



NEWS

MAY 2020

From Bill Magnarelli

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129th Assembly District

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Being Able to Help When Times are Rough

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of 'disaster,' I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world."

- Mr. Fred Rogers

It's fair to say that Coronavirus has changed most everyone's view of "normal" life. Due to the pandemic, many New York residents have been furloughed or laid-off and forced to navigate an overwhelmed unemployment system. I am proud to say that my constituent service staff has received recognition for being able to help numerous people during this difficult time.

Since March 16, **Dan Petrick** and **John Ferguson** of my office fielded approximately **1,000 calls** and **emails** from constituents seeking assistance with their unemployment claims.

An article on LocalSyr.com from April 27, 2020 - "Unemployment backlog persists, some claimants receiving benefits" – recognizes my staff for their persistence in working through the unemployment system and getting results for local residents.

"It wasn't until she contacted Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli's Office that she said her persistence finally paid off and on Monday, April 27 she was notified that her benefits were processing and would be paid out in a few days."

On top of the unemployment insurance issues, Craig Swiecki of my staff has continued to work on local legislation and legislation involved in the Transportation Committee of which I am chair. Joe Romano has continued to work on funding grant issues involved in the district. Diana Abdella continues to be my liaison with my constituents via communications involving the media and social media. Barbara Roberts continues to keep us all on the straight and narrow as she manages our schedule. All in all, the staff remains hard at work. When the unexpected happens, it's difficult knowing where best to turn for help. My office and I will continue to help residents in the 129th Assembly District navigate this uncertain time by helping to make the right connections.

Please continue to contact the office at (315) 428-9651 or magnarelli@nyassembly.gov with any questions or concerns. Also follow the social media accounts: [facebook.com/william.magnarelli](https://www.facebook.com/william.magnarelli), Twitter @BillMagnarelli, <https://www.instagram.com/assemblymanmagnarelli>

Sincerely,

William B. Magnarelli



Social media users also expressed their satisfaction with the office's help on contacting the Department of Labor for unemployment benefits.

Jeremy Antonio: Your office was a tremendous help to me. I spoke with someone in DOL the very same day I reached out. My claim has now been processed and finalized and I should be receiving my benefits shortly. Thank you!

I salute Mr. William Magnarelli and his office for helping me complete my UI claim. They were phenomenal. Surely without their help, I would still be waiting for my benefits.
#AppreciationPost
#HappyCamper #UISuccess

John J. Blair: Issue Resolved

Carrie Martinez: My son (Carlos Martinez) was denied UI end of March, applied for PUA April 11 and is still pending with no contact from DOL. He sent an email today to your office and John Ferguson responded immediately to him. We thank your office for assisting him! It's nice to know someone cares

Legislation to Create the Syracuse STEAM High School Included in Budget

Despite the quarantine and State being on Pause, the Assembly passed a State Budget which includes establishing the Syracuse City School District's Regional STEAM School. The Budget allows for the creation of a new regional high school to provide students in Central NY with a first-class education in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics ("STEAM") as well as the core academic areas required for the



issuance of a high school diploma. It will also provide the necessary State building aid support to renovate the former Central Tech High School in Downtown Syracuse to serve as its location.

"This project is vital to Downtown Syracuse," said Assemblyman Magnarelli. "It is proposed that the new regional STEAM High School will bring students together from across Central NY in a state-of-the-art learning environment focused on science, math and the arts. The centerpiece of this effort will be revitalization of Central Tech and its beautiful auditorium. I want to thank all of our partners in government and the private sector that helped get this legislation passed. I look forward to seeing Central Tech brought back to life as an anchor of our expanding Downtown."

The new regional high school will be run as part of the Syracuse City School District. The goal is to have 60% of the students come from the City of Syracuse and 40% from surrounding districts. It will be the first true regional high school in Central NY and offer students a unique and cutting-edge curriculum, while partnering with the business community and taking advantage of the vast higher education resources in the area.

