



# NEWS

August/September 2019

## From Bill Magnarelli

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### Serving the Local Community From Albany

Throughout my tenure in the State Legislature, I have been motivated to keep our local communities safe, and a great place to live and raise a family. Each year, after hearing from my constituents, I work with my colleagues introducing legislation to improve our communities. Sometimes it takes years for the legislation to pass through both Houses and be signed into state law.

I would like to discuss three of a number of bills I sponsored this year that were enacted into law. The first is the ability to use “stop-arm” cameras on school busses to combat illegal passing (A4950-B). The second is legislation which simplifies the process New York State Fair vendors have to go through to sell alcohol (A6916-B). The third is a bill that holds mortgage holders responsible for homeowners’ association fees or co-op fees during the foreclosure process (A1800).

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I first introduced the legislation regarding “Stop-Arm” Cameras on school buses to ticket illegal passers in 2013 after being made aware that approximately 50,000 illegal passes happen each school day in New York. According to the New York Association for Pupil Transportation, data from a NY-based pilot project shows an average of 6 passes per day per school bus. Similar legislation adopted in 13 other states resulted in drastically decreased violations, on average, 50 percent in the first year of operation, according to NYAPT.



The law authorizes municipalities to adopt a Stop-Arm camera program in their jurisdiction. Municipalities will then reach agreements with local school districts to install the cameras on their buses. The cameras activate when a bus is stopped and its Stop-Arm and red lights are deployed. They capture images of the license plates of illegal passers. Those images are then sent to law enforcement for review to confirm the violation before sending out tickets. Those caught by the cameras are fined \$250 for a 1<sup>st</sup> offense, \$275 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense within 18 months and \$300 for a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense or more within 18 months. Without this law, an officer had to witness an illegal pass to issue a ticket. The fine revenue will help pay for the cost of the program. The cameras can be installed at no cost to the district.

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As most Central New Yorkers know, the NYS Fair is a wonderful two weeks of fun and excitement. But for the vendors at the NYS Fair, there’s a lot of planning and preparation to make sure it all goes smoothly and is profitable. This legislation streamlines the process for vendors at the NYS Fair to apply for liquor licenses. Instead of three separate applications, there is one application required to sell beer, wine and spirits. This eliminated confusion and delays by eliminating duplicate red tape and paperwork.

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In August 2016, an area property manager reached out to my office about the need to have mortgage holders responsible for paying necessary HOA and Co-op fees during the lengthy foreclosure process. I drafted and introduced a bill in response. It was signed into law this year, greatly reducing the risk of creating more “Zombie Properties” in a condominium community and other co-op residential housing communities. Often during a pending foreclosure, no entity is financially responsible for upkeep of a property that’s been abandoned, causing the property to become dilapidated and blighted – often referred to as a “Zombie Property.” This legislation reduces the financial burden on HOAs and Co-op associations as they are often tasked with maintaining these residential properties during a pending foreclosure, preventing physical or economic damage to the other properties in the association. The new law builds on historic legislation passed in 2016 which focused on preventing the spread of “zombie properties” by requiring that banks and other mortgage lenders take responsibility for abandoned single-family houses in foreclosure.

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As we prepare for the next Session in Albany, I continue to focus on being able to bring sensible solutions to problems in our community and communities across our state.

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 B. Magnarelli*

## OnPoint for College

In August, Assemblyman Magnarelli met with representatives of OnPoint For College (OPFC), as well as new college freshman, who participated in OPFC programs to assist them as they prepared for and began their classes in the fall. OnPoint for College aids area students by providing supplies for college, helping with the enrollment process and financial aid options, and providing transportation to and from college.

While there, Assemblyman Magnarelli was able to present a check to them as a “thank you” for their service at the Shredding Event he sponsored with OCCRA in July. It was in part their hard work that made the event run so smoothly.



OnPoint for College Executive Director Samuel Rowser accepted the donation check from Assemblyman Magnarelli.

Incoming freshman with Assemblyman Magnarelli after he spoke with them during class.



