

### THIS ISSUE

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

## THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

### BOB SHIPLEY, SUPERVISOR

- Seneca County discussed resolution that allows county Sheriff to assist ICE

### STEVE ZIELINSKI, SOUTH SENECA SUP.

- \$9M earmarked for cell phones in schools
- Number of delays and closings due to weather today
- Meeting held to discuss pathways to graduation for students/workforce

### SARAH DAVIS, IDA

- Planning Department: Proposal for the Empire State Development to transfer Willard locally
- IDA has been meeting with business owners impacted by Ovid fire
- There isn't a way to get disaster assistance for the fire
- IDA is revamping their revolving loan program

### THERESA, STEPS

- Thankful for the outpouring support
- STEPS was invited to temporarily set up in the library so they could connect locally with residents
- Helped remove barriers for residents to get what they needed, including bringing the Dept. of Labor out to help with unemployment
- New location at the Ovid Community Health Center in the downstairs (former location)
- Tops will be delivering groceries to Ovid without a delivery fee through the end of the month

### 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.

#### NEW YORK'S FIGHT OVER WHETHER TO AID ICE HEATS UP IN ALBANY

**Gothamist:** A group of state lawmakers are creating the New York for All Act- it stops the requirement of the state and local government to use public resources for helping ICE. This has been playing out locally in places like Ithaca/Tompkins County.

#### 78% SUPPORT WINE IN GROCERY STORES AS LIQUOR SHOPS PUSH BACK

**WGRZ Buffalo:** A Siena College poll found that 78% of New Yorkers support letting grocery stores sell wine. Voters supported the proposal, even as the state maintains a Prohibition-era rule keeping wine out of those stores. Liquor stores are pushing back saying it can harm small businesses like their own.

#### NEW YORK LAWMAKERS PROPOSE LITIGATION TO MITIGATE PFAS EXPOSURE

**NYSStateofPolitics:** The group of bills includes banning the use of PFAS in consumer and household products, cosmetic products and menstrual products. Additionally, the bills would regulate PFAS as an air pollutant and require the disclosure of PFAS levels in all permitted facilities discharging waste.

#### OVID COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO RALLY AFTER DOWNTOWN FIRE

**FL1:** More than \$20,000 was raised on February 1 during a fundraiser at the Ovid VFW, benefiting the Ovid Fire Fundraiser. This critical event drew strong community support following the destructive fire on January 21 that displaced employees and caused significant loss to the town's identity. An exact total of funds raised will be confirmed by the VFW in the coming days. The fire, which devastated the Ovid Big M and other parts of the town's business district, left many grappling with the shock of losing their jobs and a central part of the community. In response, efforts have multiplied to provide aid to those in need, with local businesses and organizations stepping up. Big M employees, for example, organized a pop-up community grocery store to deliver essential items to homebound residents. Rebuilding their customer records from memory after their documentation was destroyed in the fire, they coordinated with United Way of Seneca County to continue supporting those without immediate access to food and supplies. The Edith B. Ford Memorial Library in Ovid has also become a hub for community recovery. Despite facing ash and soot contamination, the library resumed operations quickly, offering meeting space to human services organizations and the New York State Department of Labor's Rapid Response Team. Lodi Whittier Library organized a creative writing workshop focused on resilience and healing, beginning February 10. Local businesses have joined the relief effort as well. Pat's Pizzeria donated pizzas to fire departments across Seneca County during a recent station clean-up event. Additionally, ServU Credit Union contributed \$2,000 to Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes and donated a vehicle to a displaced family. This spirit of solidarity was echoed at a community meeting held Saturday at the Ovid Federated Church. Participants expressed gratitude for the ongoing efforts and shared plans for long-term recovery initiatives.

#### NEW SHORT TERM RENTAL LAW

**NYSHTA:** The new law requires that platforms like Airbnb and VRBO report information four times a year to New York State, including a full list of rental locations and taxes collected, by county. Counties can then opt to receive that information, and use it create accurate STR registries.