



NEWS

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From Bill Magnarelli

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Working Our Way Past the Pandemic

In March of 2020, New York went “on PAUSE” to stop the spread of COVID-19. In many ways our communities shut down and ‘business as usual’ stopped. About a year later, 40% of eligible adults in Onondaga County have been vaccinated against COVID-19 and our businesses and communities are reopening. Masks are still needed. Precautions are still in place. The state budget passed this year takes these things into consideration.

The budget included:

- \$800 million for a new COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant program that will be administered by the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC). The grants could be used to cover various business costs including payroll; rent or mortgage payments; payment of local property or school taxes, insurance; utilities; personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary to protect worker and consumer health and safety; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) or other machinery or equipment costs necessary for compliance with COVID-19 health and safety protocols.
- \$50 million for the COVID-19 Recovery Workforce Initiative to support reengaging those who have been disproportionately impacted by the economic fallout from the pandemic.
- Restores \$69.4 million in local assistance for programs that provide services critical to the wellbeing of New York’s children, including childcare, child welfare services, foster care, adoption subsidies, adult protective and domestic violence services.

If you or your organization have questions about the New York State Budget or State issues, please feel free to contact my office at (315) 428-9651 or at magnarw@nyassembly.gov



NYS Fair 2021 is Happening

The Fair will go on. Assemblyman Magnarelli took part in a press conference with Governor Cuomo announcing that there will be a 2021 Great New York State Fair, although there will be modifications, including limiting capacity to 50%. The Great New York State Fair is the nation's first and oldest state fair, and the largest state fair in the East. Not only is it a major economic boon to our region, but it's also a major part of the community. A few years ago, the Governor and the Legislature led a transformation of the fairgrounds investing over \$100 million to create a facility that could host events throughout the year and would draw people to the area. Since that time, there was record Fair attendance of over 1.3 million people at the Fair in 2019. That was followed by zero in 2020. The hope is to bring a stronger, larger Fair when the pandemic ends.

Robert Congel Honored

Assemblyman Magnarelli was proud to present a NYS Assembly Proclamation to Suzanne Congel on behalf of her husband, Robert Congel, who recently passed. His son, Stephen, now Pyramid Companies CEO, was also present. Robert was a pioneering entrepreneur who helped to remove “oil city” and the former scrap yard on the south shore of Onondaga Lake, eventually becoming the site of Carousel Center, now known as DestinyUSA, a 2.4 million square foot shopping and entertainment center that is the largest in New York, serving as a key economic driver for the entire Central New York Region. Although controversial at times, Mr. Congel’s vision for Syracuse, including not only DestinyUSA, but also Franklin Square and the Clinton Exchange, will last for many years to come.



Annual Symposium on Energy Studies Transportation

Assemblyman Magnarelli participated in The 17th Annual Symposium on Energy in the 21st Century hosted by Energy21 and its president Rhea Jeazer. The topic of this year's symposium was "Zero Emission Transportation - State, National & Global Initiatives". As chair of the Transportation Committee, Assemblyman Magnarelli was excited to learn about the future of transitioning our transportation sector away from carbon fuels from some of the top experts in the field.



Celebrating Earth Day 2021 by Cleaning Our Neighborhoods



Assemblyman Magnarelli with Village Trustee John Cregg, Jennifer Noce and Village Trustee Bill McVicker with Girl Scout Troops 10331 and 10053 in front of Gracie's Diner on Charles Ave in Solvay for Solvay Earth Day Clean Up 2021.

Assemblyman Magnarelli with Keith and Krysta Snow to his left and Village Trustee Deb Degilio and Jes Noboa to his right at Solvay Mountain Top Park on Cogswell Ave cleaning up for Solvay's Earth Day Clean Up 2021.



Assemblyman Magnarelli is with student volunteers from CBA cleaning up Schiller Park's Round Top area for the City's Earth Day 2021 efforts.



Craig Swiecki

MOST During COVID

Assemblyman Magnarelli met with Museum of Science and Technology (MOST) President, Lauren Kochian (pictured in lower right), via virtual meeting to discuss what was happening at the museum, the services it is providing to children and families and new projects the MOST is working on. The Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology is a hands-on science and technology museum for people of all ages.

Superintendents Discuss Financing Education

Assemblyman Magnarelli met with Onondaga County School Superintendents to discuss the State Budget, Education funding and the impact of the COVID Pandemic on schools. In attendance were: Jaime Alicea-Syracuse City Schools, Casey Barduhn-Westhill, Jay Tinklepaugh-Solvay, Joseph DeBarbieri-Intern Superintendent, Baldwinsville and Jeremy Belfield-LaFayette.



Stand Against Racism

Assemblyman Magnarelli was honored to participate in the Stand Against Racism walk and to speak with YWCA executive director Fanny Villarreal. This year's theme is: "No Hate, No Fear: Creating Equity in Our Community." The YWCA of Syracuse and Onondaga County Inc. works to eliminate racism and says the walk is to bring greater awareness to the issue of racism, social equity and justice.

Assemblyman Magnarelli took a picture with Fanny Villarreal, YWCA executive director, prior to the annual Stand Against Racism Walk.



Meeting with the Local YMCA Representative



Assemblyman Magnarelli met via video conference with the new President and CEO of the CNY YMCA, Bertram Lawson. They discussed State Budget priorities for the YMCA and how the YMCA is doing during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The YMCA of Central New York is a diverse organization of men, women and children joined by a shared commitment to strengthening the community by nurturing the potential of kids, promoting healthy living and fostering social responsibility.

Funding Legal Services During COVID



Assemblyman Magnarelli took part in a press conference with Legal Services of Central New York announcing \$875,000 in the budget to help provide civil legal protections to community members most affected by the pandemic. Members from Hiscock Legal Aid Society, Legal Services of Central New York, Legal Aid Society of Mid New York and Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County participated. This critical state funding will allow agencies to continue providing essential civil legal services as our communities recover from COVID-19.

NAMI Syracuse Celebrates 40 Years

National Alliance on Mental Illness Syracuse chapter- NAMISyracuse celebrated its 40th anniversary this year. NAMISyracuse is a not for profit volunteer organization educating families about mental illness and offer free support groups for families of persons who are diagnosed with a mental illness and for persons with mental illness. They offer presentations in the community and schools to fight the stigma of mental illness, educate the public about warning signs of mental illness and share resources for families in CNY.



Assemblyman Magnarelli handed a proclamation honoring NAMIs 40th Anniversary to Judy Bliss Ridgway, its longest serving president 2001-2014. Also attending: Marla Byrnes President, Patricia Moore secretary, Tom Bassett treasurer, board members Spence Plavocos, Sue Lyons of the Onondaga Nation, Beth Carmosino and Jade, Maggie Bristol and Madison, Kryssy Ridgway and Marilyn, Hank Wilcox, Jim Livi, Joe Ridgway, and Sheila Legacy. NAMI Members Mary Gandino, Heather Brown, and Ernest Jones.