



# NEWS From Bill Magnarelli

June 2014

**District:** 333 East Washington St., Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 428-9651 **Albany:** LOB 837, Albany, 12248 (518) 455-4826  
129<sup>th</sup> Assembly District [Magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:Magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us)

My Assembly offices, both in Albany and my District office in Syracuse, receive requests for state funding from groups and organizations such as our schools, hospitals, businesses, community organizations, municipal governments and not-for-profits. It is my job to advocate for the 129<sup>th</sup> District needs and to secure funding for worthwhile projects which benefit our community. In my January and February 2014 newsletters, I highlighted over \$364 million in economic development projects throughout our county and Central New York. As this month's issue points out, I was able to secure needed funding for our municipalities' facilities. Any revenue I can bring back to my district for facility improvements relieves the local taxpayer's burden – and we are all for that!

*Bill Magnarelli*

## Assemblyman Magnarelli along with Senator Valesky answers Mayor Miner's call to save Meachem Ice Rink

• Assemblyman Magnarelli attended a press conference announcing that Meachem Ice Rink will be open this October 2014 and will allow hockey teams and other groups to skate there this winter.

With state capital grants, Assemblyman Magnarelli secured \$115,000 and Senator Valesky provided a \$350,000 grant that will enable the Syracuse Parks Department to rebuild the ice rink with an alternative cooling system that should last another 10 years.

The Valley Youth Hockey Association, with over 260 participants, along with the City of Syracuse Learn to Skate program and the Corcoran High School hockey team, are relieved that the upcoming hockey and recreational skate season is saved. With nearly 24,000 visitors last year, Meachem was the most used skating rink in the City of Syracuse. In addition, the Meachem Ice Rink is occasionally used as a practice facility for the Syracuse Crunch.



Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner, Common councilor Bob Dougherty, Senator Dave Valesky, and Commissioner of Parks Baye Muhammad (behind Assemblyman) joined Assemblyman Magnarelli at a press conference for Meachem Ice Rink.

## Attorney General Eric Schneiderman acknowledges Assemblyman Magnarelli's role in spearheading Land Bank legislation

• Attorney General Eric Schneiderman issued the following statement in response to the passage of legislation on May 29, 2014 by the New York State Assembly authorizing ten new land banks in the State of New York:

"I commend Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli and the State Assembly for passing legislation to increase the maximum number of land banks in New York State from 10 to 20. Land banks are a critical tool to help communities that are plagued by vacant and abandoned properties recover from the housing crisis. My office is already funding eight land banks, from Long Island to the Hudson Valley to Central and Western New York, and more funds will be available this year. By supporting land banks, we are empowering local communities to rebuild their own neighborhoods, house by house, block by block. I urge the Senate to join with the Assembly in giving more communities the opportunity to revitalize neighborhoods by returning derelict properties to responsible, productive use."



*Assemblyman Magnarelli was a major sponsor of the 2011 Land Bank legislation and a fervent advocate for this vehicle to help remedy the conditions of our neighborhoods. The Greater Syracuse Land Bank was one of the first in NYS.*

## Assemblyman Magnarelli pleased to notify the Town of Van Buren Supervisor of funding

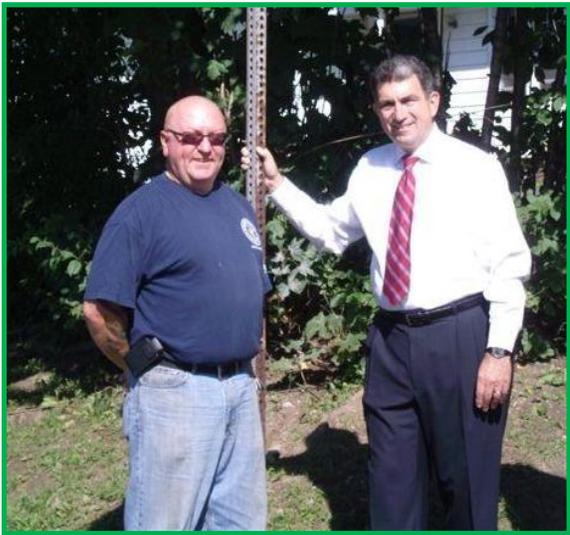
The Town of Van Buren Supervisor, Claude Sykes, applied to Assemblyman Magnarelli's office with a request for funding to replace the three entrance doors at the Town Hall to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Assemblyman Magnarelli notified Supervisor Sykes that

