



# NEWS

## December 2014

# From Bill Magnarelli

**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)

## A MONTH OF MULTI-CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

December is a truly wonderful month of our calendar year to rekindle family and community relations. Throughout December 2014, a number of holidays are observed starting with Hanukkah 12/16 through 12/24; Christmas Eve on 12/24; Christmas Day 12/25; Kwanzaa 12/26 through 1/1; and New Year's Eve on 12/31. What these celebrations have in common are sacred religious beliefs, secular festivities, cultural commemorations and traditions and lots of food. For me, it is the coming together of family and friends. My wish for you this holiday season is simple: To be happy, healthy and cared-for by loved ones. As we plan for a New Year, my hope is for our community to experience a wealth of prosperity that all of our citizens can benefit from. From the Magnarelli Family to yours, please accept my best wishes, and don't eat too much!



*Bill Magnarelli*

## Meachem Ice Rink has Re-Opened

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Meachem Ice Rink was re-opened after being closed since April due to repairs. In June 2014, Senator Dave Valesky and Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli teamed up to bring \$460,000 in state funding to pay for a replacement of the existing rink with an ice mat. A month prior, the popular ice skating arena was closed due to malfunctions in the ice cooling system, including pipe corrosion.

Assemblyman Magnarelli said, "Meachem ice rink, for many years, has provided the greater Syracuse ice hockey community a place to practice, compete, and participate in an exciting sport that is important to our area. I am pleased that I was able to secure grant funding to keep this facility open and available to our youth and the community at large."

Mayor Stephanie Miner said, "Meachem Rink is an important asset to the entire Syracuse community. From the teams who call it home to the countless skaters who visit each winter, Meachem is a treasure for the Valley neighborhood."

Senator Valesky said, "I heard first hand from elected officials, parents, hockey league organizers and skaters just how important the Meachem rink is to those who call it their home ice. I am pleased to be able to help direct state capital funds to re-open this great asset."



Assemblyman Magnarelli with members of the Syracuse Thunder Hockey Association.



Mayor Stephanie Miner and Senator Dave Valesky and Assemblyman Magnarelli at press conference announcing the re-opening. Also pictured are Councilor Bob Dougherty, Parks Commissioner Baye Mohammed and Assistant Parks Commissioner John Walsh.





On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Assemblyman Magnarelli presented three proclamations commemorating the:

**85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Tyrol Club of Solvay:**

29 immigrants from the Trentino Region of Northern Italy came together to formulate the charter for the “Associazione Tyrol Club” on October 29, 1929, in Solvay.

Descendants of those Tyrol immigrants have achieved prominence in many areas within the local community including law, industry, medicine and politics and their impacts are especially prominent in the affairs of the Village of Solvay and surrounding municipalities.

**85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Progresso Lodge #1047, Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America:**

Founded in 1929, the Progresso Lodge was one of seven other lodges in the community serving Syracuse’s burgeoning Italian-American population. Over the years, all other lodges besides the Progresso Lodge and women’s Golden Jubilee Lodge dissolved and the two remaining lodges combined in 1974 to create the Progresso Lodge #1047 of today. The Lodge has been recognized by the Grand Lodge of New York and the National (Supreme) Lodge for the continuous donations and charities such as the Cooley’s Anemia Foundation, the Arthritis Foundation, the Alzheimer’s Association, the National World War II Memorial and 9/11 Memorial to name a few.

**95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Syracuse Polish Home:**

Assemblyman Magnarelli acknowledged the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Syracuse Polish Home on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The Syracuse Polish Home was founded in 1919 as a cultural meeting place for Polish immigrants in Syracuse and the center has adapted over the years to meet the needs of an ever-evolving neighborhood on Syracuse’s Westside. While retaining its roots in Polish and Polish-American culture, today many ethnic groups, religious organizations and societies utilize the Polish Home and its membership now numbers over 700. A library has been created inside the Home, free for the public’s use and includes great works by Polish authors and historians. In 2013 a portion of the downstairs area was revitalized by the Polish Legion of American Veterans Post 14 to accommodate a meeting room for the veteran group.



On October 28<sup>th</sup>, Assemblyman William Magnarelli was presented with the Leading Age New York’s Partners in Quality Legislative Award. The award recognizes elected officials for their advocacy efforts on behalf of organizations that serve older adults. L to R Daniel Heim of Leading Age New York; Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli; and Menorah Park CEO Mary Ellen Bloodgood. In nominating Assemblyman Magnarelli, Menorah Park CEO Mary Ellen Bloodgood said, “He has always been at the forefront of advocacy on behalf of the elderly and consistently acts to better the lives of senior citizens.” Bloodgood continued, “There is not a harder working legislator for seniors in the community than Bill Magnarelli, and his dedication to seniors translates into steadfast support of Menorah Park and other organizations that dedicate their work to bettering the lifestyle, health and well-being of the elderly in the community.”

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli and Mayor Stephanie Miner announced \$224,500 in funding for surveillance cameras in the Hawley-Green Neighborhood and the Washington Square Neighborhood. The surveillance cameras are technically known as Crime Observation and Protection System (C.O.P.S.) cameras. In the Hawley-Green neighborhood, seven cameras will be installed along Gertrude Street, Lodi Street and Hawley Ave. In the Washington Square neighborhood, nine cameras will be installed up Park Street and around Washington Square Park. Cameras will be installed over the course of the next six months. Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli said, “In addition to the proven success these security cameras have shown in aiding police work, the peace of mind that neighborhood residents receive is worth investing in these crime fighting tools.” Mayor Stephanie Miner said, “Each time I visit these areas, one of the requests I hear most often is for more cameras. The bottom line is that they work. Cameras help our police officers investigate crime and make our neighborhoods safer.”



Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli was the prime sponsor of a bill requiring insurance coverage for ostomies. The Ostomy Bill was signed into law by Governor Cuomo in October 2014. The legislation amends the insurance law, in relation to authorizing insurance coverage for equipment and supplies used for the treatment of ostomies. This bill would require every policy which provides medical, major medical, or similar comprehensive-type coverage to include equipment and supplies necessary for the treatment of ostomies.

Heidi Cross, ostomy nurse practitioner at Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse and member of the United Ostomy Associations of America said, "The New York State ostomy community is very grateful to Assemblyman Magnarelli and his staff for sponsoring this legislation and for ushering it through the NYS legislature. It will benefit many ostomy patients throughout the state and we are thrilled."

Ostomies are a lifelong health condition and require equipment and supplies that can become costly. Current law allows for the full coverage of equipment and supplies used to treat other chronic conditions, such as diabetes. This legislation seeks to require health insurers and health maintenance organizations to now include full coverage of equipment and supplies used to treat ostomies, as well, in order to ease some of the burden associated with this particular condition.



Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli was on hand to congratulate Paul Nojaim, owner of Nojaim Brothers Supermarket on the city's Near West Side on the completion of the \$2.65 million renovation and expansion. Nojaim Brothers Supermarket has been in business in the neighborhood for 95 years and this investment signals that they are here to stay and begin the next 95 years, according to Paul Nojaim. On October 8th, Assemblyman Magnarelli joined friends, neighbors and shoppers of Nojaim's for their grand re-opening celebration. The expansion added 3,000 square feet to the market, which now totals more than 23,000 square feet. Good luck Paul and thank you for believing in the neighborhood and its people!

Assemblyman Magnarelli visited Hazard Branch Library to read to children from the neighborhood. This has become a yearly visit the Assemblyman looks forward to.



Assemblyman Magnarelli read to kindergarteners in Ms. Figueroa's classroom at the Syracuse Academy of Science (SAS) Elementary School at the old St. James School on South Salina St. in the Valley on Thursday, September 25. After finishing "The Little Engine That Could", Assemblyman Magnarelli took questions from the kindergarteners.

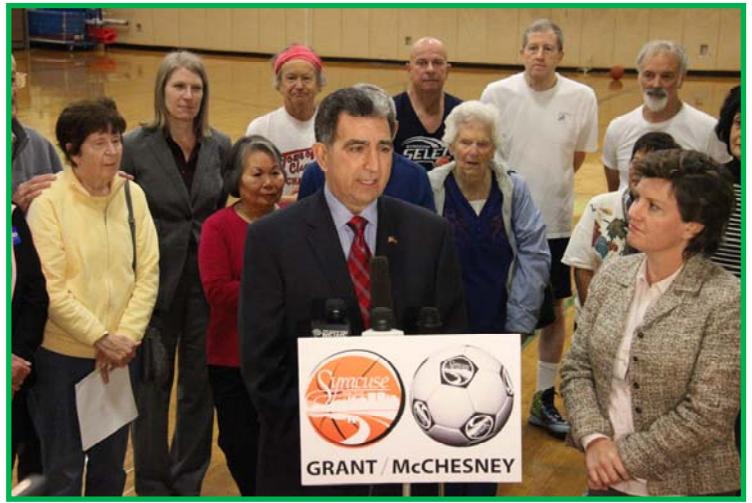


Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli and Mayor Stephanie Miner announce \$220,000 in improvements to the Magnarelli Center at McChesney Park and the renovation of Grant School Field into a new regulation soccer field. In October, the following capital improvements were announced:

**Gymnasium and locker room renovations** including adding basketball backboards and rims which would allow the gym to be subdivided and create the opportunity for more concentrated basketball programming. Included in this renovation are basketball backboards and backstops, reinforcing steel superstructure, protective foam wall covers, electric lighting reconfiguration and upgrades, wall repairs, gym curtain dividers, floor resurfacing, and locker room upgrades.

**Soccer field development** converting Grant School Field into a regulation soccer field to increase the utilization capacity of this recreational space and provide an opportunity for much needed renovations, including drainage, new topsoil and seed and field layout with paint.

Mayor Stephanie Miner and Assemblyman Magnarelli acknowledged that the Magnarelli Center at McChesney Park is the most used city recreational facility. These improvements will keep the center viable and available for supervised youth activities.



Assemblyman Magnarelli along with Mayor Stephanie Miner announced major renovations to the Center. Behind them are seniors who were participating in a fitness program and members of the senior men's pick-up basketball game. The seniors whole-heartedly endorsed the enhanced athletic programming for youth at the Magnarelli Center and at Grant field.



Pictured are representatives of the City of Syracuse Mayor's Office, Onondaga County Legislators, Common Council, Syracuse Police Department and staff members of the New York State Assembly representatives.

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, the Human Society of the United States held their "Rethinking the Cat" Symposium in Syracuse at the Genesee Grande. In selecting Syracuse for the location of the Symposium, Brian Shapiro, HSUS NYS Director explained that HSUS appreciates the animal welfare work being done in Central New York and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those for their efforts. The Symposium addressed issues involving finding adoptive homes and spay and neuter services, along with the huge challenge involving feral cats. Community representatives were present from animal welfare and government agencies, as well as educational and community centers and the public at large. The feral cat over population is a serious concern for communities and ways to address this issue in a humane and effective way were discussed.



#### **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, 2012 and 2014. 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>.