

Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner

A voice for what matters to us



**Assemblywoman
Carrie Woerner**

Look inside for information on:

- **Promoting rural grocery stores**
- **Grants for emergency services**
- **Successful summer reading program**
- **Student forums on issues in education**
- **State leaders visiting our area**

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 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: Encouraging Rural Grocery Stores



In June, Assemblywoman Woerner's bill to establish the Retail Food Stores in Underserved Areas Task Force passed both the state Assembly and the Senate. Once signed by the governor, her bill will become law and the task force will be able to convene its first meeting. "When I took office, one issue that constituents often expressed concern about was the lack of retail food stores in their rural communities," Assemblywoman Woerner shares. "For many of the residents of my district's rural areas, like the Town of Salem, there are no local full-service grocery stores – and this task force is the first step in addressing this important issue."

Access to healthy foods in underserved communities across New York State is a growing concern. The barriers to opening and maintaining a full-service supermarket or other retail food business are significant and have led to limited access to healthy foods in many communities. This is a problem in both rural and urban areas of New York, due to higher prices for healthier food and increased expenditures for transportation to access these foods.

The Retail Food Stores in Underserved Areas Task Force will serve to identify and evaluate these barriers and seek means to better assist food retail businesses in navigating the path to establishment. By assisting these businesses, upstate New York's rural communities will gain

access to more affordable and nutritious foods, which will both improve their quality of life and limit negative impacts on public health and associated medical costs. Encouraging the development of local retail food stores also benefits farmers by expanding the market for their products.

"Healthy food at a reasonable price is a necessity for the members of our rural communities," notes Assemblywoman Woerner. "I am working hard every day to advocate for the residents of the 113th Assembly District, and I am proud to help ensure that they have access to fresh, affordable food."

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 the Village of Cambridge/Greenwich, Hudson Falls and Village of Fort Edward police departments, as well as the Fort Edward, Argyle and Salem 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 \$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 needed 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, the Assemblywoman 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 stopped at O.A. Borden & Sons Farm in Easton, where the Speaker learned about the farm's robotic milking parlor and other innovations that local farmers are making in agricultural technology.

◀ **Look inside**

for important
community updates



Join Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner for open office hours

Monday, Nov. 9
6 – 8 p.m.

Community Meeting Room
Salem Courthouse
58 E. Broadway, Salem, NY

Friday, Dec. 4
Noon – 4 p.m.

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