

Executive Committee

Robert Sauer, *Chair*
John Doiron, *Vice-Chair*
Betsy Mack, *Fiscal Officer*
Thomas McDonald, *Director*
Lawrence Mierek, *Director*

Municipal Projects Coordinator

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Announcements

Taking the Bench Certification Course for Justices



The Office of Court Administration is offering a no cost, in-person, Fall 2024 Taking the Bench Certification Course for newly elected or appointed Town and Village Justices.

Taking the Bench is comprised of two separate training sessions, consisting of a five-day training, followed by a subsequent follow-up later this spring. The first session will be held December 9-13, 2024, at the Third Judicial District Administrative Office, 2500 Pond View, Castleton-on-Hudson, NY.

Each newly elected or appointed Town or Village Justice, who is not a member of the New York State Bar, is required pursuant to §17.2 of the Rules of the Chief Judge (22 NYCRR 17.2) to attend the first available Certification Course after their appointment or election. *A non-lawyer Town or Village Justice may not assume the functions of the office until they have filed a certificate of completion of the Certification Course with their municipality (Uniform Justice Court Act §105).* Attorney Justices are strongly encouraged to attend, and some Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits may be available for attending attorney judges.

Registration will close on Friday, December 6, 2024, at Noon. To register, [click here](#). To access the registration form, the “account name” is ‘**court**’ and the “password” is ‘**court**’.

For questions or more information, click [here](#), or contact Court Support by calling 1-800-232-0630 or by email at ojcs-edtrain@nycourts.gov.

Justices will receive their certification to assume the bench after successful completion of the “First Session” of Taking the Bench in December.

NOCCOG Executive Committee to Meet December 12

The NOCCOG directors are scheduled to meet on Thursday, December 12th, at 2pm at the Town of Trenton municipal offices. Along with routine business, other items on the proposed agenda include the next season of the GPS program, sponsorship of the Local Government Conference, the proposed Quick Reference Guide and the annual dinner meeting follow-up. The executive committee meetings are always open to the public.

For more information, contact John Healt at 315-941-2818 or jhealt@tughill.org.



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Webinars from the Office of the Comptroller

Join the NYS Office of the Comptroller Academy for Local Officials as they present their remaining two, no cost, accounting related webinars in December. These webinars offer insight and training of the many principals and procedures relating to municipal fiscal operations.



Click the highlighted session titles to register.

December 4, 10:00am - 11:00am

[Accounting for Length of Service Award Programs \(LOSAP\)](#)

This session will discuss accounting principles and work through journal entry examples to ensure the proper recordkeeping for length of service award programs (LOSAP). Participants will also learn about the establishment of the programs, applicable GASB criteria and reporting requirements.

December 11 - 12, 8:45am - 3:00pm

[Accounting Principles and Procedures](#)

This multi-day school is designed to familiarize participants with accounting and financial reporting requirements for local governments in New York. The course provides guidance on certain operational issues, such as cash management, purchasing, processing claims for payment, accounting for capital projects and utilizing reserve funds.

Click [here](#) for more information, or visit the NYS Comptroller's Academy webpage, <https://www.osc.ny.gov/local-government/academy>

Hazard Mitigation and Water Resource Plans Webinar, Dec. 16



With constant development, ever-changing future conditions, increasingly stressed infrastructure, and growing financial pressures, integrating hazard mitigation and water quality-focused resource management is becoming critical to the success of water systems. Finance and budgeting are often considered a last step in developing a project or program, but incorporating a financing strategy early on in any planning process can help ensure long-term project success. Join the EFCN and Program Manager, Natalia Sanchez, on Monday, December 16 from 1-2 pm, as they present a no cost webinar which will provide strategies for incorporating funding and financial strategies into integrated plans, and explore various solutions for how local communities can pay for water resource projects.

The webinar will cover funding and financing strategies that are likely to apply to most jurisdictions, and move communities from planning to implementation. Discussed will be how to develop a balanced funding and financing strategy that incorporates cost reducers and varied revenue streams. Also covered will be case stories of other communities that have adopted these strategies to mitigate flooding and tackle a number of other local issues.

For more information, or to register, click [here](#).



Pavement Management Webinar, Dec. 17

Join the New York State Local Technical Assistance Program Center, hosted by the Cornell Local Roads Program, and presenter Geoffry Scott on Tuesday, December 17, from 9-10am, as they offer a no cost, informational webinar which includes a means of assessing your pavements. Discussed will be the importance of having a plan as a valuable way to determine the “how” and “where” to make critical investments when maintaining and improving a municipality’s assets. This webinar will discuss the information necessary for a good inventory, including your pavement, then evaluating the results, and using that information to develop a plan to best manage the limited funding available while maintaining and improving your roadway network.



Click [here](#) to register, or for more information, check out the Cornell Local Roads Program training [webpage](#).

Oneida County Transitioning Government Websites & Email to .gov Domain



On November 21, Oneida County changed its government website and email domains to .gov per a New York State mandate.

The main Oneida County website will switch from its current [ocgov.net](#) domain to the new domain of [oneidacountyny.gov](#).

The switch to a .gov domain brings with it key advantages, such as authenticity, meaning users can be confident they are accessing legitimate county information and services, improved security, as websites using the .gov domain are protected by a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) certificate, and public trust, mainly because the .gov domain signifies an official and trustworthy government source.

The change will affect all Oneida County Government-related websites. New subdomains will also be created for the following:

Oneida County Sheriff’s Office: [sheriff.oneidacountyny.gov](#)

Oneida County District Attorney’s Office: [countyattorney.oneidacountyny.gov](#) (TBD)

Oneida County Board of Elections: [oneidacountynyvotes.gov](#) (End of 2024)

Oneida County Opioid Task Force: [opioidtaskforce.oneidacountyny.gov](#)

Oneida County Government email addresses will also change from [@ocgov.net](#) to [@oneidacountyny.gov](#).

The [ocgov.net](#) domain will remain active for at least the next calendar year and will automatically redirect to the new [oneidacountyny.gov](#) domain.

*Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday
Season from all of us at the Northern Oneida County
Council of Governments!*



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