



NEWS From Bill Magnarelli

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TAKING INVENTORY

As we celebrate this holiday season and start to close out 2015, it is a common practice to take inventory of the year, whether it be in your business, your job, your finances, your accomplishments or your personal life.

As my hair continues to gray and as I watch my grandchildren grow, I tend to be more reflective. It seems to me that the “things” we have accumulated hold little importance other than the memories they represent. It occurs to me that the smiles on my grandchildren’s faces give me greater gratification than ever. And, it gives me great delight that my grandchildren, who range in age from 2 to 9 years of age, all use computers and can understand the features of my smart phone better than I do!

But the thing that holds the most importance to me this year, is that my family is together. That is the reflection that I give thanks for and the blessing that I most cherish.

As I watch my children stress over every holiday detail and hustle about in every direction, I remember myself at a much younger age doing the same things. But at this time of my life, I just enjoy being with my family during the holidays.

My wish to all of you this holiday season, is to have peace of mind, joy of heart and love of family.....the inventory can wait.

Sincerely,

Wishing you Joy and Peace at the Holidays



ALL THE STARS WERE ALIGNED

I am pleased and proud to report that the Central New York Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) was awarded one of the top 3 economic development packages available as a part of the Upstate Revitalization Initiative worth \$500 million, or half-a-billion dollars, over 5 years! The other two regions of Upstate that also received the highest monetary awards were the Finger Lakes Region and the Southern Tier Region.

(As a voting member of the Central New York Council, I have had the privilege and responsibility to participate with other local leaders, including co-chairs SU Chancellor Eric Syverud and CenterState CEO Rob Simpson, in vetting and selecting 93 projects and initiatives which will build on our region’s strong performance in past rounds of the REDC Competition. Major projects, like Sora, an industry leader in ultra-high performance lighting and LED technologies, recently relocated its global manufacturing and research and development operations from California to Onondaga County’s new nontechnology hub and plans to bring 420 jobs here.) These new projects are rooted in our region’s unique natural resources, business and academic advantages, and are focused on strategic initiatives with regional, national and international corporate partners and government that will lead to thousands of new jobs, billions in capital investments and a lasting legacy for the region.

The 6 “signature” investments in CNY’s plan which would create nearly 6,000 jobs over five years include: a Global Center for Unmanned Systems and Cross-Connected Platforms; the Development of Indoor Farms, also known as controlled environment agriculture and aseptic packaging facilities; a Global Manufacturing and Logistics Hub; a National Veterans Resource Complex; a Consensus Commission on Government Modernization; and, programs to Fight Poverty, including strategies to align workers’ skills with the needs of employers. I will be updating you on each of these initiatives as they get underway.

What is most exciting is that the Upstate regions bordering on our Central New York Region, the Finger Lakes Region and the Southern Tier, each won the top awards which now represent 1,062 economic development projects totaling an investment of \$1 billion dollars. The close proximity and connectiveness of our regions will create a critical mass of jobs and national attention for perspective businesses. This investment will also provide incentives for our existing businesses to expand and for our tax base to grow.

Folks, this is the real deal. This is the boost and opportunity that Upstate needs. We cannot squander this chance to re-invent our region, our chance to provide lasting and good-paying jobs, our chance to give our families opportunities right here at home and our chance at putting aside the negativity and cynicism that seems to consume our energies and starts to define who we are.

We are looking at creating our future and I believe that we are up to the task. I will be working hard to make sure that all the dreams we have for our area are truly realized and I look forward to hearing from and meeting with you. I will keep you updated on the progress.



HEAP can help with high home-heating costs this winter



We've been fortunate to experience quite a few warm days this fall, but New York's cold winter weather is coming, and that means turning up our thermostats and shouldering the high costs of heating our homes. For those who fall within certain income guidelines, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is here to help pay those expensive energy bills.

HEAP is a federally funded program providing relief to those who struggle to afford the cost of heat. Whether you own or rent your home, you can apply for direct benefits to help cover the costs of electricity, propane, natural gas, wood, oil, kerosene, coal or other heating fuels. Repair, replacement and emergency benefits are also available if your home heating equipment is in danger of failing.

Eligibility for HEAP relies on numerous factors, including income, household size, primary heating source and whether a member of the household is under the age of 6, over the age of 60 or permanently disabled. However, this season, a household of four could earn up to \$51,792 per year and still qualify for a one-time benefit of up to \$625 to help heat their home.

Last year, more than 1.4 million households received HEAP benefits. Enrollment for this winter is now open, so if you anticipate difficulty paying your heating bills I encourage you to contact mybenefits.ny.gov to apply for assistance. To learn more, you can also visit otda.ny.gov/programs/heap or call 1-800-342-3009.

