

Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner Fall 2015 Newsletter



**Assemblywoman
Carrie Woerner**

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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 BBQs, 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 byways 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 for 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 of 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 visit my website (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,

Carrie

Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner wants to hear from you

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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 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 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.

Securing Grants for Our Police Departments and Emergency Squads

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.

Promoting Summer Reading

In order to keep students engaged with education throughout the summer, Assemblywoman Woerner hosted a New York State Assembly Summer Reading Challenge in the 113th Assembly District. Assemblywoman Woerner hosted her program in conjunction with the Summer Reading at New York Libraries program. To complete the challenge, students had to read at least 15 minutes each day for at least 40 days during the months of July and August. Participants who completed the challenge earned an Excellence in Reading certificate and a personal note of congratulations from Carrie.

“As a child, reading brought me to far-off worlds, introduced me to new people and cultures and taught me innumerable life lessons,” says Assemblywoman Woerner about her challenge.

“My summer reading program was designed to encourage and inspire students to enjoy reading as much as I did, and I was so pleased to be able to partner with our local libraries to cultivate



lifelong readers in Saratoga and Washington counties.” In order to further promote the program, Assemblywoman Woerner hosted reading events at public libraries across the district.

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 toured the GlobalFoundries campus in Malta, where the Speaker learned about the advanced chip manufacturing facility that is creating thousands of good-paying jobs in our community.

◀ **Look inside**

for important
community updates



Join Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner for open office hours

Tuesday, Dec. 1
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Mechanicville Area Community
Services Center, Gymnasium
6 S. Main St., Mechanicville

Thursday, Dec. 3
6 – 8 p.m.

Malta Community Center
Room 102
1 Bayberry Drive, Malta