



Upcoming . . .

December 21, 2023

Southern Tier West Board Mtg
1:00 p.m. @ STW Offices

January 2024

Transportation Listening
Session
City of Olean

January 2024

Climate Change Adaptation
and Resilience Plan (CCARP)
Community Meeting

Local Government Program

The Fall Planning & Zoning Training was held on November 15th and 16th. Approximately 114 officials attended between the two night sessions. The officials who attended earned 4 hours of planning & zoning continuing education credits.

The STW Local Government Conference Committee meet with NYS Department of State Training Staff on November 16th at Myers Steakhouse in Salamanca NY, to discuss training agendas and current issues.

The Local Government Committee met via Zoom on November 28th to discuss topics and presenters for the upcoming 29th Annual Local Government Conference being held on June 6, 2024 at Houghton College.

Cattaraugus County Career Academy

The second round of CCCA started on October 30th this year. Thirty youth applied and 24 were accepted and are regularly attending the academies. So far, they've toured JCC Olean, toured/explored hospital life at OGH, mastered hands-only CPR, tested their human anatomy knowledge, and discovered diverse healthcare professions. Youth in the Advanced Manufacturing Academy have been cutting, milling, and welding car stands for the Soap Box Derby. They started reverse engineering on a car pulley. In another visited the SPCA to see if there was anything we could build for them - dog and cat beds. This year, CCCA's direct work with the youth ends on December 20th. Over the few remaining weeks planned topics of discussion will be the following: Job Shop, core transferrable skills aka essential non-technical skills (e.g., interviewing, time management, interpersonal communication, critical reading and reasoning skills, etc.), and pathway to a future here in Catt County.

Looking ahead CCCA program manager, Fileve Palmer, is working with local school districts to implement Workforce Development Extravaganzas next semester. Here's looking to Springtime activities!

Economic Development Administration

Economic development staff have been building a network of regional partners to make progress on childcare business support for both existing businesses and start-ups. Grant writing assistance and loan funding are needed to ensure that the region does not miss opportunities to build capacity in child care services and to increase the number of child care spaces available across the region. Staff are planning to create a regional child care business resource team that can assist with grants, make referrals, and provide business plan development support.

Southern Tier West is participating in the Small Business Development Center's rotating "pop-up" business resource nights. These events welcome small business owners to meet representatives of multiple business resources at one time and form personal connections with them. SBDC has hosted these events in Alfred, Cuba, Hume, Fillmore, and South Dayton, with more events planned for early 2024, starting with the village of Cattaraugus.



NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program

NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities program is offering large dollar, zero-match grants to local municipalities that want their communities to benefit from the new clean energy economy but struggle with tight budgets and limited support. STW and NYSERDA are helping local governments save money, grow the local economy, and improve the environment by providing grant funding, coordinator support, and clear guidance for implementing a range of high-impact clean energy actions. Forty-seven communities in our region are actively participating in the NYSERDA CEC program and 29 of those municipalities have already earned the designation of "Clean Energy Community" by New York State and been awarded the grant dollars associated with their designation. By utilizing this program, many local governments with no previous history of participation in NYSERDA programs have become deeply vested in clean energy and sustainability. If you would like more information about how your municipality could benefit from participating in the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program, contact Johnathon Mayr at jmayr@southerntierwest.org, or call (716) 945-5301, ext. 2232.

Sustainability Planning

Water Quality

- The Village of Portville's Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2) Plan is in the process of final review with NYSDEC.
- Drafting a DWSP2 Plan with the Village of Cattaraugus.
- Attended the Great Lakes Action Agenda meeting at Tiff Nature Preserve.

Climate Smart Communities

- Led a community meeting to discuss Extreme Weather Event Planning for the Village of Portville's Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CCARP). There will be another community meeting in January.
- Coordinating Portville's Sustainability Committee – students, residents, and local government working towards sustainable actions for their community.
- Planning a Transportation Listening Session for the City of Olean in January.



Foodways: Stories of Farms, Food, & Resilience is a 7-part documentary that explores the food system of the Western Southern Tier of New York State. The full-length feature documentary unfolds through 7-episodes that examine the global and local impacts of the pandemic, the 5 primary functions of a food system, and a concluding points calling viewers to assess their role and impacts to their food system. This documentary is a project of Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board, funded by U.S. Economic Development Administration.

GIS Program

Q1 2024 will mark the one year anniversary of the STW Community GIS program. According to ESRI, the STW CGIS program is the largest scale data collection undertaking of its kind currently underway in the United States. There are currently 45 municipalities throughout Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany Counties enrolled in the CGIS program. STW created 16 data dictionaries, or "surveys" thus far and have more in the works. These surveys are used to inventory municipal assets such as signage, hydrants, culverts, bridges, shut-offs, etc. There are also surveys available to inventory non municipally owned assets such as local farms, streams, forestry and even a main street analysis. STW can create custom surveys to fit any municipal mapping need. Over 4,500 data points have been collected within the past 10 months utilizing the STW CGIS program. STW continues to hold monthly Community GIS training and Q&A sessions. These sessions are open to anybody interested in the CGIS program and are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the STW offices. STW has received positive feedback on the CGIS program and there is growing interest throughout the State. In 2023 we were asked to present the CGIS program at various regional government conferences including the New York State Town Highway Superintendent's Annual Highway School in Ithaca, New York.