## A Tour of the Samaritan Center

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, Assemblyman Magnarelli went on a tour of the Samaritan Center, located at 215 N State Street, in the former St. John the Evangelist Church, led by the Center’s Executive Director, Mary Beth Frey, and Board President, John Sindoni. Begun in 1981, the Samaritan Center is an interfaith effort of community members committed to serving the hungry and those in need in Central New York. Each day, the Samaritan Center serves over three-hundred meals to people in need, always keeping their welfare, dignity and self-sufficiency in mind. Volunteers at the Center prepare the meals, serve the meals, and clean up after the meals. If you are interested in volunteering at the Samaritan Center, please contact the Center at (315) 472-8156. More information can be found on the Center’s website at [www.samcenter.org](http://www.samcenter.org)

Assemblyman Magnarelli with Executive Director Mary Beth Frey and Board President John Sindoni.



## STEAM Education Camp

Over the summer, Syracuse City School District (SCSD) students participated in the “ERIE 21” Initiative held at LeMoyne College. Through the camp, the students worked on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEAM) projects, including video games and computer games. The camp is part of Le Moyne’s Quantitative Thinking Village, which was run as a pilot program last summer. This year, several dozen middle school students from the SCSD were on campus for the week-long residential camp that introduced them to coding skills and data analytics.

Assemblyman Magnarelli with SCSD students.



# The Great New York State Fair



Speaker of the Assembly Carl Heastie and other members of the Assembly took a tour of the Fair and enjoyed viewing this year's butter sculpture.



Assemblyman Magnarelli greets soldiers at the Army tent.



On Labor Day, Assemblyman Magnarelli joined Assemblywoman Didi Barrett, County Executive Ryan McMahon, Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh and members of the CSEA to support local unions at the annual Labor Day parade.



No trip to the New York State Fair is complete without a 25 cent cup of milk in the Dairy Building.



Assembly members at the Assembly's booth in the Center of Progress Building during their tour of the New York State Fair.



Assemblyman Magnarelli was joined by his son, Bill Magnarelli, Jr., and Assemblywoman Didi Barrett as they marched with the Syracuse Teachers Association in the Labor Day parade at the NYS Fair.



Assemblyman Magnarelli spoke at the Armed Forces Day at the NYS Fair honoring the men and women who serve or have served our country in uniform.



Assemblyman Magnarelli enjoyed a classic State Fair sausage sandwich.

## Courageous Conversations

On August 6, Assemblyman Magnarelli hosted Courageous Conversations, a seminar to learn about the Child Victims Act (CVA) and how the statute of limitations requirements for child sexual abuse in New York have changed. It was held at the McMahon/Ryan Child Advocacy Center. This seminar was an opportunity to learn about changes in the law, as well as new opportunities under the CVA for survivors of sexual abuse to seek justice.

The event was co-sponsored by the Crime Victims Treatment Center, New York State Children's Alliance and local partners. The seminar was given by the Zero Abuse Project, a leading nonprofit dedicated to stopping child sexual abuse and providing assistance to survivors. Leading child welfare advocates, clinicians, and sexual abuse prevention experts guided the conversations.



## Cheering for the Orange

With fall comes football season. Assemblyman Magnarelli participated in a pep rally at City Hall as the season began. Go Orange!



Assemblyman Magnarelli at City Hall with Coach Babers and other elected officials, Syracuse football team members and cheerleaders.

## Recognizing Diaper Need Awareness Week

Assemblyman Magnarelli presented a Citation to Michela Hugo, Executive Director of the CNY Diaper Bank, in recognition of Diaper Need Awareness Week - September 24 to 30. Diaper Need Awareness Week is an initiative to recognize the need for diapers in poor or low-income families. Diaper banks use existing organizations such as food banks, child care centers and social service agencies to distribute diapers. The CNY Diaper Bank operates on donations of diapers, volunteers and sponsorships. In 2018, the CNY Diaper Bank distributed over 580,000 diapers.

*Assemblyman Magnarelli and Michela Hugo in Assemblyman Magnarelli's Syracuse Office.*



### 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, 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>.