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Right team in place for Niagara County's ECONOMIC REBOUND

As we all look forward to the future, I think the question on many people's minds is how do we begin to rejuvenate our local economy post-pandemic? After all, Niagara County was doing exceptionally well before COVID-19. Our sales tax revenue was on a record pace and the latest report of our gross domestic product (GDP) showed the strongest increase of all eight counties of Western New York, up by 4.1%.



Becky Wydysh Chairwoman

So, we know that Niagara County is a great place to run a business. The question is how do we get back our momentum? Thankfully, I believe we have the right team in place at the Niagara County Center for Economic Development. The NCCED is com-

prised of both our county Department of Economic Development, led by Commissioner Mike Casale, and our Industrial Development Agency, led by Executive Director Sue Langdon.

What I want to focus on are the opportunities and programs that NCCED can offer businesses and those who have an interest in economic development. First, one of the best resources for any business owner is the NCCED website, niagaracountybusiness.com. This is a repository of a tremendous amount of information about events, programs, latest news and so on.

NCCED played a huge role in keeping local businesses updated on the ever-changing reopening guidelines from New York state and further provided resources to help employers meet those guidelines. Commissioner Casale also helped lead our ReStart Niagara committee, which began planning

very early on during the pandemic on how to best help our business community. Perhaps the best vehicle for receiving timely business information is the NCCED newsletter. Anyone interested can sign up for this free newsletter at the NCCED website.

NCCED is regularly hosting seminars and forums on topics that matter to different segments of our business community. As you read this, NCCED will have just completed its 2021 Agribusiness Outreach Forum. Last year, this very popular event had to be canceled, but it was brought back this year as a two-day virtual forum. The attendance was tremendous, as those interested in agribusiness took part in several sessions covering topics like crop diversification, agritourism, succession planning and farm labor issues, to name a few. I congratulate them on another successful event.

Next month, NCCED will be

hosting a virtual business workshop open to everyone, whether you have been in business for years or are just thinking about getting started. These workshops bring together federal, state and local economic development partners to discuss their various programs and how business owners can access them. If you have ever wondered about applying for a PILOT or qualifying for a low-cost power allocation, this event is for you.

I could fill this entire newspaper covering all the different facets of NCCED. Instead, I'll conclude by reminding you that staff at NCCED is always available to answer your questions, discuss your plans, and offer their advice and guidance. I encourage our business community to call them at 278-8750 and take advantage of this great resource.

Town Clerk's Corner

Tax payments in penalty phase

•The 2021 town and county tax payment period is currently in the second penalty phase. Payments to the town will be collected until March 31. After that time, all taxes are payable to the county treasurer with an additional penalty and interest. If you are unsure if your taxes are paid, please call my office at 754-8213, ext. 222.



Donna R. Garfinkel

•The Niagara County Depart-

ment of Health, in cooperation with the Niagara County Veterinary Society, will sponsor a free rabies immunization clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17, at the Town of Hartland Salt Shed, 3542 Wruck Road. For more information, call 735-7179.

•Home projects season is now underway. Residents are reminded a building permit is required for the construction of a shed, fence, installation of a pool and many other projects. Permits are available through the Building and Zoning Department. Call the office to make sure your project is in compliance with a permit - 754-8213,

ext. 227 or 245.

•Returning Lewiston snowbirds: The U.S. Postal Service will not forward your water bill. To avoid receiving the water bill late, or the possibility of not receiving it at all, the Water Department asks anyone returning to Lewiston to contact them to change the bill back to your home address. Call 754-8213, ext. 235 or 236.

Residents are reminded Lewiston Town Hall has four white vehicles with the town seal located on the side. These vehicles are used by the Building Department, Assessor's Office, the ordinance officer, and for dog registration. Any

questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Town Hall at 754-8213.

•Dog owners are reminded the Town of Lewiston, including the village, has a leash law. For the safety of our residents and other dogs, please adhere to this law. The local law also addresses residents cleaning up after their dogs. Please remove and dispose properly of your dog's feces.

And please make sure your dog is licensed. All dogs must be licensed once they are 4 months old. You can contact the town clerk's office at 754-8213, ext. 222 or 256.

Proposed recycling legislation deals devastating blow to community newspapers

SUBMITTED BY MICHELLE REA
Executive Director
New York Press Association/ New York Press Service
New York State Sen. Todd Kaminsky and a host of colleagues have introduced legislation that shifts the responsibility and costs of recycling from municipalities to the producers of packaging and paper products. The legislation is called the Extended Producer Responsibility Act and,

in other countries around the world, newspapers have been exempted from these recycling initiatives.

New York should follow suit. In Canada, this product-focused approach is referred to as product stewardship. And while each Canadian province has adopted different stewardship models, there are strong similarities in how newspapers are treated. Their approach

is consistent with how newspapers are managed in recycling regimes all over the world. Newspapers have been treated differently in recognition of the fact that they provide a public benefit, that they can make a significant contribution to public education on recycling, and that they are not a packaged good like other materials in the recycling stream.

Newspapers perform an impor-

tant role in our democracy, and they are not a consumable product - there are no contents and no packaging - the two are indistinguishable. Treating newspapers like packaged goods discriminates unfairly against newspapers - the packaged goods industry makes no investment in contents of their packages, just the packaging itself.

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