

THIS ISSUE

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

KYLE LOVELL, COUNTY MANAGER

- Discussions with administrators across the state show a want for getting into the AI space
- Syracuse University Maxwell School has started an AI Gov. section of the school itself and hired tech people to come in and teach AI courses
- School will be putting out some AI government courses for local administrators, directors, and department heads
- Optimistic about Willard project

SARAH DAVIS, IDA DIRECTOR

- Public hearing set for Groggerly development project
- Housing development for former Groggerly restaurant in the hamlet of Fayette, looking to turn it into six housing units and a commercial retail space
- Hearing is scheduled for March 14th at 6 p.m. at the Fayette Town Hall
- After public hearing, the Fayette Town Board will hold their meeting that night

BOB GRIFFIN, SMALL BUSINESS

- Busy; a lot of economic activity out there
- Accepting 3.2 new clients per day which is leading the state
- Seneca County numbers are higher than they've been in a long time; 25 active projects in the county
- 2 upcoming Fast Track Training programs: virtual in March online, Auburn in early April (both open for registration)

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

HOCHUL SIGNS NY LEGISLATURE'S OWN SET OF CONGRESSIONAL MAPS INTO LAW

Spectrum: Redistricting maps finally appear to be agreed upon between Republicans & Democrats; Republicans feel they're similar to before, Democrats feel they gained more.

COMPTROLLER CITES 'LAX' OVERSIGHT IN STATE MEDICAID

Times Union: State Comptroller DiNapoli: Negligent oversight caused \$50M Medicaid drug payment errors between 2017 and 2023

MOST NYERS CAN'T AFFORD CHILDCARE DRIVING YOUNG FAMILIES OUT OF THE CITY, REPORT FINDS

Gothamist: Typical daycare yearly costs families \$20,000; 80% of NYC families can't afford it

ABNORMALLY WARM TEMPERATURES TRIGGER A CLOSE WATCH ON THE FORECAST FROM FARMERS

Spectrum: Weather changes like the warmth we've had can cause grapes and apples to bloom early, making them susceptible to frost damage this season

IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN SOLAR & AGRICULTURE, WHAT IF FARMS COULD HAVE BOTH

Spectrum: It's possible to use the land around the solar farms to help feed cattle and grow other types of crops, making use of the land in two ways

NEW AMENDMENT TO NY LABOR LAW PROTECTS RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES' SOCIAL MEDIA

LocalSYR: Employers cannot request login information for employees' social media accounts, nor can they refuse to hire someone over not getting their login information

BILL TO BAN FRACKING HEADS TO SENATE FLOOR

News 13 Albany: NY Senate Committee approves CO2 Fracking Ban bill at Capitol, prohibiting the use of CO2 to drill.

NEW POLL: 2 OUT OF 3 NEW YORKERS SUPPORT EMPIRE AI PROJECT

Empire Report: 67% of New Yorkers support a plan to create an AI research center led by NYS private and public universities; it would be headquartered in Buffalo

SURPLUS VEHICLES MAY BENEFIT FAYETTE, INTERLAKEN

FL Times: Seneca County's Public Safety Committee approves donating surplus sheriff's vehicles to Fayette and Interlaken, emphasizing inter-governmental cooperation and community support.



LOCAL SALES TAX COLLECTIONS NEAR FLAT IN JAN. COMPARED TO LAST YEAR

NYSOC: Sales tax revenue was flat for most counties; fewer than half saw a year over year increase in NYS. Seneca County saw an increase of over 3%.

WATERLOO HITS DRI JACKPOT

FL Times: Waterloo was awarded \$10 million dollars; housing is included in the plans for how to use the funds.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH:

- Business After Hours; Generations Bank, March 20, 2024
- Chamber University: March 23; HR compliance laws

APRIL:

- April 2; Seneca Falls Acupuncture 5th Anniversary
- April 8; Total Solar Eclipse
- Chamber University: Free tools online to help your business, details TBD

MAY:

- Business After Hours; Wagner Vineyards, May 15, 2024

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.

JEFF SHIPLEY, CHAMBER

PRESIDENT

- Total Solar Eclipse planning is in full force
- We have been updating details on a regular basis with a landing page that will take you to all details
- Safety glasses are still available at the Chamber for those looking to host events
- Number of hotels are reported to be sold out; The Hampton Inn completely sold out on Sunday with limited rooms Saturday and Monday nights
- Chamber University event March 23: Understanding NYS HR Laws for compliance in 2024

STEVE ZIELINSKI, SSSD

SUPERINTENDENT

- Advocacy season is more intense than usual with foundation aid issue
- Most messaging is that it might work out in the end; universal agreement that safe harmless should not be quickly and abruptly ended
- This year will be okay but it will still be hard when it does end

CAROL DOOLITTLE, FRONTENAC

- EPR- wineries and businesses would be responsible for the disposal of products, but also to use less
- Farm bureau is still against EPR because they want food exempted
- None of the other 7 states have exempted food or farm products
- This has been discussed since 2020
- The plastic industry is against this
- Wine industry decided \$5 million for us in the county is good and to not let it pass by
- Bottle bill: will effect everyone
- Wineries can refill their bottles
- Milk industry against this even though they can was and reuse their glass milk bottles like Byrne Dairy does

AVE BAUDER, SENECA COUNTY

CORNELL COOPERATIVE

EXTENSION

- Series of videos: *Perspectives on the Opportunities and Impacts of Solar Installation in Agricultural Areas*

BOB SHIPLEY, SUPERVISOR

- Board of Supervisors committee mtg. Tuesday night: 2 project passed at Ovid Three Bears
- Around \$500,000 being spent on the following:
 - Make bathrooms ADA compliant
 - Repairs