

# Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner Fall 2015 Newsletter



**Assemblywoman  
Carrie Woerner**

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- **Grants for emergency services**
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- **Student forums on issues in education**
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## Dear Friend,

There is an autumn chill in the air, but the warmth of summer memories is still with me. It was already dusk when I left the Washington County Fair one evening in August. The animals had been fed, watered, and their barns cleaned; families were gathered around picnic tables, playing cards, talking, and laughing; kids were playing a quick game of tag before it got too dark. I was reminded once again of how special our county fairs are and how precious these summer traditions are to our communities.

The Saratoga and Washington County communities have many summer traditions – from the Saratoga-Wilton Flag Day Parade to the Turning Point Parade in Schuylerville, clam steams to chicken BBQ's, cardboard boat races on the Champlain Canal to moonlight kayaks on Round Lake, days at the track to nights at SPAC, studio art tours on the by-ways of Washington County to street fairs and community day festivals, farmers markets and U-Pick stands. Traditions like these highlight the bounty of our summer and give us all a host of warm and sunny memories to look back on the rest of the year.

In addition to attending as many of these summer festivities as I could, I played host to Speaker of the Assembly Carl Heastie as he toured the 113th Assembly District in August. His visit allowed me to highlight the industries and opportunities of our area, including the GlobalFoundries chip manufacturing facility, O.A. Borden and Sons Farm's robotic milking parlor in Easton, and the Saratoga Race Course. I also emphasized the challenges currently facing Saratoga and Washington counties. The Speaker heard from local residents about issues like GE's dredging on the Hudson River and the current climate toward small businesses and horse racing.

Now that autumn is here and we are moving closer to the next legislative session, I will be hosting a series of town hall-style meetings in communities in the district. These meetings will provide opportunities for you to share your feedback, concerns, and needs related to our state government. Please watch my website, [assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Carrie-Woerner](http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Carrie-Woerner) and sign up for my email list for details. As always, if my staff or I can be of assistance to you with personal state-related matters or to discuss laws or bills in more detail, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I am also spending the fall months preparing legislation to introduce for the 2016 legislative session. I have met with local groups, like the Christmas Tree Farmers Association, community and governmental leaders, and individuals from across the district to develop a set of legislative priorities centered on improving the business climate for small businesses and farms so they can grow and prosper, strengthening our public schools, and protecting the traditions, heritage, and culture of Saratoga and Washington counties.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie".

## Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner wants to hear from you

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## Passing Impactful Legislation: Protecting Our Water and Forested Land

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In September, Assemblywoman Woerner's bill to protect Saratoga County's clean water sources and maintain its forested land was signed into law by Governor Cuomo after passing both the state Assembly and Senate. The new law addresses the Saratoga County Water Authority's (SCWA) accidental encroachment onto the county's adjoining reforested land and allows for an equal exchange of property between the two entities. Assemblywoman Woerner was proud to have the opportunity to facilitate this exchange, stating that, "It's imperative that we do all we can to preserve our precious natural resources and ensure that they are available for future generations."

When constructing a water treatment plant in 2008, SCWA mistakenly built on approximately 5 acres of county-designated reforestation land. County reforestation lands under state law are "forever

dedicated" for watershed protection, production of timber and forest products, and recreation and kindred purposes. Recognizing this mistake, SCWA and the county have agreed to an equitable transfer of real property through which the westerly boundary of SCWA's parcel will be extended by 5 acres onto land currently owned by the county and its southern boundary reduced by 5 acres, with that property returning to the county as reforested land. The exchange will allow SCWA to move forward with necessary improvements and upgrades to the plant so that it can continue to provide water to its current recipients, including the Town of Moreau, the Wilton Water & Sewer Authority, the Town of Ballston, the Clifton Park Water Authority, the Town of Malta, the Village of Stillwater, and the Luther Forest Technology Campus.

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## Securing Grants for Our Police Departments and Emergency Squads

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This year, a number of New York State grant programs opened to lawmakers, allowing them to advocate for funds for deserving organizations in their communities. Understanding the critical work that police officers and emergency medical squads undertake every day in order to preserve the safety of our families, friends, and community members, Assemblywoman Woerner identified our local police departments and emergency squads as highly deserving of these grants. Assemblywoman Woerner worked with the state to advocate for the police departments and rescue squads and was

proud to secure funding for many of them, totaling \$5,000 for each police department and \$10,000 each for the emergency squads. These funds will be used for equipment that will help our police officers and emergency medical responders stay safe and access more advanced technology on the job. Assemblywoman Woerner is honored to represent these hardworking men and women in the state Assembly and looks forward to securing even more funding for our police departments and emergency squads in the years to come.

## Passing Impactful Legislation: Moving Forward with a Regional Visitor Center



In June, Assemblywoman Woerner's bill to help establish a regional visitor center for the upper Hudson and Hoosic River valleys passed both the state Assembly and the Senate. Once signed by the governor, her bill will become law and bring the visitor center one step closer to completion.

The Assemblywoman's bill relates to the Historic Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership, a coalition formed in 2006 of municipalities and organizations in Saratoga, Washington, and Rensselaer counties to promote, protect, and preserve regional farmland, heritage, and natural resources.

The bill grants the Partnership power to hold a title, which is critical to the planned opening of a regional visitor center in the Village of Schuylerville. While a similar bill has cleared the Senate before, it has never before made it through the Assembly – and with Assemblywoman Woerner's historic leadership, the Saratoga region will finally be able to move forward with the visitor center and see its long and storied history acknowledged and preserved.

## Ensuring State Education Officials Hear Our Concerns



In March of this year, Beverly L. Ouderkirk became the new representative to the New York State Board of Regents for 11 counties, including Saratoga and Washington counties. Regent Ouderkirk began her appointment in April with over 50 years of experience in public education across the state, but Assemblywoman Woerner felt it urgent to ensure that she understood the needs of teachers, students,

and parents in our communities. Carrie organized two roundtables – one in Saratoga County and one in Washington County – where local teachers, students, school administrators, and parents had the opportunity to share their opinions about New York State's current education laws and policies, including the APPR system, Common Core standards, and state tests. Regent Ouderkirk was happy to hear about the needs of stakeholders in our area, and those who participated in the roundtable were happy to have the opportunity to make their voices

heard. Assemblywoman Woerner will continue to fight to ensure fair, localized policies and decision-making for our public schools and to have the voices of our teachers and students remain central to the conversation about the future of education in New York State.

## Making Our Region a Top Priority for State Leadership



*In August, I hosted New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie for a tour of the 113th Assembly District. His visit allowed me to highlight the industries and opportunities of our region, as well as the challenges currently facing our area.*

*We stopped at McMahon Thoroughbred Farm in Saratoga, where the Speaker furthered his knowledge of the region's horse racing industry and the many farms and boarding facilities that support it.*

◀ **Look inside**

for important  
community updates



### Join Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner for open office hours

**Thursday, Dec. 3**  
**6 – 8 p.m.**

Malta Community Center  
Room 102  
1 Bayberry Drive, Malta

**Friday, Dec. 4**  
**Noon – 4 p.m.**

Washington County  
Municipal Center, Room 231  
383 Broadway, Fort Edward