



# NEWS From Bill Magnarelli

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## THE VIEW FROM BOTH SIDES

It may sound like a cliché, but for me it is heartfelt, that as an elected official I have the opportunity to directly help people. The job of a state legislator is primarily to sponsor legislation that provides tangible benefits to the people of his district such as reduced taxes, adequate school funding, access to healthcare and the availability of decent jobs. In most cases, the bills that we write affect these things, but the results rarely appear immediately, nor does the benefit seem to be a direct connection to the legislator's action.

However, over the past 16 years as your Assembly member, I have seen the direct benefit of legislation of which I was the primary sponsor, impacting the lives of individuals.

An example of this is the "Amber Alert", the missing children alert system that was spearheaded by me for New York State after I read about the system saving lives in Texas. Since the legislation was enacted in 2002, the "Amber Alert" has saved numerous children throughout New York State and some right here in Central New York. I followed this up in 2011 with the "Senior Alert" system modeled after the Amber Alert but focused on missing, vulnerable adults. This too has proven to be a life-saving tool statewide and again with examples right here in our community.

And most recently, I was able to provide funding for neighborhood security/surveillance cameras, which proved to be worth the investment. At the behest of Syracuse Police Chief Frank Fowler and at the urging of a variety of neighborhood groups, funding was provided and cameras were installed in the city.

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the cameras were instrumental in apprehending the alleged arsonist who set fire to a house on Butternut Street and subsequently caused the death of its resident. In addition to plainly seeing the individual directly responsible for setting the blaze, the cameras also were used to exonerate two teenagers who were spotted by a witness near the crime.

[http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/06/syracuse\\_arson\\_caught\\_on\\_police\\_cameras\\_video.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/06/syracuse_arson_caught_on_police_cameras_video.html)

The debate over whether the security cameras are a crime-fighting/prevention tool or whether they are an invasion of privacy, will continue. However, in this case, the cameras effectively and conclusively protected two teenagers from becoming "suspects" and becoming wrongly accused.

Once again, I could see that an action I took directly benefited the people in my district. I felt proud to be a part of helping the police arrest the person responsible and even prouder to have been a small part in exonerating these two young men who have their whole lives ahead of them. I guess the view from both sides of the camera's lens proved its worth.



• **T**he Western Dredging Association (WEDA) recognized Honeywell and their project team with their 2014 Annual Safety Award. At a lunch held on 6/26, Ram Mohan, president and chairman of WEDA presented Bill Hague and John McAuliffe of Honeywell the award for worker safety at the Onondaga Lake cleanup project. Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli was on hand to congratulate the 280 construction workers for their outstanding achievement.



• **A**ssemblyman Magnarelli met with Elizabeth Dailey, executive director of the Onondaga County Public Library, who is retiring. Also pictured is Bob Manning, a Board Member of the Onondaga County Public Library.



### IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR VETERANS:

Veterans should file their DD214 at the County Clerk's office, so that it will be immediately available when and if they or their family need it. It is necessary when filing for benefits, and if it is lost or the family does not know where it is, it can take a very long time to receive a copy. In desperate times this is a hardship.

# Police camera captures arson on Syracuse's North Side

By Ken Sturtz, Syracuse.com (6/20/14)

The Syracuse Police Department has touted its growing arsenal of cameras in the city as a serious deterrent to and tool in fighting crime.



Assemblyman Magnarelli and Chief Frank Fowler spoke recently while attending the opening of the East Woods Skate Park.

Authorities said Friday she was in critical condition at Upstate University Hospital.

Nine surveillance cameras line Butternut Street, including seven cameras that were installed last summer.

Fowler said cameras not only captured a suspect in arson, but also helped clear two young men who were walking by the house when the fire occurred. He said a witness initially told police the two young men started the fire.

Without the surveillance footage, Fowler said, detectives would have wasted valuable time tracking the men down and interrogating them.

"This is a great example of...cameras that we have doing the job that we knew they would do right along," he said. "That's why I'm such a fan of these cameras."

In the past Chief Frank Fowler, who is a proponent of the cameras, has pointed to cases where police have used them to help solve crimes. But Fowler's greatest example of the effectiveness of such cameras may have come Wednesday (*June 18, 2014*).

At about 2 a.m., a police camera captured arson on Butternut Street that left a woman in critical condition. (*She later passed away on 7/10/14*)

A joint investigation between the Syracuse Fire Department and police is still underway, but detectives have charged Patrick Kelley, of 159 Kappesser St., Syracuse, with first-degree arson.

Police said Kelley has been charged with arson several times in recent decades and most recently pleaded guilty to third-degree arson in 1993.

