



NEWS

April 2019

From Bill Magnarelli

District: 333 East Washington St., Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 428-9651 Albany: LOB 837, Albany, 12248 (518) 455-4826
129th Assembly District Magnarw@nyassembly.gov

Serving New York in 2019-2020 State Budget Passes on Time

After months of negotiations, the New York State Budget passed before the April 1 deadline. The \$175.5 billion Budget holds spending growth to 2 percent. Some of the highlights are:

Supporting upstate transportation

As Assembly Transportation Chair, I worked with my colleagues to see that the budget provides \$226.5 million for upstate transit systems – an \$8.8 million increase over the executive proposal – by expanding the surcharge on car rentals. The fee will raise revenue to support upstate transit systems, including CENTRO.

Making our roads stronger and safer

To make sure Central New York residents can get where they need to go safely, the budget provides \$438.1 million for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs) and \$39.7 million for the Marchiselli Program, which help municipalities complete needed road and bridge maintenance projects.

To keep both drivers and passengers safe on the road, the budget also requires seat belts for passengers sitting in a vehicle’s rear seats. It should also be noted that the \$65 million in Extreme Winter Recovery Funding contained in last year’s budget remains under consideration.

Helping New York’s students reach for the stars

The 2019-20 state budget continues the Assembly’s commitment to expand opportunity for our youngest New Yorkers by increasing funding for public schools by \$1 billion over last year and putting a college degree within reach of more students. The state budget provides a total of \$27.8 billion in education funding - a 3.7 percent increase. This includes a \$618 million increase in Foundation Aid for a total of \$18.4 billion. And to help more kids get started on the right foot, the spending plan also includes a \$15 million increase in funding for grants for prekindergarten, for a total of \$822 million.

To ensure local school districts can adopt teacher and principal evaluation systems best suited to their students’ needs, the budget includes legislation removing the mandate that state-created or administered assessments be used for evaluations. The Assembly has led the way on this issue, spearheading the measure last year and passing it again earlier this year. This will help allow teachers to craft lesson plans that are most effective for their students rather than following a cookie-cutter approach that could leave some of our young learners behind.

Opening up more doors to higher education

The budget continues the Excelsior Scholarship, which was established in 2017, and makes SUNY schools tuition-free for eligible New Yorkers. The income eligibility threshold increases this year to \$125,000. Students who attend a private college in New York, and have a family income of less than \$125,000, will be eligible for a scholarship award of \$6,000.

The budget plan includes many other important initiatives. To review the 2019-2020 NYS budget, visit: <https://nyassembly.gov/2019budget/>. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about these or any other state issues, please call my office at (315) 428-9651.

William H. Magnarelli

Discussing Legislative Issues

Assemblyman Magnarelli met with local members of the NAACP, League of Women Voters and Public Citizen in his Syracuse Office. Among the many issues discussed were: automatic voter registration, expanding voting rights as well as legislation being considered during the 2019 session.

Pictured are Chanel Turnquest, Charlie Pierce-el, Christine Wood, Assemblyman Magnarelli and Frank D’Agostino.



Notable Woman Appointed to Hall of Fame

On Monday, April 15, 2019, Assemblyman Magnarelli presented Fanny Villarreal with a Citation commemorating her induction into the *Notable Women in Human Services Hall of Fame* for dedicating her career to advocating on behalf of the CNY Latino community. In 2013, Fanny became Executive Director and CEO of the YWCA of Syracuse & Onondaga County, where she continues to serve our community by helping to empower women, promote diversity and combat racism. The YWCA, under her leadership, provides social programs for women.

Operating Engineers Legislative Breakfast



Members of the Operating Engineers Local 545 welcomed Assemblyman Magnarelli to speak at their annual breakfast in Albany. Local 545 is a union comprised of heavy equipment operators, mechanics, and surveyors in the construction industry, and stationary engineers who work inside buildings performing all types of facility maintenance. They also have many members who work in shops, quarries and airports, as well as a growing number of public sector units. The union offers extensive training and apprenticeships to its members in 42 counties throughout Upstate New York.