Transportation Funding in 2020-2021 NYS Budget

Despite the quarantine, the NYS Assembly held a Legislative session and was able to pass a State Budget that included \$65 million in funding for local highways and bridges. These funds would help local highway departments with critical winter repairs, said Assemblyman Magnarelli, chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee.

"Despite these times of fiscal stress for the State, it is important that local highway departments continue to make needed post-winter repairs to our roads and bridges," said Assemblyman Magnarelli. "We must keep our infrastructure safe and functioning to ensure our essential workers and first responders can safely get to and from work. Hopefully, this funding will remain and ensure localities get these needed repairs done."

Unfortunately, all funding in the budget passed by the Assembly this year is subject to being decreased if needed federal funds are not forthcoming due to this pandemic. It is my hope that Federal funds will be made available to state and local governments to make up for the funds that have been expended due to the Coronavirus in our state. I urge all my constituents to contact their federal representatives- Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Congressman John Katko – to urge them to pass such federal legislation. (Addresses, phone numbers and emails listed below.)

So long as there are no future cuts, the new funding builds on past State Budgets that have provided additional funds to local highway departments to repair winter damage to roads and bridges. These funds will be distributed to localities through the Consolidated Highway Improvement Fund ("CHIPS").

Federal Representative Contact Information:

Senator Charles Schumer James Hanley Federal Building 100 South Clinton Street Room 841 Syracuse, NY 13261 (315)423-5471 senator@schumer.senate.gov	Senator Kirsten Gillibrand James Hanley Federal Building 100 South Clinton Street, Room 1470 PO Box 7378 Syracuse, NY 13261 (315)448-0470 senator@gillibrand.senate.gov	Congressman John Katko 400 S. Warren Street 7 th Floor, Suite 711 Syracuse, NY 13202 (315)423-5657 john.katkony24@mail.house.gov
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Where to Contact for Help:

Unemployment: Department
of Labor at
[www.ny.gov/services/get-
unemployment-assistance](http://www.ny.gov/services/get-unemployment-assistance)

Recovery Checks:
[www.IRS.Gov/coronavirus/ec
onomic-impact-payments](http://www.IRS.Gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments)

**New York Small Business
Loans:**
[www.SBA.gov/page/coronavir
us-covid-19-smallbusiness-
guidance-loan-requirements](http://www.SBA.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-smallbusiness-guidance-loan-requirements)

Sick & Paid Leave Benefits:
[Www.Paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/
covid19](http://Www.Paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/covid19)

SNAP Benefits:
[www.Otda.ny.gov/SNAP-
COVID-19](http://www.Otda.ny.gov/SNAP-COVID-19)

**Department of Motor
Vehicles: by phone at (518)
486-9786 or**
www.DMV.ny.gov

**Emergency Meals Hotline
for Onondaga County
Seniors, Healthcare Workers
and Adults**
(315)-218-1987

Supporting the Community in Uncertain Times

Quarantine and Social
Distancing are certainly
new to all of us. The
response to COVID-19
has us trying to
navigate through our
communities and our

daily lives in ways that we've never before dealt with. As New York was put on Pause, buying takeout from local restaurants and businesses is one small step in helping the local economy. Local charities also changed the way they fundraise, as group events were prohibited. Instead, many are holding virtual events, encouraging donations while patrons participate on their own. One example is the American Heart Association's Virtual Heart Walk which encouraged people to stay healthy and active but maintain social distancing. These are uncertain times. As we attempt to continue to lower the occurrence of the Coronavirus in our community through social distancing, wearing masks and quarantine, I want to assure you that my office remains open to serve you. Please contact the office at (315) 428-9651 or at magnarelli@nyassembly.gov.



Wear a mask. Stay Healthy and safe.

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, Syracuse University area, Outer Comstock, as well as the towns of Geddes and Van Buren. He first won election in 1998 for an open Assembly seat and has been reelected since then. 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>.