the funding was secured and the project was working its way through the state review process. It is anticipated that construction will happen this year. \$50,000 will replace the 1967 vintage entrance doors at three Town Hall entrances. All replacement doors will comply with ADA requirements. Masonry work is required at two of the three entrances to restore structural integrity. In addition, approach pads need replacement to eliminate elevation differentials and to provide proper slope to meet ADA requirements.



## Assemblyman Magnarelli's request for Town of Geddes funding approved

The Town of Geddes Supervisor Manny Falcone requested \$78,000 in capital assistance funding for the purchase and installation of two emergency generators, one for the Town Hall and one for the Town Highway Garage. Assemblyman Magnarelli's office notified the Town Supervisor that funding was secured for the generators and that it now was working its way through the state review process. It is anticipated that construction will happen this year. The generators will enable the Town to provide its residents with necessary services in the event of a power outage.



## Memorial Day in Onondaga, Eastwood, Solvay, Baldwinsville and the Watchfire at NYS Fairgrounds



Photos courtesy of Wendy Colucci





## Solvay Fire Department and Assemblyman Magnarelli Host a Successful Summer Blood Drive

Thank you to all who came to our Fourth Annual Summer Blood Drive at Solvay-Geddes Community Youth Center, co-hosted by the Solvay Fire Department. The American Red Cross considered the event a success with 33 donors registered and 6 first time donors.



**Assemblyman Magnarelli visited with local officials who stopped by the Summer Blood Drive.**  
**Top:** Solvay Mayor Ron Benedetti

**Left:** Joseph Antonucci, director of the Solvay-Geddes Youth Community Center

**Right:** President of Solvay Fire Department John Fall, cosponsor of the event.



## The Syracuse Post Standard Editorial Board supports legislation creating a consumer utility advocate – Assemblyman Magnarelli agrees

On May 20, 2014, the New York State Assembly passed legislation that would create the New York State Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (A.6239-B). The office would represent consumers' interests in residential utility matters at the state and federal level.

On June 5, 2014, the Syracuse Post Standard printed their editorial in support of this legislation and stated, "we urge the NYS Senate to pass the bill creating a consumer utility advocate, and urge Cuomo to sign it."

"It seems like every week we hear about another power company raising its rates or claiming that outside influences are making ratepayers' utility bills go up. Where's the transparency?" Assemblyman Magnarelli said. "The creation of a Utility Consumer Advocate would give New Yorkers a voice, possibly saving them a considerable amount of money when it comes to their utility bills. This legislation is long overdue and would bring New York up to speed with the numerous other states providing appropriate representation to utility consumers."

The New York State Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (UCA) will serve as an independent advocate and appear on behalf of New Yorkers in state and federal regulatory proceedings. Currently, New York is one of the few states – and by far the largest – without an independent state agency that represents the interests of residential utility customers. More than 40 states and the District of Columbia has a UCA.

AARP endorses this legislation.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Fishing Day at Webster Pond

More than 35 veterans enjoyed free fishing at Webster Pond on June 3, thanks to the Angler's Association of Onondaga and Assemblyman Magnarelli.

The event is put on by the Webster Pond Association as a way of thanking our veterans for their service. Veterans and VA Hospital residents partake in the event, usually with the help of an aide or a family member.

"I'm happy to be helping to support such a wonderful event which gives local veterans the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful resources we have in our community," said Assemblyman William Magnarelli, D-Syracuse. "Fishing is a pastime many veterans enjoy but are unable to schedule as they are recovering from their physical ailments."



**Assemblyman Magnarelli visits with Chad Norton, Vice President of Angler's Association of Onondaga, at Webster Pond after Veterans Fishing Day on June 3.**

### 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>.