



June 2015

# NEWS From Bill Magnarelli

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## “A Giant Step Backwards”

*I need your help. More precisely, I need your voices. In mid May 2015, the sale of the former Roth Steel scrapyards located at 800 Hiawatha Blvd. in Syracuse was approved by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Margaret Cangilos-Ruiz to a Canadian company, American Iron and Metal Company.*

*The significance of this property and its use is its location on the southern bank of Onondaga Lake. I have a tremendous concern, and I need you to voice your concerns as well, regarding the potential for this property to once again become an operating scrapyards and continue to pollute the ground with hazardous waste in the same manner it has been for over 100 years.*

*I have written Governor Cuomo and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation asking for a review of this site and a state mandate to clean up the existing pollution left after the bankruptcy of the previous owner. The site currently is known to contain many substances which are pollutants and which storm water runoff regularly drains into Onondaga Lake. Recently, a potential buyer walked away from purchasing the property due to the costs of environmental remediation.*

*I firmly believe it is vitally important that another scrapyards not be allowed to operate on Onondaga Lake. I am advocating that any new owner must first clean up the present site and assure that any new operation there be environmentally compatible with the revitalization of this lake and its surrounding area.*



*The Federal and New York State governments, the County of Onondaga, the City of Syracuse, Honeywell Corporation and many others have spent over a billion dollars cleaning up Onondaga Lake. Onondaga Lake, which was declared the most polluted lake in the United States for decades, was recently (May 2015) declared safe for swimming. This is nothing short of an environmental miracle!*

*In addition, hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested in the revitalization of this lake and the surrounding area such as: Destiny USA, the sixth largest and second most visited mall in the U.S.; the NYS Canal Corp. Inner Harbor redevelopment consisting of hotels, condos, entertainment, retail and recreation facilities; numerous redevelopment of old factories into residential market-rate apartments/condos; new commercial buildings for restaurants, small businesses and retail; the County of Onondaga’s Amphitheater on the western shore of Onondaga Lake in the Town of Geddes; the City of Syracuse’s proposed Onondaga Lake Lounge on Onondaga Lake’s south end offering tiered stadium seating for lake views; the City and County designing and building walking and bike trails around the lake and creekwalk; and numerous other area developments.*

*If you believe as I do that we have come too far ensuring the health and safety of this area and the surrounding community; that we have invested billions of dollars of economic development monies and strategies to revitalize this area; that we have re-claimed our Onondaga Lake from decades of abuse and non-use; that once again future generations will be able to enjoy recreating in and around Onondaga Lake; and most importantly creating a tourism destination that will provide local jobs and increase revenue, then I am asking that you make your voice heard.*

*I would like to hear from you regarding your support for the proper environmental remediation of this property and also your wishes for its future use on the southern shore of Onondaga Lake. We have come too far to make this monumental mistake and take a “Giant Step Backwards.” Please contact my office at [magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:magnarw@assembly.state.ny.us).*

*Bill Magnarelli*

## ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CARL E. HEASTIE VISITS SYRACUSE

Newly elected Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie made his first official visit upstate at the request of Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli to meet with leaders of business, labor, academia, healthcare and the social service community. Meeting at the Landmark Theater for a breakfast meeting, Speaker Heastie listened for an hour and a half to an



overview of issues affecting the Syracuse/Onondaga community from the perspective of over 20 professionals pertaining to their areas of expertise. Speaker Heastie said that his time was well-spent and he was glad to hear directly from the community. During his visit, the Speaker walked around downtown taking in the sights and sounds and stopped for coffee and a media interview at Café Kubal. Speaker Heastie is planning another visit to Syracuse in July.

**Photographed are David Aitken, Destiny USA; David Paccone, Syracuse Housing Authority; Kim Townsend, Loretto; Matt Marko, Trustee SUNY ESF; Kathy Ruscitto, St. Joseph’s Hospital; Assemblyman Magnarelli; Speaker Carl Heastie; Sharon Owens, Syracuse Model Neighborhood; Assemblyman Roberts; Desaree Dixie, Jubilee Homes.**



## Helmet Advocacy

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, Assemblyman Magnarelli joined with Dr. Gregory Eastwood of Upstate University Hospital to promote the use of helmets during skiing. Standing at Upstate's Golisano Children's Hospital, medical personnel appealed for the passage of legislation to mandate that children under 14 must wear helmets while skiing to drastically reduce head injury if one falls. Purchasing appropriate helmets and proper fitting is essential in head protection as well. Upstate University Hospital is advocating for passing of this legislation due to the high incidents of head injuries they see each year.

## Baldwinsville Memorial Day Parade



## ENDING AIDS IN NYS IN 5 YEARS

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Assemblyman Magnarelli's staff participated in ACR Health's annual AIDS awareness campaign. However, the message was emphasizing ending the disease in New York State in 2020. Michael Crinnin, Executive Director of ACR Health, Syracuse Common Council President Van Robinson and other elected officials helped paint a red stripe in the middle of Salina Street downtown to mark the start of ACR's Paint the Town Red campaign. "It's the first time we've been able to stand up and publicly say that we see an end in sight for this epidemic," said Crinnin. The Paint the Town Red campaign is part of Governor Cuomo's strategic initiative to reach a statewide goal of ending AIDS by 2020.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who turned out to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Blood Drive on June 4<sup>th</sup>. A special thank you to the Solvay Fire Department for partnering with me on this very important event, and the Solvay-Geddes Community Youth Center for hosting it. The American Red Cross reports that during the summer blood donations drop dangerously low. Blood donations are used to help patients during surgery, undergoing cancer treatments and after a traumatic injury.



