

THIS ISSUE

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

JEFF SHIPLEY, CHAMBER

PRESIDENT

- Social Media Marketing Chamber University event this month
- April 30th 1-2 p.m.
- Event Happening at Generations Bank headquarters
- Seneca County Chamber Legislative Luncheon happening Friday May 31st, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Event happening at Ventosa Vineyards

STEVE ZIELISNKI, SOUTH SENECA

SUPERINTENDENT

- Foundation Aid: great news that the Safe Harmless was preserved this year
- Worry is now for next year if/when it goes away
- Notification of it happening was late
- Focus is now on how to handle next year since Gov. Hochul said it might not happen next year

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

NYC RULE WILL SLAP SUGAR WARNING LABELS ON FOOD

NY Post: The pioneering directive from the city's Health Department mandates labels cautioning consumers about food and beverages containing over 50 grams of added sugar. This includes frozen coffee beverages from popular chains such as Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts, fountain sodas, and even hot chocolate.

WNY CEO'S HAVE DOWNBEAT VIEW OF STATE ECONOMY

Buffalo Next: The survey categorized 47% of Western New York CEOs as "pessimistic," perceiving recent conditions as deteriorating and expecting further decline. Forty-one percent fell into the "treading water" category, viewing the economy as stable but not foreseeing any improvement.

LOCAL SALES TAX COLLECTIONS INCREASE BY 1.5% IN Q1

NYS Comptroller: In the first calendar quarter (January-March) of 2024, sales tax collections for local governments in New York State reached \$5.6 billion, marking a 1.6 percent increase or \$87.3 million compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year. This growth was primarily propelled by New York City, while certain upstate regions saw a decline in collections for the quarter.

\$237 BILLION NYS BUDGET PASSED (NYS BUSINESS COUNCIL)

- Retail theft: Creation of new state police unit, tougher penalties for assaulting retail workers and stealing retail goods, tax credit for small businesses that invest in security
- COVID sick leave: Extends law sunset date to July 21, 2025
- Manual worker weekly pay: No leg. action; NYS courts will now decide
- Housing: Good Cause eviction required in NYC, opt-in for places outside NYC, exempts landlords with >10, excludes "squatters" in definition of "tenant." Mortgage Insurance Fund can be used for community housing
- Cannabis: Changes tax structure, provides measures for illicit businesses and their landlords to be closed/fined
- Labor: Pregnant employees can take additional 20 hrs. of paid personal leave for prenatal medical appts, paid breaks for up to 30 min. for mothers who are nursing
- Medicaid: Increases Medicaid from \$31.7 B to \$37 B
- Education: Reverses proposal to reduce school aid- cuts inflation factor in the Foundation Aid Formula for 24-25 school year
- Other: 5 year extension of to-go alcohol, movie theaters permitted to sell alcohol and spirits, governor can close 5 prisons, \$2.4B for illegal alien assistance, \$150M for public swimming pools



UPCOMING EVENTS:

APRIL: • Chamber University: Social Media & Marketing, April 30th 1-2 pm

MAY: • Ribbon Cutting Sugar Mama’s 1 p.m. Friday May 10th
• Business After Hours; Wagner Vineyards, May 15, 2024
• Legislative Luncheon May 31st at Ventosa
• Ribbon Cutting Healthy Kids Programs Waterloo May 1, 6-8 p.m.

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.

BOB SHIPLEY, SUPERVISOR

- An agreement memorandum was passed for the Chamber to create a visitor center but the vote was not unanimous
- The agreement has taken two years to reach and still has opposition
- If you or your business supports the visitor center, reach out to your supervisor ahead of the May meeting
- The board is currently discussing how rules regarding legal cannabis dispensaries will be enforced in the county moving forward now that they’re opening
- Currently trying to figure out if it would be under the county or local towns

STEVE ZIELINSKI, SOUTH SENECA SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPT.

- Great news that the foundation aid’s safe harmless was preserved this year
- The worry is for next year after Hochul made it clear it would not be preserved in the next budget
- The news wasn’t shared in time to update the budget newsletter

MEL OLES, ROSE HILL MANSION

- Reopening Rose Hill May 1st

BOB GRIFFIN, SBDC

- Currently holding off on presenting Matt Jones with Finger Lakes Laser the small business of the year award for Seneca County
- When his new work shed arrives they’ll plan it
- The newly passed budget wasn’t at all helpful for the SBDC this year
- Moving forward it may need the support of legislation and local organizations
- President Biden will be flying in to Syracuse to discuss the Micron deal and funding going toward the project
- There may be some announcements in the future regarding new grants for small businesses; pay close attention if you want to know more