyman Magnarelli was a participant in a panel discussion presented by LeMoyne College President Linda LeMura entitled "Respectful Civil Discourse." Political pollster John Zogby, a native of New Hartford, moderated the event, which also included Assemblyman Al Stirpe, Senator John DeFrancisco and Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney. The panel spoke about what has led to the current political climate and what can be done to reverse the trend. Students asked the local elected officials about their public offices and the influence they have in local political debates.

## Regional Economic Development Council Meets in Syracuse

Since Governor Cuomo first initiated the Regional Economic Development Council process six years ago transforming our state's economic development strategy, Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli has been a voting member of Central New York's Regional Economic Development Council (CNYREDC). This year marks the 7<sup>th</sup> year of this competitive process which has enabled our region to receive \$529.1 million for 505 projects, the largest amount awarded to a regional council to date. This year, each of the 10 regions are competing for awards of up to \$20 million in grant funds which will be given to 5 regions, and the remaining 5 regions will receive up to \$10 million in grant funds. Awards will be announced later this year.

Assemblyman Magnarelli at the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council meeting held at the Center of Excellence building in Syracuse.



## An Empty Factory Now Renovated

Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the opening of the newly renovated R.E. Dietz lantern factory building located by Leavenworth Park in Syracuse. The developer, Matthew Paulus, and representatives from state and local government were also on hand. This new multi-use project transformed the empty manufacturing facility into 92 market-rate apartments and commercial space. Assemblyman Magnarelli said, "I congratulate everyone involved for taking an abandoned industrial site and turning it into a cornerstone for further



investment on the West end of Syracuse. The revitalization of the former Dietz Lantern Factory building is another positive step for the City that will complement ongoing development and growth in Downtown Syracuse and the Inner Harbor. These investments are bringing people and businesses back to the City." The project received \$900,000 in NYS grant funding through the CNY Regional Economic Development Council. In addition, the project will also receive State Historic tax credits through the NYS Historic Preservation Office.

## DestinyUSA Hotel Opens

Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the special ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of the new 209-room Embassy Suites by Hilton – Destiny USA Hotel on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Also in attendance were Senator David Valesky and County Executive Joanie Mahoney. The Inner Harbor area is currently going through a renaissance and will continue to evolve over the next few years creating another important community asset for our region.



## Assembly Hearing on Adult Homes Held in Syracuse

The New York State Assembly Committees on Health, Aging, and Social Services held a public hearing in Syracuse on safety and quality of adult homes ("adult care facilities") at the State Office Building. Chairpersons Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, and Assemblyman Andrew Hevasi were in attendance to hear testimony.

"To ensure quality care for our community's aging individuals, it's essential we make certain that the State provides the individuals and facilities overseeing their care with proper rates of reimbursement," said Assemblyman Magnarelli. "To shortchange them would mean that we are not financially supporting the systems that protect and care for our seniors in their times of need."

The hearing examined the availability and quality of adult home services, including the impact of increased funding for such programs. Adult homes house both aging individuals and those with complex medical or mental health needs, providing supportive services for independent living. These homes offer a level of care less intensive than nursing homes or enhanced assisted living, but more than senior living. Adult homes are funded largely by Medicaid and the New York State Supplement Program (SSP) which provides financial support to the aged and disabled. Advocates are concerned that the current SSP rate is too low, shortchanging facilities and affecting quality of care. Adult homes allow seniors to live more independently and avoid more expensive nursing home placement. Many local adult home administrators provided testimony on the challenges they face in providing quality care and service.



## New Law Keeps Telecommunications Operations Local

The Governor recently signed legislation (A.6527-A) sponsored by Assemblyman Magnarelli which will ensure that the NYS Telecommunications Relay Center remains in Syracuse through 2020.

The NYS Telecommunications Relay Center is based in Syracuse and provides telephone service for the deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, speech-disabled, or late-deafened people who use text telephones (TTYs) or voice carry-over (VCO) phones. The Center's operators provide the "Cap-Tel" service where operators provide text captioning, so the hearing impaired can communicate by phone. The Center employs approximately 100 people in Syracuse.

