

# Chamber of Commerce: Workforce Leadership Academy opening

Last week, I attended a three-day conference with 23 professionals from Erie and Niagara counties as fellows with the inaugural Workforce Leadership Academy. Out of the Erie/Niagara cohort, three of us work in Niagara County. The agenda was given to us the week prior with directives to make sure we set our out-of-office reply on emails. The organizers wanted our full attention and participation. The three-day event was held at Holiday Valley Resort, giving us a professional meet-

ing space, accommodations and a spectacular view of the ski slopes.

The opening retreat set the course of work we will focus on for the remainder of the year. The objectives of the conference included learning about systems change approaches and strategies; strengthening

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Jennifer Pauly  
President

our understanding of local labor market data related to employers, workers and disparities; as well as reflecting on personal leadership to advance equity and change. Multiple guest speakers came to lead discussions from all over New York state. We had opportunities to work in small groups with facilitated topics, and a lot of time to start eye-opening conversations on workforce topics and casual chatter to get to know each other.

Building nimble collaboration

through more stable and consistent investments in leaders' knowledge, skills and relationships at the local level can foster a more clearly aligned local workforce ecosystem that delivers integrated services to businesses and workers. We will start the work in May through collaborative learning labs, which will provide a forum for us to identify local and regional systems-based challenges, and create shared solutions.

I am looking forward to what

the year has ahead for our region with this academy. Over the next few months, we will be narrowing in on a focus for our region, and will get an opportunity to present our workforce project at the end of the year.

The opening conference was full of energy and excitement. It is reassuring to know that I will be working with others who are focused on creating change and finding solutions to help move our region forward.

DiNapoli:

## Value of IDA projects grew 10% in 2021 to \$126 billion

Number of projects rose 1.5% to 4,324

Submitted on behalf of New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli

New York's 107 local industrial development authorities (IDAs) reported 4,324 active projects with an aggregate value of \$126 billion in 2021, a 10.4% (or \$11.9 billion) increase compared to 2020, according to a report released Tuesday by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. The number of IDA projects increased by 1.5%.

"IDAs can play an important role in helping local economies and businesses expand. This report provides taxpayers with a look at the financial and project data reported by local IDAs so they can track their activities," DiNapoli said. "The tax breaks IDAs provide can impact local taxes, so it's important to ensure these projects are creating or retaining the jobs and economic benefits they are supposed to. Publishing this information, including IDA costs, helps to increase their accountability."

Since 2011, the number of active IDA projects has remained relatively stable, but total project value has been increasing. Average project value over the period increased 76% from \$16.5 million per project in 2011 to \$29.2 million in 2021. County IDAs were responsible for 61.2% of all active IDA projects in 2021, followed by towns (18.5%), cities (12.3%), New York City (7.4%), villages (0.5%), and city-town IDAs (0.1%).

The report summarizes data as reported by IDAs for fiscal year end 2021 through the Public Au-

thorities Reporting Information System (PARIS), and is not independently verified by the state comptroller's office. While most IDAs operate on a calendar-year basis, several, including the New York City IDA, do not.

DiNapoli's report found that:   
√ Tax exemptions for IDA projects totaled almost \$1.9 billion, an increase of \$134 million (or 7.7%) over 2020. The largest exemptions in any year are property tax exemptions, which totaled \$1.7 billion (or 89.1%) of the total exemptions.

√ Net tax benefits for IDA projects (reflecting total tax exemptions minus payments in lieu of taxes) totaled almost \$1.1 billion for the year, an increase of \$87 million (9%) from the previous year. This continues a longer-term trend of increasing net tax benefits.

√ Project operators estimated that 221,287 jobs would be created during the life of their projects, with a median salary of \$40,000. This is 1.7% (3,942 jobs) lower than in 2020. Another 241,236 jobs were retained with a median salary of \$45,000.

√ IDAs had total revenues of \$132 million, an increase of \$60 million from 2020. The New York City IDA had the largest revenues at \$14.6 million, \$12.3 million of which was attributed to the project finance fees from the refunding bond closings of Yan-

kee Stadium LLC and Queens Ballpark Co. LLC (Citi Field).

√ Total IDA expenses in 2021 were \$79.3 million, down \$5.4 million from 2020. The largest operating expense category for IDAs was professional service contracts for accounting, legal or marketing services (\$21.7 million, or 27%, of the total). Erie County IDA had the highest expenses (\$9 million), followed by New York City IDA (\$6.8 million), and Genesee County IDA (\$5.9 million).

