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Northern Oneida County Council of Governments

NOCCOG



— Providing Municipal Assistance to Northern Oneida County Since 1981 —

Executive Committee
Robert Sauer, *Chairman*
John Doiron, *Vice-Chairman*
Betsy Mack, *Fiscal Officer*
Edward Davis, *Director*
Thomas McDonald, *Director*

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Announcements

1. 2022 NOCCOG Annual Dinner Meeting

On Thursday, October 27, the Delta Lake Inn once again hosted the Annual Northern Oneida County Council of Governments (NOCCOG) dinner meeting. During the meeting, the minutes outlining the business actions of 2022, the 2023 budget, and the 2023 slate of officers were all approved. Bob Sauer will remain in his position as Chair. Also returning to the Executive Committee are Fiscal Officer Betsy Mack, and directors John Dorion and Tom McDonald. Chair Sauer touched upon the passing of Director Ed Davis, and the many attributes that Ed brought to the Board and to the community.

Attending from the NYS Tug Hill Commission was Executive director, Katie Malinowski, and Associate Director of Community and Regional Projects, Jennifer Harvill. Also in attendance was Oneida County Sherriff candidate, Jim Scarchelli, former NOCCOG Municipal Advisor, Steve Hunter, current Associate Advisor, Lisa Bellinger, retired Associate Advisor, Harlan Moonan, and NOCCOG GPS Mappers, Mark Clark and Mike Thompson.

Presenters included Khris Dodson and Patrick Lynch, from the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center, and Hannah Phillips, from Mohawk Valley Edge. Khris spoke on the importance of knowledge transfer and succession planning. His goal was to get everyone thinking about the role they hold in their municipality, the knowledge and experience they have, the jobs they do and how best to make sure others know that knowledge, too. Hannah presented on the mission of Mohawk Valley Edge, and the work they do for our local business community. She focused on the Griffiss Business and Technology Park, in Rome, its history, where it is today, and what the continued investment and development mean for our area.

Both presentations and speakers were informative, interesting, and important. The NOCCOG Executive Board and staff are grateful to all that were able to attend and are appreciative of the continued support.



Towns: *Annsville ~ Ava ~ Boonville ~ Camden ~ Floyd ~ Forestport ~ Lee ~ Remsen ~ Steuben ~ Trenton ~ Vienna ~ Western*
Villages: *Boonville ~ Camden ~ Holland Patent ~ Remsen ~ Sylvan Beach*

2. Budgeting and Accounting Training for Municipalities

Instructor Laird Petrie will provide two-day, comprehensive training on town governments financial requirements and regulations. A collaboration of the Tug Hill Commission and the NYS Association of Towns, the two date session is scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, November 29 and 30. 9am - 4pm each day, at the Day One is designed to cover topics that will be beneficial for elected town officials as well as bookkeepers, accountants and comptrollers. Day Two is designed to assist town bookkeepers, accountants and comptrollers to record day to day financial transactions and generate necessary financial reports to the town board and outside agencies. The cost is \$75 for a one-day registration; \$125 for a two-day registration. Tuesday includes a coffee break in the morning and a deli lunch buffet. Wednesday includes a continental breakfast and a plated lunch. Materials also included.



Tailwater Lodge has reserved 10 rooms November 29-30 at \$101 per night plus tax for attendees. Click Book Now at <http://www.tailwaterlodge.com> and use Group Code NYSTHC. Rooms must be booked by November 18 to receive discounted rate. Guests can also call the hotel directly at (315) 298-3434, use Group Code NYSTHC.

For full agenda and session descriptions and to register, click [here](#). Or visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/budgeting-and-accounting-training-for-small-towns-tickets-432721570867>.

3. 2021 Visitor Spending Up 164% in Oneida County



Visitor spending in Oneida County totaled \$2.7 billion in 2021, up 164 percent from traveler spending levels in 2019 before the pandemic, according to a recent study released by Empire State Development and New York's I Love NY Division of Travel & Tourism.

Visitor spending across the region covering Oneida, Otsego, Schoharie, Broome, Chenango, Herkimer, Madison, and Montgomery counties totaled \$3.7 billion. Oneida County represented 74 percent of that total and helped support 33,630 jobs. Spending increased 80 percent over 2020 and 142 percent from 2019 pre-pandemic levels. The data in this release comes from the Economic Impact Study of Tourism in New York for 2021 conducted by Tourism Economics.

Visitor spending supported 19,939 people employed directly, indirectly, or induced in travel and tourism jobs in Oneida County and generated \$1.2 billion in household wages, according to the report. Tourism sustains 22.7 percent of all employment in the county. Tourism-generated spending in Oneida County contributed \$134.3 million in state taxes, while local tax revenues totaled \$123.7 million. That resulted in tax savings per household of \$2,846 for county residents in 2021. Tourism Economics, an Oxford Economics Company of Oxford, United Kingdom, with U.S. offices in Wayne, Pennsylvania, conducted the study. The organization studied several sectors of the tourism industry including lodging, recreation, food and beverage, retail and service stations, transportation, and second homes. In Oneida County, all industry sectors remained steady or saw a slight increase in visitor spending. Each industry saw the following spending amounts: lodging, \$1.2 billion; recreation, \$645 million; food and beverage, \$365 million; retail and service, \$460 million; transportation, \$42 million; and second homes, \$31 million.

4. Oneida County Awarded \$2.25 Million Veteran Suicide Prevention Grant

Oneida County has been awarded a \$2.25 million federal grant to help prevent suicide among military veterans.

The funding is issued for three years at \$750,000 per year through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP). The Oneida County has secured the first \$750,000 and then applies for grant renewal the next two years.



The SSG Fox SPGP is a pilot, community-based grant program that will provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide or coordinate providing suicide prevention services to eligible Veterans and their families.

More than 240 agencies across the country applied for the grant and Oneida County was one of only 80 chosen.

The Oneida County Department of Mental Health will be coordinating the provision of suicide prevention services to eligible local veterans and their families.

The Mental Health Department will be issuing a Request for Proposals in the near future and will be encouraging all eligible organizations to apply. One lead applicant will be chosen to receive this award and will be required to partner with other agencies for this endeavor.

For questions about the RFP, contact the Mental Health Department at mentalhealth@ocgov.net or visit <https://www.ocgov.net/oneida/mentalhealth>. More information on the SSG Fox SPGP can be found at <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/>.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text 838255.

5. Commission Senior Planner/Planner Position

The NYS Tug Hill Commission is hiring either an experienced **Senior Planner** *or* an entry level **Planner** to assist local governments in the rural Tug Hill region in land use planning, local law development and revision, and general technical support to planning boards and other municipal boards. For the detailed job announcement, see tughill.org/job-openings/.

Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to Matt Johnson, matt@tughill.org. Application materials are being reviewed on a rolling basis.