Assemblyman Magnarelli noted: "Passing this legislation ensures the NYS Telecommunications Relay Center will remain in Syracuse. This Center provides an essential service for the hearing impaired across the State. Keeping the Center in Syracuse protects nearly 100 local jobs and ensures these employees can continue providing quality service to New York residents."

## CNY Diaper Bank Celebrates National Diaper Awareness Week



Assemblyman Magnarelli visited the CNY Diaper Bank as part of National Diaper Need Awareness Week, September 25 through October 1, 2017. Michela Hugo founded the CNY Diaper Bank in 2016 and has since distributed more than 200,000 diapers. The diapers are provided to struggling families through a growing network of 15 local social service agencies. Buying diapers can be a struggle for families living in poverty, as diapers are not covered by SNAP or WIC benefits and can cost more than \$100 a month. An inadequate supply of diapers can negatively affect the health, hygiene and welfare of both the parent and the child. Board members Kate Canada, Cayla Clark and Peggy Liuzzi joined Hugo and Assemblyman Magnarelli in the picture.

### Celebrating with the Everson Museum



Assemblyman Magnarelli recently visited the Everson Museum of Art as a part of a national Visit Your Museum Week. Elizabeth Dunbar, Director & CEO and Everson Museum Board Chair, Cliff Malzman, accompanied Assemblyman Magnarelli on a tour of the Museum which provides our community with important programming for people of all ages. Last year, educational programming at the Museum served 13,000 visitors and included tours, lectures, classes, family programs and social events. In addition, the Museum hosts 80,000 visitors annually. The Assemblyman also learned about present and future plans for renovations and programming.



### Chair of the Assembly Tourism Committee Tours Syracuse

Assemblyman Magnarelli and Assemblyman O'Donnell, Chair of the Assembly Tourism Committee, took a tour of the Syracuse University Carrier Dome with SU Vice President Pete Sala, Associate Vice President Ray Toenniessan and Tim Drumm, Executive Director of Special Initiatives.



Emily Rahrle, Convention Services Manager at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, took Assemblyman Magnarelli and Assemblyman O'Donnell on a tour of the hotel, including the Grand Ballroom, Persian Terrace and Main Lobby.



Assemblyman O'Donnell with Assemblyman Magnarelli on S. Salina St. after touring the Landmark Theater. Assembly O'Donnell was able to tour some of our most important community assets and is looking forward to returning soon.

## Back to School

As the new school year began, Syracuse City School District Superintendent Jaime Alicea invited Assemblyman Magnarelli to visit city schools. The Superintendent took Assemblyman Magnarelli on a tour of four schools to meet some of the students and teachers to learn about the plans and goals for the upcoming school year.



Assemblyman Magnarelli was at Public Service Leadership Academy (PSLA) at Fowler along with Superintendent Alicea and School Board Member Dan Romeo and school officials.



Assemblyman Magnarelli, Superintendent Alicea and School Board Member Dan Romeo, accompanied by Vice Principal Antonio Herrera, visited a number of career path classes at PSLA at Fowler including training to become an electrician, ROTC, drone technology as well as the school library. PSLA at Fowler offers classes which allow students to choose a career path for a job out of high school.



Assemblyman Magnarelli, Superintendent Alicea and School Principal Lujan White visiting a class at Lincoln Middle School.

Assemblyman Magnarelli, Superintendent Alicea, State Senator David Valesky and School Board Member Dan Romeo were accompanied by School Principal Charina Johnson-Turner at Clary Middle and visited many classrooms to learn about the upcoming school year.



Assemblyman Magnarelli at a kindergarten class in Webster Elementary School.

## First Anniversary of

## Syracuse Marriott Downtown

Assemblyman Magnarelli joined Ed Riley, owner, and Syracuse Marriott Downtown Gen. Mgr. Paul McNeil at the 1-Year Anniversary of the Hotel. Assemblyman Magnarelli helped to secure state funding for the renovation of the Hotel which is the official Hotel of the OnCenter Convention Center.

## Save the Date: CNY Veterans Parade & Expo

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4

NYS Fairgrounds

Center of Progress Building



*Military Women: Past, Present Future*

Expo 9a.m.-3p.m.; Parade at Noon

WWW.CNYVeteransParade.org

### About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129<sup>th</sup> 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>.

