

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,

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 Saratoga Harness Racetrack



Saratoga Harness Racing Inc. (SHRI) has been the Capital Off-Track Betting Corporation's regional track since the organization's inception. In operation since 1941, the reorganization of SHRI's corporate structure earlier this year had unforeseen financial consequences. Current law provides that "racing corporations first licensed to conduct pari-mutuel racing after January first, nineteen hundred eighty-six" are not considered to be regional tracks in that "regional payments" are generally not required

to be paid to them. By restructuring SHRI into a new corporate entity, SHRI would have fallen under this provision and lost its regional track payments.

Assemblywoman Woerner recognized the importance of this track's success. A successful racing season boosts the entire local economy, giving the equine-related farms and businesses of Saratoga and Washington counties an opportunity to flourish. "Harness racing is a vital component of our region's economy," said Assemblywoman Woerner.

After working with the Saratoga Casino and Raceway to finalize a plan, Assemblywoman Woerner authored legislation that would allow SHRI to be

considered a regional track where regional payments could be paid. In late May, the bill passed both chambers in the New York State Legislature and has been signed into law by the Governor.

"Saratoga Harness Racing Inc. helps create jobs in the agriculture, leisure, and hospitality industries," said Assemblywoman Woerner. "That's why I am fighting to ensure that harness racing in this region will continue to grow and succeed."

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.

Supporting the Local Arts

For more than a century, Yaddo has served as a creative haven for American artists through its mission “to nurture the creative process by providing an opportunity for artists to work without interruption in a supportive environment.” By offering residencies to artists of all kinds, Yaddo has influenced generations of artists from across the country. This year, Yaddo sought to renew a \$250,000 appropriation in the New York State budget for repairs to the estate’s 122-year-old mansion. The mansion and its exterior are integral to artist and visitor experiences at the Gardens, which serves as a prominent tourist destination and provides the organization with much of its capital. Assemblywoman Woerner, recognizing the mansion’s importance to Saratoga Springs’ history and economy, supported the Yaddo Estate’s proposal, and advocated for the funds’ inclusion in the 2015 state budget. “As the nation’s pre-eminent artist retreat, Yaddo provides the 113th Assembly



District with an invaluable connection to American art and deserves the funds it needs to sustain its historic character and economic viability,” Assemblywoman Woerner notes. The Assemblywoman and Yaddo advocates’ hard work paid off in April, when New York State allotted the Estate the full \$250,000 it needed to repair the mansion. Assemblywoman Woerner is pleased to have the opportunity to advocate for the historic preservation and economic viability of Saratoga Springs businesses and organizations, including Yaddo.

Advocating for Local Businesses



Saratoga Juice Bar, located on Broadway in downtown Saratoga Springs, opened in 2013 to serve cold-pressed juices, cleanses, smoothies, supplements and healthy snacks. Earlier this year, the company’s owners decided to expand their business by wholesaling juice throughout New York State. However, the immediate and high demand for the Juice Bar’s products meant

that they needed to complete the wholesale licensure process as soon as possible – contradictory to the typical state licensure process, which can take at least several months. Owners Christel and Colin MacLean contacted Assemblywoman Woerner and requested her assistance expediting the paperwork, and she was pleased to have the opportunity to help a local small business navigate the state approval process. Working directly with the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets, Assemblywoman Woerner was able to quickly secure the necessary approval for the Juice Bar’s wholesaling plans and ensure that the MacLeans could successfully begin expanding their business. Christel and Colin wrote to

Carrie, explaining that, “The extent to which she became an instant expert in the cold-press juice industry and used said knowledge to tirelessly assist us in our efforts was inspiring and also of tremendous value.” They are “grateful and also proud to be in her district,” and to be her constituents, “both on a personal and professional level.”

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