Assemblyman Magnarelli and Solvay Volunteer Fire Department President John Fall at the Solvay-Geddes Youth Community Center during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Blood Drive.

## COMING TO THE AID OF LT. COLUMBO

“My office received an email last June 2014 from Catherine Falk, the daughter of the late Peter Falk, who starred in the TV series “Columbo” from 1973-2003. During that time, Peter Falk received four Emmys for his portrayal of the bumbling, trench-coat wearing, but cagey and clever Lt. Columbo of the Los Angeles Police Department. This was one of my favorite TV shows, and clearly I was not alone given the fan-base of Peter Falk and this character.

Peter Falk’s daughter Catherine, however, was calling my office for help in a real-life situation that was most painful for her. Catherine Falk has been on a journey that started in 2009 when she went to trial fighting in probate court for visitation rights under the conservatorship umbrella held by her dad’s second spouse, who was isolating not only Catherine, but also her sister Jackie, family members, his first wife Alyce and his friends from access to her father. Catherine Falk maintained that, “Once again greed and money were at the bottom of the problem for the isolation of an elderly parent.”

Recently, a similar case involving the children of Casey Kasem was in the news involving the current spouse denying children and family access to their father.

In contacting me, Catherine Falk wanted help in getting legislation passed in New York State that would amend the law in relation to guardianship duties and visitation claims. Catherine noted that her father, Peter Falk, was born and raised in New York. Her parents met at and graduated from Syracuse University, as she did. Catherine knew that I was also a life-long New Yorker and a graduate of Syracuse University, so she took a “leap-of-faith” that I would help her and other families struggling through these heart-wrenching situations. And so I did.

I have sponsored Assembly bill A.3461, which will protect the rights of adult children of a parent currently under a conservatorship. Current law does not provide a proper avenue for adult children to petition the courts in New York for reasonable visitation rights. The proposed bill creates a legal process by which the adult children can petition the court if they are unreasonably being denied visitation or improperly isolated by the conservator. It also requires the guardian to inform relatives if the parent is admitted to the hospital, notify them if they have died, and in the case of death notify them of any funeral and/or burial arrangement. Senator John DeFrancisco is sponsoring the companion legislation (S.5154) in the Senate.

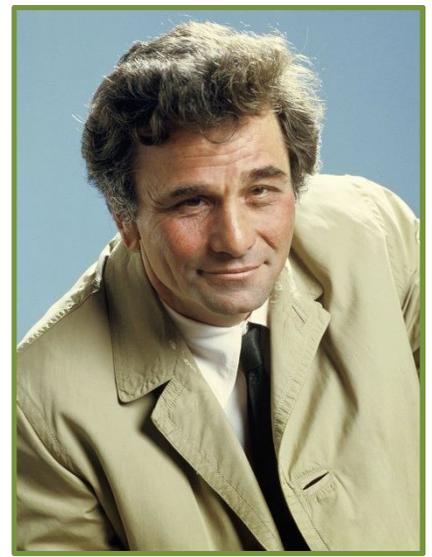
Since 2009, Catherine Falk has fought for a California visitation rights bill and she expects it to become law soon. “Peter Falk bills” are also being considered in the states of New Jersey, Florida and the District of Columbia. A visitation bill was enacted in the state of Iowa in April 2015.

Catherine Falk is committed to her goal of passing similar legislation throughout the U.S. She is using her own money for any expenses incurred during her campaign and no donations are being asked for or accepted. Catherine does not believe anyone pursuing similar legislation should ever make money from this kind of work. Falk said, “It seems that people get side-tracked and try to get fame and fortune from getting legislation like this passed, I seek neither; I truly want to see no one else lose precious time with their parent.”

Catherine is grateful for the support I have given her in spear-heading this effort in New York State. She states, “This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peter Falk’s death and it would be great to get this bill passed in New York this year.” Falk continues, “My dad always told me ‘go get them kid.’ He always taught me to stay true to myself and stay true to who I am, and to fight for what I know is right. This truly was how he lived his life on and off the screen.”

I am hopeful that the “Peter Falk Bill” will be passed and signed into law. The new legislation will be named in honor of the late Peter Falk, renowned actor, New York native and Syracuse University Alumnus. This final chapter of “Columbo” deserves a happy ending.”

*Bill Magnarelli*



# Save the Date:



**Tuesday, Sept. 22**  
**at DestinyUSA**

Non-profit organizations seeking  
volunteers to help operate their organization.

**Saturday, Nov. 7**  
**At NYS Fairgrounds**  
**Parade at Noon**

**Expo 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**[www.cnyveteransparade.org](http://www.cnyveteransparade.org)**



**For more information on any of these events, email [abdellad@assemblystate.ny.us](mailto:abdellad@assemblystate.ny.us)**

### **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>.