

THIS ISSUE

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

BOB SHIPLEY, SUPERVISOR

- Feb. 13th meeting: Public works resolutions discussed
- Letters of interest have been sent in for the Seneca County Historian position left vacant in January

SARAH DAVIS, IDA DIRECTOR

- Deadline passed for expressions of intent
- 5 responses were submitted to the county
- Each one had a housing component
- Many were housing and resort applications
- Next steps: County and MRB to put together a formal interest and proposal to the state for a title transfer
- Do it in a way that the county can solicit bids without the burden of holding the title
- Possibility of updates by May of this year
- State has contracted a study with Newmark to look into the semiconductor industry across the state; important to watch and see how this could benefit the Seneca County region

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL REQUIRES STR TO REGISTER WITH STATE, PROVIDES COLLECTION OF STATE SALES AND OCCUPANCY TAXES

NYSHTA: Legislative proposal has sponsors in both houses; bill requires short term rental owners to register with the Dept. of State (outside NY- it's illegal for short term rentals in the city) where a registry is created. If local municipalities have laws governing short term rentals, they will be followed instead of the state's laws

INCREASE IN SNAP BENEFITS, FREE SCHOOL MEALS GETS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FROM NY LAWMAKERS

Spectrum: Legislative priority is seeking \$5 million to fund SNAP programs

CASINO REAL ESTATE SHIFTS WITH TIOGA DOWNS CASINO SALE

Times Union: NYC developer and owner has sold casino to gaming company in PA for \$175 Million; property will be leased back over the next 15 years

IS THE NY TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM ACTUALLY PAYING OFF FOR THE STATE AND TAXPAYER?

WKBW Buffalo: Over \$1 billion in tax incentives & credits were given to create jobs and bolster the economy; it worked in areas like manufacturing, but didn't in the film industry

NY BUDGET PROPOSAL DEFUNDS PROGRAM THAT HELPS KEEP PEOPLE IN THEIR HOMES

Spectrum: HOP (Home Owner Protection) is made up of 89 nonprofits that counsel and provide legal help to homeowners facing foreclosures or liens; current budget would defund the program

ELECTION COMMISSIONERS FROM NYS PLEAD FOR MORE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

WRVO Public Radio: All elections in NY have been shifted to even years; this amount number of races and costs for local election offices who have come together to ask for funding

NY REBLICANS RALLY TO END ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS MANDATES

Government Technology: Schools have put electric buses on the ballot for them to be voted against; the mandate is costly and not getting necessary support to happen

LAWMAKERS SEEK ANSWERS ON CHANGES TO NOURISH NY

Lancaster Farming: An executive order during COVID created Nourish NY; the bill allows excess farm foods to be sold to food banks; now being added to the regular budget, food banks aren't able to easily access the foods due to the rules and regulations in the bill because it's part of the regular budget



STEEP DROP IN NUMBER OF FARMS IN NY, NEW REPORT SHOWS

NY State of Politics: State has lost 2800 farms between 2017-2022, mainly dairy; 350K acres taken off the books in NY & is concerning to Seneca County

SESSLER WRECKING EXPANDS IN NORTH CAROLINA

FL Times: Southeast division has been opened in Rock Hill near Charlotte, N.C.

MAIN STREET SHOPPE CENTER SET TO CHANGE

FL Times: Top two floors in downtown Waterloo Shoppe Center will be made into residential units

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FEBRUARY:

- Business After Hours Weds. Feb. 21 5-7 p.m. at Hampton Inn, Seneca Falls
- Ribbon cutting: Leo & Tom's Barbershop Monday Feb. 26, 12 p.m.

MARCH:

- Business After Hours; Generations Bank, March 20, 2024

APRIL:

- April 2; Seneca Falls Acupuncture 5th Anniversary
- April 8; Total Solar Eclipse

Do you know about an event coming up? Let us know!

info@senecachamber.org



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.

AVE BAUDER, CCE

- Regarding farming trends in Seneca County; there is only one dairy farm not owned by Amish or Mennonite farmers
- Region is slightly insulated regarding loss of farms due to the number of Amish and Mennonite farms

STEVE ZIELINKSKI,

SUPERINTENDANT OF SOUTH

SENECA SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Electric buses are being heavily discussed along with foundation aid being another issue
- Numbers have been broken down for the electric bus mandate and aren't adding up
- Each bus costs \$400,000 and a fleet of buses for the state would be \$20 billion dollars
- Financial support for the mandate right now is only \$500 million
- Costs of buses do not include batteries or electric supplies
- Meeting the mandate isn't possible without a realistic plan
- Foundational aid and the formula used is still an issue and the loss of the funding would deeply impact schools

CAROL DOOLITTLE, FRONTENAC

POINT VINEYARD & ESTATE

WINERY

- New bottle bill allows for an exemption of \$5 million dollars, which is higher than the original \$1 million, then \$2 million
- 5 other states have passed similar bills
- Wineries and dairies will glass bottles can wash and reuse their containers
- Consumers are now just as involved in the process