√ IDAs reported 359 new projects in 2021, led by Finger Lakes region IDAs, which reported 80 new projects with a combined project value of \$1.9 billion, followed by Long Island IDAs with 69 new projects with a combined project value of nearly \$2.8 billion.

√ The number of "clean energy" projects, increased from 25 to 85. Some of the increase is a result of the election by some IDAs to reclassify existing projects, but 34 of the 60 new clean energy projects were approved in 2021. North Country IDAs reported 30 clean energy projects in 2021, far outpacing other regions. In addition, Western New York IDAs reported 18 such projects and Southern Tier IDAs reported 14.

√ Legislation enacted in 2020 temporarily authorized IDAs to provide loans and grants to small

businesses and not-for-profit corporations during the COVID-19 state disaster emergency. Erie County IDA, which established a COVID-19 Emergency Grant Program in July 2020, was responsible for \$5.8 million (68.1%) of all reported grants and donations in 2021.

Three IDAs – Town of Concord IDA, City of Corinth IDA and City of Mount Vernon IDA – did not submit their data in time for this report. The report also contains information on local development corporations, a related type of local authority.

DiNapoli's office examines IDA costs and outcomes in several ways, including performing audits of the operations of individual IDAs, providing training to IDA officials on various topics, and encouraging improvements in IDA procedures and reporting.



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### Town of Porter Highway Department 2023 Brush Pick Up Schedule

Brush Pick Up will commence on Monday, April 17th - 21st, 2023 under the following schedule below.

**TOWN WIDE PICK UP: Monday, April 17th - Friday, April 21st**

Starting **Monday, May 1st** regularly scheduled pick up as follows:

1st Monday of the month, those areas from Lutts Road West

Starting **Monday, May 15th** regularly scheduled pick up as follows:

3rd Monday of the month, those areas East of Lutts Road

**FINAL TOWN WIDE BRUSH PICKUP: Monday, November 6th to Friday, November 9th**

**Guidelines for Brush Pick Up**

This service is for reasonable and routine homeowners tree trimming only. This does not include trees in wooded areas behind homes. **WE DO NOT OR EXTEND LOTS FOR BUILDERS OR PRIVATE OWNERS. If you utilize the services of a contractor, he is responsible for clean up of the trimmings.**

ALL branches MUST be no larger than 3" in diameter.

**ALL BRANCHES MUST be piled as neatly as possible with all cut ends facing the road**, piled as close to the road as safety permits, approximately waist high. This enables crews to pick them up quicker and easier.

We do not go on private property. Please do not request us to do so.

**BRANCHES MUST BE FREE OF ROOTS AND DIRT.** We do not pick up rocks, stumps, leaves, lawn sweepings, twigs, vines, rubbish, etc. Please do not put these items out with your branches. We will not pick them up as they could pose a great danger to the men and equipment.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Highway Department at 791-3831 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday.

Check out our NEW website: [townofporter.net](http://townofporter.net)

**MODERN WILL PICKUP:** Large items will be picked up January 26, March 30, May 25, August 3, September 28, November 30.

**TOWN HALL:** In the fall BAGGED Leaves place in dumpster in the parking lot.

**TOWN GARAGE ACCEPTS:** USED Motor Oil, NO Antifreeze

**Position Available**  
**Town of Porter Highway Dept**  
**Summer Laborer Positions**  
May – September. 40 hours per week.  
Must be 18 years of age.  
Please apply at 1800 Braley Rd.  
between 8:00 – 2:30pm.

**Employment Town of Wheatfield**  
**The Water/Sewer Department is accepting applications for two (2) Seasonal Laborers**  
Please pick up application at the Water/Sewer Department at 3113 Niagara Falls Blvd, North Tonawanda or Wheatfield Town Clerk's office at 2800 Church Rd, North Tonawanda Return them to the Wheatfield Water /Sewer Department NO LATER than Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM.

**Niagara-Sanborn Spring Flea & Vendor Show**  
Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>  
• 9am - 4pm •  
**Lunch Available**  
Hot Dogs, Homemade Chili  
**\$1.00 Donation per person**  
**For School House Restoration**  
More information call 716-957-4851  
Sponsored by **Sanborn Area Historical Society**