



NEWS

September 2014

From Bill Magnarelli

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The Economy of New York State and the Central New York Region is Growing Stronger and Building Momentum...Let's keep it going!

The economic and fiscal news reported over the past month is encouraging indeed. Working with the Governor and our partners in the Senate, we have guided this state through difficult financial times, and the recent messages send a loud and clear signal that the Empire State is open for business.

In July, New York's credit rating was raised to AA+ from AA by Standard & Poor's. This is further proof that our economic development strategy is working and our economy is growing stronger. Also in July, Comptroller Tom DiNapoli issued a report on the 2014-15 Financial Plan, which said that New York State is in a stronger financial position, reflecting better budgeting and financial practices and an improved economy.

In August, Comptroller DiNapoli issued a report on state finances that stated total state tax collections through the first quarter of the state's fiscal year 2014-15 were \$1.3 billion higher than Division of the Budget projections, largely reflecting growth in business tax collections and increased personal income tax receipts in June.

And the best news of all is the Syracuse jobless rate. The Syracuse area registered the lowest July unemployment rate since 2008. The Department of Labor released new numbers in July with Syracuse area unemployment at 6.4 percent. Unemployment decreased in the region by 4,300 people (from 24,200 to 19,900). Unemployment in Onondaga County was 5.7 %, according to the jobs report.

I expect the good news to keep coming for our Central New York region. The CNY Regional Economic Development Council (REDC), of which I am a voting member, has just sent its 2014 application to the state requesting \$27 million in funding for 36 development projects estimated to be part of a total investment of \$230 million in the area. (*See the article in the side box for detailed information on this*).

Since the Governor started the REDC four years ago, the Central New York region has received over \$244.4 million in grants for 226 projects. Of the 10 Councils formed throughout the state, the CNY REDC has been labeled a "top performer". I expect this trend to continue as we await the state's final decision on our recent application later this year.

Work Train Program Launch

On July 23rd, Assemblyman Magnarelli helped to launch the 'Work Train' \$1 million workforce initiative supported by local foundations and CenterState CEO.

In 2008, Assemblyman Magnarelli provided funding to the Metropolitan Development Corporation (which consolidated with the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce and is now CenterState CEO) to establish Green Train and Health Train programs. Over the past 5+ years, those programs have trained over 200 Northside and other inner city residents – and have placed over 80 percent of them in jobs. Many have become first time home buyers and are emerging community leaders.

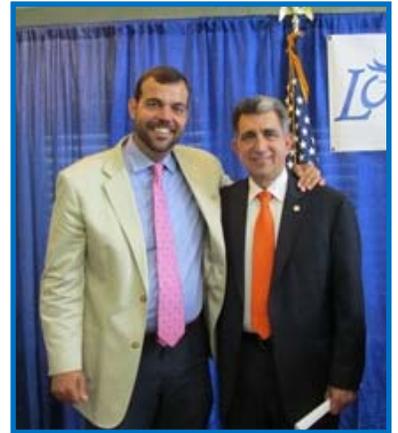
The investment of state dollars provided by Assemblyman Magnarelli has been well-leveraged over the years.

The announcement on July 23rd at Loretto's Nottingham facility was the community wide partnership launch dedicated to scaling these program models across the greater Syracuse area and within multiple industries. Local foundations and community partners have raised \$1 million to seed the initiative over a 3 year period. By doing so, Syracuse has been designated as a "partner community" within the National Fund for Workforce Solutions. This will create further funding opportunities down the road.

The first industry partnership will focus on health care. Work Train is currently launching a partnership with Loretto to recruit and hire nearly 100 Certified Nursing Aides by September 2014. In 2015, the platform will spread to other industries and areas of the region.

Work Train is staffed by CenterState CEO and guided by a collaborative consisting of leaders from business, philanthropy, economic and workforce development, training and education, local government, and community-based organizations. Funding has been provided by the United Way of CNY, Allyn Foundation, Gifford Foundation, CNY Community Foundation, Reisman Foundation, St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation and New York State.

The local investment builds upon a \$100,000 Opportunity Agenda grant from New York State. In 2013, the CNY Regional Economic Development Council, on which Assemblyman Magnarelli is a voting member, developed its Opportunity Agenda to connect those living in poverty with skilled employment and help distressed communities overcome barriers to economic success.



Dominic Robinson of CenterState CEO, poses with Assemblyman Magnarelli.



Life-saving Funding give Officers Bulletproof Vests

Assemblyman Magnarelli applauded Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's announcement of \$289,000 in INVEST Partnership Grants for 13 Central New York law enforcement agencies to purchase bulletproof vests for sworn officers. The agencies include the Syracuse Police Department, The Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, and the New York State Police. City of Syracuse Police Chief Frank Fowler



said, "On behalf of the Syracuse Police Department, I thank Attorney General Eric Schneiderman for his commitment to the safety of our officers. The financial support couldn't come at a better time. Yesterday, the department welcomed over 30 new officers."

