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NEWS From Bill Magnarelli

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129th Assembly District

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THE REPORTS OF THE STAR PROGRAM'S DEATH ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED

Allow me to borrow from Mark Twain's quote, "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated", to illustrate the confusion and misunderstanding that is taking place regarding the "changes" to the STAR property tax exemption program.

If you are living in your home and don't intend to move, you have nothing to worry about. Nothing has changed for people or seniors in this scenario. You will continue to get your STAR exemption as an upfront savings when you pay your school taxes each fall.

The qualifications for this exemption are also not changing for people who are living in the same home and are not moving: Households with income under \$500,000 are eligible for STAR. They get an exemption from the first \$30,000 of the full value of their primary home from school taxes. Homeowners 65 and older get a larger tax break for Enhanced STAR: The first \$65,000 of their home value is exempt from school taxes.

The STAR exemption program is changing for new homeowners and people who move. The people in this scenario will receive a check for a portion of their school property taxes instead of receiving it as an upfront savings in their tax bill. There is no change to the amount of the STAR credit for taxpayers, only the mechanism used to pay the credit. Starting this year, a check will be mailed in the fall for those who move or are a first-time homeowner, for the portion of their school taxes covered by STAR.

To receive a check in September of this year, **if you're a new homeowner, or if you have moved**, you need to be registered for STAR through the state Department of Taxation and Finance by July 1. To register, the application will be online and by phone in the coming weeks. The website is <https://www.tax.ny.gov> After July 1, you can still apply for STAR or Enhanced STAR, and then the state would provide you a check at a later date.

The state has sought to crack down on abuses in the STAR program, such as people getting the break on more than one home and if they exceed the income limit. The changes in the STAR exemption program are expected to save the state about \$180 million a year when fully implemented in 2018.

If you have any questions regarding the STAR program, please contact my district office in Syracuse at 315-428-9651 or email magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us

Local Company Wins Contract

Assemblyman Magnarelli's staff attended the MAS (Medical Answering Services) announcement on winning the NYS Dept. of Health competitive bidding contract to continue managing transportation services in the Hudson Valley region.

MAS is based in Syracuse and employs 350 people in Syracuse and 50 in Buffalo. Its Hudson Valley contract is responsible for 200 of the jobs in Syracuse. MAS has held this contract since 2011 and currently manages Medicaid transportation for 55 counties in New York. Their ongoing efforts to ensure program integrity and provide appropriate transportation options for Medicaid patients have saved the State \$40 million in the Hudson Valley and \$60 million Statewide since 2011.

The workforce at MAS is truly diverse. 71% of their employees are female, 44% African-American, 18% Hispanic or Latino and 6% Asian or Native American. MAS' employees reflect the diversity of the community they serve.



**This Memorial Day, let's honor the brave men and women
who gave their lives to protect our freedom.**



Around the Community



Assemblyman Magnarelli greeted the local recipients of the 26th Annual State-Wide New York Art Teachers Association Legislative Student Art Exhibit: A Celebration of Young Artists in Albany this past month. The celebration is to raise awareness of the importance of art in the community. Recipients were Salem Hyde Elementary students Kabrey Bonferraro and Olivia DeSantis-Collier, both are 6th graders. Their teacher is Mr. Joseph Foster.

2016 Senior Citizens Day was celebrated in Albany on May 10. It's a day during Older Americans Month to acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by older citizens through volunteer work in our communities. Mr. Vinh Dang of Syracuse was honored for volunteering in the Vietnamese Community of Syracuse, the South Asian Center, the City of Syracuse, the Syracuse Northeast Community Center and Interfaith Works of CNY.



Assemblyman William Magnarelli greeted NYS Senior Day Honoree, Vinh Dang. He is surrounded by Dat Huynh, Kathy Tran and Ding Nguyen.



Assemblyman Magnarelli's staff attended the 2016 Big Brothers Big Sisters Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on May 19th. Joseph O'Hara, Executive Director of PEACE, Inc., Oscar Vergara, Director of PEACE, Inc. Big Brothers Big Sisters, David Scharoun, President of the Board of Directors and Jim Sisson, President of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Advisory Council were all on hand to congratulate this year's honorees.



Members of the Baldwinsville Volunteer Fire Company welcomed Assemblyman Magnarelli to their business meeting. In appreciation for their protection and service to the community, Assemblyman Magnarelli presented the Baldwinsville Fire Company with a New York State Flag. Gary Williams, a member of the fire police, and Tony Digregori, Vice President, accepted the flag on behalf of the Fire Company.



Assemblyman Magnarelli attends the 2016 Valley Little League opening day ceremony at Van Duyn field in Syracuse. It's an annual tradition that draws hundreds of young baseball players and their families.



Lynnore Fetyko, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Syracuse Association of REALTORS, and Assemblyman Magnarelli spoke after the event.

Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli addressed the Greater Syracuse Association of REALTORS Community Day annual event. The annual event is held for GSAR members to gather and hear from community leaders about issues that may be affecting their communities and their business. One key issue this year was the change to the STAR property tax exemption.

Celebrating Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team's Successful Year



The SU Women's Basketball team and their coaches were heralded for their landmark season by the Central New York Albany delegation. The Syracuse Women's team reached its first Final Four ever, finishing with a program record 30 wins. Before this season the Orange had two NCAA Tournament wins in its history; this post-season, it had five. Celebrating with the team were Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli, former SU football star Floyd Little and SU Women's Basketball coach Quentin Hillsman.

West Point Day

On May 5th, West Point was celebrated by the Legislature in Albany. Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli met with Lieutenant General Robert L. Caslen, Jr. who is the 59th Superintendent of the US Military Academy, West Point. Lt. General Caslen graduated from the US Military Academy in 1975 and earned master's degrees from Long Island University and Kansas State University. Previous to this assignment, Lt. General Caslen served as the Chief of the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq.



SAVE THE DATE

- TBA – Progress Report
- July 13 – Community Services on the Road, Ray Middle School, Baldwinsville
- July 13 – Blood Drive, Ray Middle School
- July 30 – Electronics Recycling Event, Baldwinsville Schools
- Sept. 13 – CNY Volunteer Fair - DestinyUSA – 3 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 12 – CNY Veterans Parade & Expo – NYS Fairgrounds



Executive Director of the NYS Association of Counties, Steve Acquario, met with Assemblyman Magnarelli prior to addressing the Local Governments Committee, which Magnarelli chairs.

About New York State Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli

Assemblyman William Magnarelli represents the 129th Assembly District, which includes the Northside, Westside, Eastwood, Valley, and Downtown 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 re-elected 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>.