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SUMMARY OF ONE SENECA
COMMUNITY BRIEFING &
PREPARED EXCLUSIVELY
FOR SENECA COUNTY
CHAMBER INVESTORS

SENECA

COMMUNITY BRIEFING - AUG. 3, 2023

DiscoverSeneca
Seneca County Chamber

THIS ISSUE

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

COUNTY MANAGER UPDATE: MITCH ROWE

- Seneca County's housing needs assessment report has been finalized and it will be heading to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration. Next steps to follow will include a public hearing.
- The report aligns with the Strategic Economic Development Plan that has been jointly approved by the County, Chamber and IDA.
- County Planning & Community Development Director Jill Henry also shared information on the report:
- Goal is to develop a housing development strategy that can begin to be executed in 2024.
- The hope is to create a budget that has funding in it to start project deliverables in the coming year.
- The strategy would help address local business concerns over lack of available housing options.

SENECA

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

NYS BOARD OF ELECTIONS VOTES TO CERTIFY CONTROVERSIAL TOUCH SCREEN VOTING MACHINES

WXXI News: New voting machines have been approved for use that will feature touch screens and use no paper; voters will cast their votes onto a thermal ballot which is then converted to barcode & submitted.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER NOT EXPECTING SPECIAL SESSION

WXXI News: Speaker Carl Heastie shared he wasn't expecting to return for a special session in 2023 to discuss the Seneca Nation casino compact, even though reports indicated that may be happening. The current gaming compact with the Seneca Nation expires Dec. 9.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CARL HEASTIE SAYS HOCHUL'S HOUSING PLAN NEEDS REFOCUSING

WAMC Public Radio: Speaker Carl Heastie said in order for Governor Hochul's 2024 housing plan to make it through the 2024 session, it needs to be more inclusive.

NY HEAT BILL AIMS TO FIGHT RISING ENERGY COSTS

Gothamist: NY Heat Act would lower the use of natural gas. Provisions would allow for natural gas infrastructure not be built or maintained. Currently, maintenance is needed.

NY IN DANGER OF MISSING 2030 EMISSIONS TARGET

The Hill: State Comptroller reports the state is falling behind its goal to reach 70% renewable energy by 2030, 100% by 2040. NY must increase renewable capacity by 3X.

HOSPITALS TO GET \$121 MILLION MORE PER YEAR FROM MEDICARE

Syracuse.com: Fed. Legislative bill supported by Schumer; upping rates that Medicare pays to hospitals, which hospitals can then use for any expense (hiring, equipment, etc.)

NYC CONSUMES MOST CANNABIS IN THE WORLD, STUDY SHOWS

Patch.com: The cost of 1 gram of Cannabis in NYC is \$12.50, the 4th most expensive place to buy it in U.S.

NY BILL WOULD PROTECT WRITERS & ACTORS FROM BEING REPLACED BY AI

Yahoo Finance: Bill proposed & supported by both Senate and Assembly. First attempt at protecting workers from AI. Production companies cannot use NYS film tax credit if it's utilizing AI technology in place of actors and writers.

THIS WEEK'S LOCAL HEADLINES



NEW KIND OF VENDING MACHINE

Finger Lakes Times: Geneva City Council approved a vending machine that distributes Naloxone and testing strips. Naloxone reverses the effects of an overdose, and the testing strips can help determine what may be in drugs (what they may be laced with). The goal is to lower the rate of fatal overdoses.

ENSURING UNINTERRUPTED CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Finger Lakes Times Letter to the Editor: Rochester Regional Health runs some local offices in Geneva. Negotiations with parent company and union resulted in strike taking place until 7 p.m. Aug. 5. Patients with procedures scheduled should still proceed as normal. Last year is the first year Roch. Regional *lost* money.

SENECA COUNTY SALES TAX COLLECTIONS DOWN BY 1.5%

FingerLakes1.com: Seneca County has seen a dip in sales tax collections. NY Business Brief reports statewide collections increased 3% for second quarter, marking a lower growth rate than the first quarter.



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.

IDA UPDATE: SARAH DAVIS

- Final details being ironed out for date and location of next input session regarding the Willard redevelopment. Once decisions are finalized, everyone will be made aware.
- Upcoming press release will include final details and share some of the results that came in during the last input session.

PARTNER UPDATES: JENNIFER DOMBROWSKI, WATERLOO PREMIUM OUTLETS

- This year's trends are showing a lot more local traffic than drive market traffic.
- Revenue is trending close to YoY.

PARTNER UPDATE: STEPHEN PARKER ZIELINSKI, SOUTH SENECA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Eclipse 2024 details: Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES does not plan to have school the day of the Eclipse and has decided to extend Spring Break.
- Seneca Falls, Romulus and Waterloo School Districts are expected to follow Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES schedule.
- South Seneca will be doing a half day.
- Substance Abuse Council Coalition discussed survey results from students in the county related to risk and protective factors, substance abuse issues, and the results are in draft form.
- Trends in the county relating to housing, home stability, protective factors, substance abuse are being looked into and are followed up on during the school year.
- "Don't Be a D Student" is an event about distracted driving and in its second year, taking place in the spring.
- All four districts are looking into getting their students in the same place again for the county wide event next year.