As the rising cost of heating our homes makes it difficult for Central New York households to make ends meet, it's essential that we ensure working families as well as elderly New Yorkers have the resources they need to stave off the harsh winter weather. If you have any questions or concerns about this or any other community issue, please don't hesitate to contact my office at magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us or by calling 315-428-9651.



Round table with SUNY Chancellor

Assemblyman Magnarelli recently attended a round table discussion at Onondaga Community College (OCC) with SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimphor, Senate and Assembly colleagues, and Presidents and representatives of Central New York SUNY colleges, including OCC, Upstate Medical University, Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), Oswego, and Morrisville. Issues discussed included college updates, StartUp New York partnerships, State aid and SUNY 20/20 initiatives.



Assemblyman Magnarelli with Chancellor Zimphor.



Coat Drive



Senator Kirsten Gillibrand visited the Syracuse Northeast Community Center to help with a coat drive. Members of Assemblyman Magnarelli's staff also helped out with the event which gave free coats and gloves to those in need, including refugees who live on the Northside of Syracuse.

Solvay Elementary School Visit



Assemblyman William Magnarelli visited the Solvay School District Prekindergarten program. In addition to touring the 4 classrooms, he spoke with students, staff, Superintendent Lawrence E. Wright, Principal Matthew Carpenter and school board member Steve Zalewski about the program and its positive impact on the students. This year, his efforts were instrumental in securing funding to expand the program from 1 to 4 classrooms serving an additional 36 students.

Be vigilant against scams and identity theft

The holiday season is upon us, and it's a good time to remember to be vigilant against scams and identity theft. Every year, criminals steal billions of dollars and millions of identities from unsuspecting consumers.

It's important to pick up on the warning signs of a telephone scam, as telemarketers are trained to draw you in. If the offer seems too good to be true, it most likely is. You should be suspicious of a call if:

- The caller claims to be working for a company that has a name intended to sound like a government agency or a well-known company;
- The caller says you must act on the offer the same day;
- The caller is unwilling to send you written information about the offer;
- The caller asks you for a credit card number or your Social Security number; or
- You have to pay a fee before you receive complimentary services.

Telemarketing scams can range from bogus vacation awards to charity appeals. Fraudulent promoters have access to telephone directories, mailing lists and other resources to target potential victims. In New York, you can use the Do Not Call Registry to stop unwanted calls. To be added to the Do Not Call Registry, call 888-382-1222.

Identity theft poses the same financial risk as telemarketing scams. Victims are often left with damaged credit reports and are forced to spend money to repair the damage caused. Identity theft can happen when someone steals a credit or debit card number, or obtains a Social Security number or any piece of personal information. The thief can then use this information to purchase items or open new accounts in your name.

You can prevent identity theft by:

- Avoiding carrying your Social Security card, birth certificate or passport in your purse or wallet and never keeping your ATM pin number on your card;
- Never giving out your credit card number over the phone unless you initiated the call and trust the business;
- Being careful when disclosing personal information online like passwords and Social Security numbers. Check website links to make sure they are legitimate before typing in your information; and
- Using passwords on your credit cards, bank and phone accounts. Never use easily available information such as birthdays or the last four digits of your Social Security number for passwords.

If your identity is stolen it's important to immediately contact the fraud department at each of the three major credit bureaus and freeze your credit reports; this can prevent thieves from taking out new loans in your name. It's also important to close the fraudulent accounts, file a police report and obtain a copy for our records. And don't forget, you are entitled to a free copy of your credit report from each credit reporting agency once a year. You can order your free report by phone at 877-322-8228 or online at annualcreditreport.com.

If you have any questions or require assistance regarding this issue, please feel free to contact my office at magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us or call 315-428-9651.



YWCA Serving Syracuse

Assemblyman Magnarelli recently met with Fanny Villarreal, the Executive Director of the Syracuse & Onondaga County YWCA, to be brought up to date on issues of importance to the YWCA.

The YWCA Syracuse & Onondaga County is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1885 and is a member of the national YWCA, which is one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the nation. The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

The YWCA Syracuse & Onondaga County fulfills this mission by providing:

- Safe, affordable housing for low-income women and their children;
- Affordable Youth Development programs creating safe, gender neutral, places for kids to play and learn;
- Racial Diversity programming to create a more just and inclusive community;
- Education and training to ensure economic security; and
- Enrichment programs for girls to grow healthy, strong, and confident.



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, 2012 and 2014. 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>.