High School Students Learn About the State Legislature

West Genesee Students took a tour of the New York State Capitol earlier this month and learned about the legislative branch of State government. Assemblyman Magnarelli met with the students and their chaperones, and discussed the Assembly's role in the lawmaking process. Pictured with Assemblyman Magnarelli are Emma Pinker, Mia Sween, Aidan Tarolli, Nicole Tessler, Michael White, Beth Davis, and Matthew Shields.



League of Women Voters Breakfast



The League of Women Voters hosted a legislative breakfast on April 5. Local members of the Assembly and Senate were invited to listen to concerns and answer questions about current legislative and community issues. The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which encourages the active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Assemblyman Magnarelli and Assemblywoman Pam Hunter at the League of Women Voters breakfast.

E- Recycling Event Gathers Old Electronics

Assemblyman Magnarelli sponsored a free Electronics Recycling Event on March 30 at the New York State Fairgrounds. The event attracted thousands of people who wanted to properly dispose of out-of-date electronics. More than 30 volunteers from the Solvay High School Athletics Association were on hand to help unload vehicles. The team will receive a portion of the proceeds from SunnKing, a New York State company that provides for the environmentally safe recycling of electronic equipment.



CRT Televisions about to be wrapped in preparation for recycling.



Volunteers organize electronics unloaded from the vehicles.



Members of the Solvay High School Athletics Association posed for a photo after the recycling event.

Landmark Theatre Announcements

For the first time in the 91-year history of the Landmark Theatre, there is an elevator that is available for public use, providing accessibility to the second floor. The elevator was funded by a \$220,000 state grant Assemblyman Magnarelli secured, as well as by a grant from the Fred L. Emerson Foundation and donations from longtime supporter of the Theatre, Bernadine Townsend.

Other important news from the Landmark this month includes the upcoming season performances. The Famous Artists' Broadway in Syracuse performances for 2019-2020 are: Miss Saigon, Jesus Christ Superstar, My Fair Lady, An American in Paris, A Bronx Tale and River Dance. There was also an announcement that Hamilton will be performed at the Landmark Theatre in 2020-2021 season. Jesus Christ Superstar and My Fair Lady will hold tech productions at the Syracuse Landmark Theatre. Tech productions account for added hours of local stage hand labor, more local hotel room reservations and more money being spent by the traveling crew and cast at local restaurants and stores. The NYS Empire State Music and Theatrical Production Tax Credit provides an incentive for the cast and crew to hold tech productions in Upstate New York and can be directly correlated to more positive economic benefit to our area.

Assemblyman Magnarelli at the announcement of the Landmark's 2019-2020 season.



Assemblyman Magnarelli speaks at the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Landmark's new elevator.



Assemblyman Magnarelli takes a ride in the new elevator.



Boat Launch Groundbreaking at Onondaga Lake

On April 23, Assemblyman Magnarelli participated in the ground breaking of the Kenneth P. Lynch Boat Launch at Onondaga Lake in the town of Geddes. The boat launch was named after Mr. Lynch who recently retired from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation after serving as local Regional Director and more recently Executive Deputy Commissioner. It will allow for free boat access to Onondaga Lake and is expected to be completed by the fall of 2019.

Onondaga Lake is the cleanest it's been in more than 100 years. As a result of vastly improving the quality of the water, native fish and wildlife have returned to the area. The cleanup of Onondaga Lake is creating opportunities for the public to reconnect with this community resource. In addition to improvements such as the Loop-the-Lake Trail, Lakeview Amphitheater, Onondaga Creekwalk and Inner Harbor development, plans are in place to continue expanding public access to the lake and its amenities.



Assemblyman Magnarelli introduces Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul at the Groundbreaking.



Assemblyman Magnarelli attended the groundbreaking of the Kenneth P. Lynch Boat Launch on Onondaga Lake with Lt. Governor Hochul, DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos and other local officials who were involved in the planning of the project .

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>.