Assemblyman Magnarelli said, "Funding through Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's INVEST Program provides needed funding to update police equipment in the form of bulletproof vests that strained local budgets may not allow. It is important to keep our police safe on the job. The announcement demonstrates the Attorney General's commitment to our law enforcement officers."

Opening Day of the Fair



On August 21, Assemblyman Magnarelli joined Governor Cuomo and other elected officials in opening the 2014 Great New York State Fair.

Central New York Regional Economic Development Council Projects

The Central New York Regional Economic Development Council, of which Assemblyman Magnarelli is a voting member, has recommended 36 development projects for state funding totaling approximately \$27 million for 2014. The Central New York REDC said that the 36 projects, with a state funding request of \$26.6 million, would leverage \$203 million in private and other funding. The total cost of the 36 projects is estimated at \$230 million. The REDC stated in its funding request to the state that the projects would have a five-year total payroll of more than \$98.9 million and would support the creation of 894 new jobs and the retention of 90 existing jobs. The REDC's report also stated, "These priority projects are selected because they accomplish multiple goals and strategies, advance the region's transformation initiatives, and leverage the greatest return on investment – in terms of dollars, jobs, human capital and community impact – to stimulate economic growth across five counties." The state will make a final decision on funding for the projects later this year. For a complete listing of the projects go to <http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/central-new-york>.

Baldwinsville's Got Talent

Assemblyman Magnarelli's office presented Julia Goodwin with a New York State Assembly Citation acknowledging her singing achievements during her appearances on "America's Got Talent" television program. On August 26th, the three municipalities of Baldwinsville, Lysander and VanBuren also presented her with proclamations declaring that day "Julia Goodwin Day." The community turned out to thank Julia on her spectacular job representing the Baldwinsville community and her family. Julia performed Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind" in which she received a standing ovation from both the panel of four judges and the entire studio audience at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.



Honoring the Volunteer of the Year

Assemblyman Magnarelli's office presented Emma L. Johnston with a New York State Assembly Citation honoring her on receiving the Volunteer Citizen of the Year award for 2014. For more than five decades, Emma Johnston has worked to overcome the barriers of poverty and racial discrimination in Syracuse. She was one of the founders of PEACE, Inc. and remains a board member Emeritus. More recently, Mrs. Johnston worked diligently to establish a senior center on Syracuse's Southside. The Award was presented by a partnership of the Syracuse Media Group and Direct Energy. In addition to a beautiful plaque, a \$5,000 check was granted to PEACE, Inc.



Assemblyman Magnarelli read children's stories at the Hazard Branch Library on July 31st. Assemblyman looks forward to this yearly visit.

Veteran Appreciation Day at the NYS Fair



Above: Assemblyman Magnarelli speaks during the annual Veterans Memorial Ceremony in front of the Horticulture Building.



Above: Assemblyman Magnarelli greets Ed Zaluski, a Syracuse-area WWII veteran.



Right: Assemblyman Magnarelli takes a tour of the U.S. Army Special Forces Adventure Trailer and meets with newly enlisted soldiers.

Aug. 26 Women's Equality Day

All Women Deserve Fairness, Respect, Equality and Justice

By Assemblymember Aravella Simotas
Chair of Assembly Task Force for Women's Issues
July 16, 2014

"Women deserve full equality. As chair of the Assembly's Task Force on Women's Issues, I am deeply disappointed that, yet again this year, the state Senate Majority has refused to pass the 10-point omnibus Women's Equality Act. Both the Senate Majority and the Assembly Minority claim that the only way to guarantee equal rights to women is to break apart the Women's Equality Act and vote on each point separately so that something can get left behind. Why are we asking women to accept less? I support a woman's right to control her body in all instances. Clearly, women deserve the protection of all 10 points in the bill. It's particularly appalling when opponents of the omnibus Women's Equality Act are using deceit and scare tactics to attack the legislation. One member of the legislature went so far as to say that the act would allow dentists to perform abortions. Not only is that blatantly untrue, it is insulting to all women and reveals how radical and insidious the campaign of misinformation is.

As the Senate Majority continues to deny women full equality, I would like to say thank you to all the women and men in the Assembly Majority, as well as the Speaker, for all the work they have put into safeguarding women's rights through the omnibus Women's Equality Act. They have been tireless champions for all 10 points of the bill. The governor submitted it and we have passed it not just once, but twice. I wish I could say the same about the Senate Majority and Assembly Minority.

Nine is not enough. We cannot pick and choose which rights women deserve when it comes to their bodies and their lives. Women clearly deserve all 10."



Find Opportunities to Help the Community!

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.

CNY
VOLUNTEER
FAIR



CNY Veterans Parade and Expo

Come and Thank Our Troops!

Job Fair for Veterans!

Kids Area!

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

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.

Patton's Ghost Army Exhibit

Artifacts and photos of the "Ghost Army," a tactical deception unit General George Patton headed using Hollywood type props to deceive Hitler's legions in preparation for D-Day. The Ghost Army Sonic unit trained at Fort Drum, then called Pine Camp.



Honor Our Heroes.
Share Your Stories.
www.b1047.net/contests/honor-our-heroes-share-your-stories/305832



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 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>.