



NEWS From Bill Magnarelli

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The Year Ahead

As we begin 2016, please let me wish all of you a happy and healthy New Year. In the New York State Assembly we have a full agenda ahead of us, primarily passing the state budget by April 1st and concluding state legislative matters by June 30th. The first 6 months of the year seem to get all the media attention, however, my district office in Syracuse is a full-time operation handling constituent calls twelve months of the year.

Last year, 2015, our office handled a total of 1,413 constituent calls regarding numerous issues including: education, health, environment, jobs, economic development, seniors, housing, children and families, workers compensation, veteran affairs, agriculture, mental health and accessing state agencies. In every case, my staff responded, logged the results of the interaction and briefed me on each call.

In addition to our constituent services, my office coordinates a variety of community outreach events:

- **4 Town Hall Meetings** held throughout my District which includes the City of Syracuse, the Town of Geddes and the Town of Van Buren;
- An annual **Local Labor Breakfast** where I meet with labor leaders for a roundtable discussion of issues and legislation important to their membership;
- An Annual **Constituent Survey** to all registered voters in my District to receive their input on the top issues that the State Legislature will debate and bring to the floor for a vote;
- An annual **Progress Report** that highlights my votes on the current year's budget and other issues that impact not only my District, but the CNY region as well.

My staff coordinates special community events each year such as a **Red Cross Blood Drive**, the **Volunteer Fair** and the **CNY Veterans Parade and Expo**. This year we are adding two additional events with an **Electronics Recycling Event** and a **Social Services on the Road Day**. Also, during the non-legislative time, I schedule numerous visits throughout my district to meet directly with municipal officials, business and education leaders, social service agencies, community and neighborhood groups and individuals.

I am very proud of the dedication and commitment performed by my staff in servicing the constituents of the 129th District. They consistently go above and beyond in performing top notch constituent service and producing quality community events.

As you can see, I do not view my Assembly position as a "part-time" job and we don't conduct our office on a "part-time" basis. I look forward to serving you as your Assembly person in 2016 and my staff stands ready to assist you.



(Front row L - R) Chris Slocum, Chief of Staff; Assemblyman Magnarelli; Christine Fix, Communications
(Top row L - R) Joe Romano, Constituent Service; Barbara Roberts, office/scheduler; Matt Jones, Constituent Service; Diana Abdella, Special Events; Craig Swiecki, Legislative Director

SAVE THE DATE

- Jan. 29 – **Labor Breakfast**
- Feb. 29 – **Constituent Surveys Due**
- TBA – **Progress Report**
- TBA – **Social Services on the Road Day**
- TBA – **Blood Drive**
- July 30 – **Electronics Recycling Event** –Van Buren Highway Department
- Sept. 13 – **CNY Volunteer Fair** – DestinyUSA – 3p.m.- 6:30p.m.
- Nov. 12 – **CNY Veterans Parade and Expo** – NYS Fairgrounds

COMMUNITY INFORMATION NIGHTS

6:30 p.m.

- Feb. 25** –Van Buren Town Hall, 7575 Van Buren Rd, Baldwinsville, NY 13027
- March 2** –Blessed Sacrament Church 3127 James St, Syracuse, NY 13206
- March 10** –Cecile Center, 174 W Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY 13205
- March 17** –Geddes Town Hall, 1000 Woods Rd, Solway, NY 13209

IDA REFORM A.7915)

I am proud to announce that IDA Reform Legislation (S.5867 / A.7915) that I sponsored in the Assembly and that Senator Kathleen Marchione co-sponsored in the Senate has been signed into law by Governor Cuomo.

This legislation was crafted over the past three years with the help of the Office of the State Comptroller and the NYS Economic Development Council to make operations of Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs) more transparent and accountable.

IDAs are public benefit corporations created by an act of the State Legislature on behalf of one or more local governments. IDAs are intended to advance the job opportunities, health, general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of the State of New York, and to improve their recreation opportunities, prosperity and standard of living.

The new law requires that all IDAs develop a uniform project agreement for companies receiving financial assistance, and requires companies receiving assistance to annually certify the numbers of jobs created or retained on a project.

The new law also requires that IDAs have uniform criteria for the selection and evaluation of projects, and finally, it requires IDAs to develop a policy for the suspension and/or return of financial assistance when companies fail to meet their obligations, including the modification of payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements.

These common sense reforms will give IDAs the tools necessary to enforce agreements made with companies and to provide the public with greater information about projects receiving IDA assistance.

In addition to sponsoring the above IDA Reform Legislation, as the NYS Assembly Chair of the Committee on Local Governments, my Committee also plans to continue to examine the role that industrial development agencies and other local economic development agencies play in New York State's economic development. The Committee is interested in further ensuring that these local agencies are transparent and accountable, with records that are easy to obtain and to understand, that they are creating good jobs, and that they are providing a decent return on the taxpayer funded investments being made. The Committee will continue to examine legislative options to address these ongoing concerns.



Assembly members Bill Magnarelli and Pam Hunter meet with staff of Jubilee Homes: Executive Director Walter Dixie, Director Desaree Dixie, and staff Twiggy Billue and Kristina Kirby. Jubilee Homes' mission is the long-term revitalization and neighborhood rehabilitation of the Southwest Neighborhood.



Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli met with Executive Director Bill Simmons and Assistant Director Dave Paccone of the Syracuse Housing Authority. They discussed a variety of issues affecting the Authority and its residents. The Authority owns or manages fifteen residential developments in the Syracuse Community, with more than 2,500 apartments.

No Paper, No Problem

e-file your tax returns for a faster tax refund, with no filing fees
Submitted by Justin Cartwright, Department of Taxation and Finance

It's that time of the year again...time to file your income tax returns. You should e-file this year. Why not, since you'll be joining 92% of all New York filers who already file electronically.

That's because it's the safe and accurate way to file. In fact, the error rate for e-filed returns is 20 times lower than for paper returns. And, if your combined income for 2015 didn't exceed \$62,000, you can e-file for free.

Another plus for e-filers: if you qualify for a tax refund, you'll get it far faster than if you filed a paper return.

Thanks to a partnership with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, volunteers will be on hand from Noon to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays from now until April 15 at Catholic Charities, 264 East Onondaga Street, Syracuse to guide you through the process of filing your own return. Learn more about e-file by visiting the Tax Department's Web site at

www.tax.ny.gov.

About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129th 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, 2010, 2012 and 2014. 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>.