

News You Can Use

from Assemblyman
Robin Schimminger

June 2010

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14150



INSIDE:

**General Motors
Going Green
Advancing Care**

New Site

For more information about the 140th Assembly District and recent activities, visit my new web site www.robinschimminger.com.

Dear Neighbor,

Knowing of your interest in government, I thought I'd take this opportunity to keep you up to date on a number of initiatives that may be of interest to you and your family and friends.

Several "Going Green" incentives have been created to assist homeowners and business owners with more extensive "greening efforts." State incentives have also helped bring two major projects to General Motors Powertrain Engine Plant in Tonawanda. Legislation I sponsored will allow Mercy Flight Inc. of Western New York to have access to financing through the state's Dormitory Authority, and another new law of mine will ensure cystic fibrosis patients receive their needed medication.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Schimminger".

Not printed or mailed at government expense

For questions or concerns regarding state government, please contact my office:
3514 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217 • 716-873-2540 • schimmr@assembly.state.ny.us

General Motors to Invest

General Motors recently announced a \$400 million investment in a new generation V-8 engine line at the Tonawanda Powertrain Engine Plant, which will retain and create more than 700 jobs. The multi-million dollar investment was aided by state and local incentives, and it comes on the heels of GM's decision in February to invest \$425 million at the Tonawanda Engine Plant for production of a new 4-cylinder engine.

- ✓ New York State will contribute funding to the new project through a \$6 million Upstate Blueprint Fund capital grant, and the Erie County Industrial Development Agency will provide an additional \$880,000 in sales tax abatement.
- ✓ The previously announced expansion of next generation fuel efficient engines was aided by a \$7 million state capital investment and a new state allocation of low-cost power.



Greening Your Home

The "green movement" began with relatively simple tasks like recycling activities, lowering the heat, turning off lights, and using energy-efficient light bulbs, appliances and automobiles. Recently, a number of programs have been created to help homeowners step up their green pace with financial incentives. They include:

- ✓ Federal Tax Credit – A maximum credit of 30 percent, up to \$1,500 of the improvement cost, is available for installing heating and ventilation systems, insulation, water heaters, windows and doors on principal residences. Another credit of up to 30 percent of the cost of installation is available through the 2016 tax year for solar energy systems.
- ✓ New York State Tax Credit – A 25 percent credit up to a maximum of \$5,000 is available for the installation of solar water, solar space heat and photovoltaics systems. Another credit of 25 percent up to a maximum of \$1,500 is available for fuel cells.
- ✓ New York State Sales Tax Incentive – State sales taxes are waived for the purchase of eligible renewable technologies.
- ✓ The state's net metering law allows residential customers who generate their own electricity through solar and wind generating systems to sell their excess energy back to their local utilities.
- ✓ National Fuel Gas' Conservation Incentive Program offers customers money-saving rebates when furnaces, boilers and water heaters are replaced with energy-efficient models.

Advancing Care

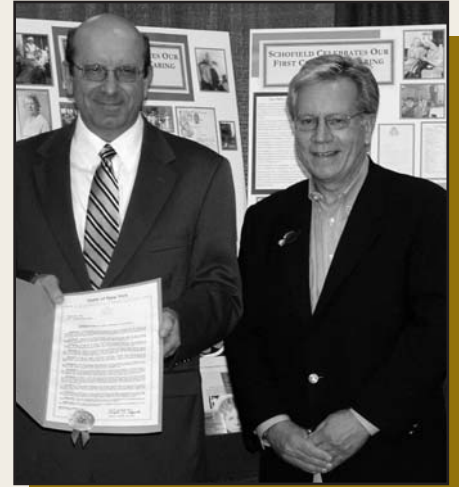


***TOP 10** - North Tonawanda's DeGraff Memorial Hospital's Skilled Nursing Facility has been named among the top 10 best for extended care in New York State. Assemblyman Schimminger, who helped save the hospital from closure in 2007, commended DeGraff for the honor and is pictured with R.N. Kathy Murphy and Administrator Christina Khushalani.*

Help for Mercy Flight

Mercy Flight of Western New York is a community-based not-for-profit emergency air-medical corporation. In order to service more people, the independent operation, which is not affiliated with any hospital, will establish a second WNY hub to further serve people who are critically ill or have been involved in a serious accident.

At the request of Mercy Flight, I sponsored new legislation that would allow Mercy Flight Inc. of W.N.Y. to have access to financing through the state's Dormitory Authority, making their expansion plan more affordable. The Assembly has unanimously passed the legislation, and it is now in the hands of the State Senate.



MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY

The Schofield Residence celebrated 100 years of service to Western New York on May 1. I was thrilled to present a citation to Schofield President Edward Gray congratulating the staff and volunteers for their commitment to the health and well-being of the residents.



***GREAT STRIDES** - Lauren Copeland and 11-year-old cystic fibrosis survivor Leanne presented Assemblyman Schimminger with the Legislative Champion Award on behalf of The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation during the Great Strides Walk for Cystic Fibrosis at Veteran's Memorial Park in the City of Tonawanda in May. The Assemblyman sponsored a new law that will allow children with Cystic Fibrosis to continue receiving their medication through the state's Specialty Pharmacy Program.*