

## THIS ISSUE

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

## JEFF SHIPLEY, CHAMBER PRESIDENT & CEO

- Eclipse has been planned here for the last two years and it's finally upon us
- Website is updated for the event with events, times, and blogs
- Last Friday Chamber U hosted a Zoom session regarding HR compliance laws
- If interested, call the Chamber for the slide desk
- Seneca County shared press release regarding safety and traffic during the Eclipse; stay off roads and run errands ahead of time
- Legislative Luncheon planned for May and another with Congresswoman Claudia Tenney is planned for Fall

## BOB SHIPLEY, SUPERVISOR

- Tuesday regular committee meetings and special Board meeting held
- \$750K allocated from ARPA funds to LDC Corp. for Willard project

## THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

### HOCHUL EXTENDS STATE BUDGET DEADLINE UNTIL APRIL 4

Daily Gazette: No new news before Easter; last year's budget was a month late and that state is about midway with negotiations. Focus includes housing and school aid

### BUILDING TRADES ASK STATE LEGISLATURE TO STEP IN ON 421A

City & State: Program 421a was phased out in 2022 and Hochul has been trying to bring it back; 421 is a tax incentive in NYS for developers creating condos and housing that devote some of their projects to low income housing, giving them a tax break.

### MENTAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS SPIKED 23% IN NY AS TREATMENT CAPACITY DROPPED 10%

Democrat & Chronicle: For 18-25 year olds, their mental health needs spiked by 30%. The rest of the state saw an increase of 5% since COVID-19. The capacity for treatment has dropped by 10%, despite the growing needs of the population.

### STATE COMPTROLLER FISCAL DISTRESS REPORT (SCHOOLS, MUNICIPALITIES)

NYS Comptroller Office: The community in Seneca County rated as the highest in terms of distress was Covert. As for the state's list of communities in the most distress, no villages in Seneca County made that list.

### WHAT EARMARKS DID NY LAWMAKERS SECURE IN THIS YEAR'S SPENDING BILL?

Spectrum: The new Federal Budget was approved over the weekend last weekend. \$500 Million for community projects has been allocated across the state for things like recreation centers, food banks, and infrastructure. It's likely Seneca County could see some of that money.

### STATE LEGISLATORS PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR EMPIRE AI

Buffalo News: A proposal for Empire AI seems to have the support of legislators. It was brought up in the One House budget bill and if passed would be housed at the University of Buffalo. The funding would help create a "super computing center" for researching the safe and responsible use of AI for higher education centers.

### TRELINA PROJECT STILL ON COURSE

FL Times: The Trelina Solar Project is happening in the Town of Waterloo and is currently taking its next steps to move forward. This includes applying for what they need to build an access road through wetlands



# UPCOMING EVENTS:



## APRIL:

- April 2; Seneca Falls Acupuncture 5th Anniversary
- April 8; Total Solar Eclipse
- Chamber University: Social Media & Marketing, April 30th 1-2 pm

## MAY:

- Business After Hours; Wagner Vineyards, May 15, 2024
- Legislative Luncheon TBD

Do you know about an event coming up? Let us know!  
[info@senecachamber.org](mailto: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.

## STEVE ZIELISNKI, SOUTH SENECA SUPERINTENDENT

- Watching the state budget
- For fiscal stress, Newfield was the only school on the list
- Foundation aid pulled them out last year but this year they're struggling again
- Cornell Cooperative will host field trip for about 100 students to bus them to viewing location for the Eclipse

## SARAH DAVIS, IDA DIRECTOR

- IDA was awarded a \$1.5 million dollar grant through the DOT under passenger and freight rail
- This will go toward rehabilitating railroad tracks at the former Seneca Army Depot
- Moving to the new office will happen April 8th

## AVE BAUDER, CORNELL

- Partnering with the Farm Bureau to host a session Wed. April 10th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- "Solar Agriculture in Seneca County and What You Need to Know"
- Speakers from Finger Lakes Trust, MRB, law offices, and Farm Bureau will share
- Discussions will focus on farmers leasing land and what to look at
- Cost is \$15; lunch provided

## BOB GRIFFIN, SBDC

- Small Business Person of the Year has been selected
- Award presentation aimed for early May
- Thanks to the Grow Seneca Grant SBDC has seen 20 new Seneca County clients since January 1st