

THIS ISSUE

*Keep up to date with
community happenings
that impact business in
our community*

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

JEFF SHIPLEY, PRESIDENT & CEO SENECA COUNTY CHAMBER

- Annual Dinner Awards are happening on January 18, 2024 at Ventosa Vineyards from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Project/Initiative of the Year will be awarded to the Northeast College of Health Sciences
- Humanitarian of the Year will be awarded to Menzo Case, posthumous
- Business of the Year will be awarded to Lyons National Bank

BOB SHIPLEY, SUPERVISOR

- Reorder meeting was held last night (Jan. 3, 2023)
- Short meeting, 25 minutes
- Beth Partee elected as financial director for a term of 2 years
- Mike Enslow will remain in his position
- Ernie Brownell elected as Majority Leader

NEW YORK LAWMAKERS WANT TO TACKLE HOUSING IN 2024

Spectrum: Housing was an issue last year for Governor Hochul with her policy not being picked up in 2023. It will likely be reintroduced in 2024. Some suggested ways to help include Bill 421a which gives a tax break to developers for building additional units for property tax exemption. "Good Cause Eviction" is also being put forth, which would require landlords to possess "good cause" for evicting a tenant. This would protect both tenants and landlords in eviction situations.

EVERY BILL THAT KATHY HOCHUL VETOED IN 2023

NY Focus: A list of every vetoed bill can be found online with reasons why on some of them. There are over 190 in total.

NEW YORK DRAFTS GUIDANCE FOR MEETING RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

Solar Power World: Portions of Seneca County fall under the "disadvantaged communities" umbrella, and the DEC has released their proposed guidance for renewable energy goals in disadvantaged communities. A portion of the funds would go back to these communities.

HOCHUL UNVEILS PROPOSAL TO CHANGE READING INSTRUCTION, PROFICIENCY IN SCHOOLS

State of Politics: Governor Hochul has introduced her "Back to Basics" curriculum plan for schools in New York State. These "basics" include decoding, vocabulary, phonics, and reading comprehension. This is the old way of teaching from years ago until the newest way was introduced. Many states have gone back to this way.

ONEIDA INDIAN NATION OPENS FIRST CANNABIS DISPENSARY NEAR TURNING STONE

Times Union: The first cannabis dispensary near Turning Stone is now up and running.

SECOND MAJOR SOLAR PROJECT PROPOSED FOR NORTHERN SENECA COUNTY

Finger Lakes Times: Savion Energy has shared its plans to build a 90-megawatt solar facility in Waterloo and Junius on 827 acres of land. The project will be in the Dunham Road and Nine Foot Road area and involve five unnamed property owners. An application for a state permit is expected to be filed on or before Jan. 31, 2024 and will be available to view after through the Waterloo Library & Historical Society.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

JANUARY:

- 1/18: Annual Dinner; Ventosa Vineyards



JOIN US FOR THE NEXT ONE SENECA MEETING

When: Thursday mornings at 10 a.m.
 Where: Zoom
 Meeting ID: 885 5612 6750
 Password: 974642

Open to members of the community who want to know things that are happening or have something to add to the conversation.

SARAH DAVIS, IDA DIRECTOR

- Comments regarding solar project in Junius/Waterloo:
- Aware of the proposed project and IDA has been approached but has not yet seen an application
- They do expect to see an application eventually but they can take time
- Once application is received, the next steps will be followed (ex. public meeting)

STEVE ZIELINKSKI, SUPERINTENDANT OF SOUTH SENECA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- With the start of the New Year, most people are looking at state budgets, digesting proposals, and listening to advocacy groups.
- Hochul's announcement on changing how to teach reading has received a lot of attention
- By 2025 all school districts will have to declare that their education standards are in compliance with the state's requirements
- Reading has been a concern for schools because of the potential impact of the pandemic
- There has been debate on how to approach the science behind teaching reading in order to get students to close the gap from the pandemic
- Electric vehicle requirements for school districts has been being debated
- The timeline requires schools to start making new purchases of electric vehicles by 2027
- A full transfer of fleets must happen by the year 2035
- The state is receiving pushback saying that timeline is moving too fast making it harder to stay in line