Police released a video Friday showing a man wearing a white shirt walking up to the porch of 927 Butternut St. The man, who police said is Kelley, can be seen taking something out of his pocket before strolling away.

He looks over his shoulder several times as he leaves the scene and smoke and fire begin to build.

Firefighters later rescued Ms. Beverly Palmteer from the fire.

## Inner Harbor

- Assemblyman Magnarelli joined Governor Cuomo for the groundbreaking ceremony for the Starwood Aloft Hotel which should be complete by late next year (2015). During the event, the Starwood officials announced that they would be building a second hotel across Kirkpatrick Street known as "The Element". The Element Hotel construction begins next year and opens in 2018. The Aloft hotel has 134 rooms and the Element has 123 rooms. COR Development's Inner Harbor project is estimated to cost \$350 million.



## Professional Firefighters

- Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli welcomed professional fire fighters from across the State at the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the NYS Professional Fire Fighters Association. Syracuse Fire Fighters Association Local 280 hosted the 4 day event held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Syracuse. He is pictured here with Firefighter Paul Motondo, President of Syracuse Fire Fighters Association Local 280.



# Let's Give Judy Lewis A Round of Applause



I had the privilege of attending the opening ceremonies and ribbon-cutting for the new East Woods Skate Park in the Eastwood section of the city. I was happy to attend to show my support and offer my congratulations to Judy Lewis, an Eastwood resident, and an official of the Eastwood Neighborhood Association (ENA).

It was because of Judy's unwavering 9-year journey through bureaucratic red tape, neighborhood concerns, fundraising challenges and numerous planning designs that the project went forward. Her determination and persistence paid off on Saturday, June 21, when hundreds of neighbors, well-wishers and skateboarders convened at the skate park at the end of the 300 block of Caleb Ave.

To hear Judy tell it, she was convinced of the "sport" of skateboarding and the unwavering belief in the skaters themselves, regardless of the "stereotyping" that skateboarders often face. Judy teamed up with Bobby Lopez to spearhead what would become almost a decade long battle to open the skate park. Judy is quick to give credit to Jamie Notarhomas, Stixz Chambers and Neil Kraus, who with Judy and Bobby formed the unlikely team that would not be denied.

My hat is off to Judy and everyone involved in the completion of Phase 1 of the East Woods Skate Park. It is a dream come true. Judy isn't done yet. She said the original plans call for a Phase Two and Phase Three!

## Downtown's Comeback

In June, the Downtown Awards of Excellence were given to the Pike Block projects, architect and graphic designer Jason Evans, and Open Atelier owner, Anthony Catsimatides. The awards recognize those who have contributed to downtown's growth, diversity and revitalization.

Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli provided \$2 million for the Pike Block renovations and also provided \$6.5 million for the renovations of the Landmark Theatre.

According to the Downtown Committee of Syracuse, \$353 million in development is taking place in downtown. 40% of this accounts for residential development. Statistics show that downtown Syracuse's population has increased 11% in the past year. 186 new apartments are expected to be built downtown within the next year. 18 new businesses have opened downtown in the past year, including four in the past month.

## Crouse Hospital ER

Assemblyman Magnarelli was invited to tour the planned renovations of Crouse Hospital's Emergency Room facilities. The \$35 million project entails relocating the current ER to a larger, 16,000-foot space adjacent to the existing facility. Crouse's PromptCare urgent care service, currently located across the street from the main hospital, will move into the renovated emergency department space in the hospital. Between the main ER and PromptCare, Crouse provides care for more than 250 patients on a daily basis.

Crouse estimates the project will result in up to 50 full-time construction jobs during the two-year build out, and up to 25 full-time, well-paying clinical and other support positions once the project comes online in 2016. The hospital will finance the project through operations, an aggressive capital campaign, and bank financing.



## CNY Veterans Parade and Expo

Sat. Nov. 8 NYS Fairgrounds  
Parade at noon; Expo 10a.m. -3p.m.

Come and Thank Our Troops!

The parade attracts more than 80 veteran organizations, active and reserve military groups, including a large contingent from Fort Drum, and high school marching bands from throughout the CNY area. The Expo is a display of organizations and companies that offer opportunities and information to veterans and soldiers, including a job fair.

Tues., Sept. 16

3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Destiny USA



More than 50 non-profit and volunteer organizations will have representatives and information available highlighting opportunities for individuals to make a difference in our community.

For information on these events or if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Assemblyman Magnarelli's office at 428-9651, or email him at [magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us)

## 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 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 and 2012. During his previous six 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>.