

ANNUAL REPORT



2022



**CHENANGO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

LT. WARREN E. EATON AIRPORT (OIC)

ABOUT US



Shane H. Butler, Director of Planning & Airport Administrator
Matt Gladstone, Planner
Allison Yacano, Planner
Frank Turner, Airport Operations

Planning Department Mission:

To improve the quality of life in Chenango County by providing professional services and programs that promote economic vitality, environmental integrity and strong communities.

For updates or more information on our projects and programs, you can:

**Visit our Planning Department website at <http://www.co.chenango.ny.us/planning/>
or Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ChenangoPlanning>**

Lt. Warren E. Eaton Airport (OIC):

Lt. Warren E. Eaton Airport (OIC) is a County-Owned, General Aviation Airport, located in the Town of North Norwich. The facility supports general maintenance and administration from fees, fuel sales, and Airport Trust earnings.

**Visit our Airport website at: <http://www.co.chenango.ny.us/airport/>
or Airport Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LtWarrenEatonAirport>**

AGRICULTURE

Ag Tour for Legislators

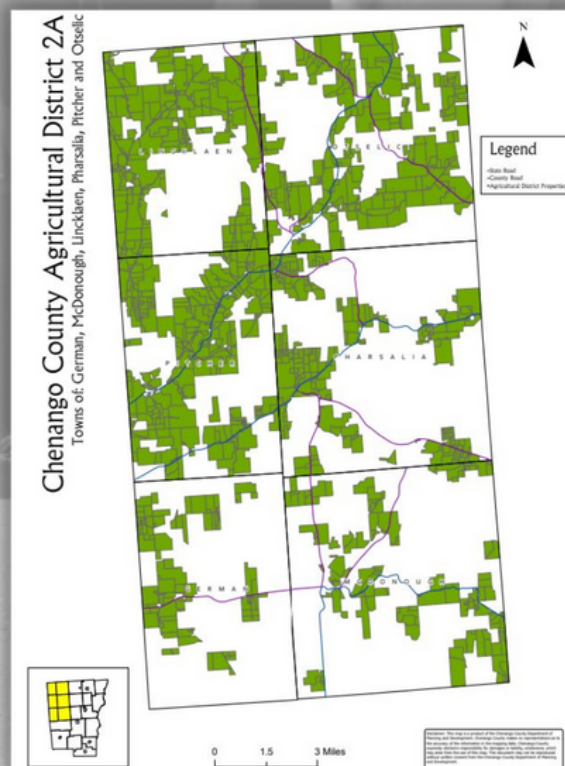
The Chenango County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board held their 11th Annual Chenango County Ag Tour for Legislators on Friday, July 22nd. The purpose of the Ag Tour for Legislators is to give area representatives a first-hand look at agriculture in Chenango County. The tour allows our producers to connect and share their success stories and struggles with federal, state and local representatives who could offer help and support.

Nearly 25 people were in attendance including New York State Senator Peter Oberacker, New York State Assemblyman Joe Angelino, NYS Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, a member of the New York State Ag and Markets and three Town Supervisors.

Stops on this years tour included Freedom Farms in the Town of Greene, The Page Seed Company in the Village of Greene and Cheshire Valley Farms in the Town of Oxford, with a brief stop at Cook Park for lunch..

Agricultural District #2A

The NYS Legislature enacted Article 25-AA of the Agriculture & Markets Law in 1971 to protect and promote the availability of land for farming purposes. Subsequent amendments have broadened its scope and protections for farmers.



NYS Agriculture and Markets requires Counties to review State-Certified Agricultural Districts on an 8-year cycle. This year, Agricultural District #2A, located within the Towns of German, Lincklaen, McDonough, Otsego, Pharsalia, and Pitcher, was reviewed for the first time since 2014.

NYS Ag and Markets requires a district to have an agricultural concentration, or "viability", of at least 51%. Based on our review, there are 46,011.02 acres within the district of which 30,663.99 is viable farmland, constituting a 66.64% agricultural concentration. Since the last review, this is an approximate 5% decrease.

The Board of Supervisors approved the district review on September 12th and NYS Agriculture and Markets approved the district on October 24th. The next review of Agricultural District #2A will be in 2030.

BROADBAND

Chenango County Wireless Broadband Expansion

In Summer 2021, we were awarded a \$1.9 million grant as part of the NYS Community Development Block Grant (CARES Act) to expand wireless broadband service into the City of Norwich and Town of New Berlin. The project was scheduled to be completed by June 2022 but due to procurement and shipping delays, we have been granted an extension until June 2023 to complete the project.

Broadband Mapping

In late 2021, the NYS Public Service Commission (NYSPSC) released a Broadband Mapping Consumer Survey “to assist in New York's first-ever in-depth statewide mapping study of broadband to identify the availability, reliability and cost of high-speed broadband services across the state.” Our office promoted the survey throughout various media outlets ultimately generating one of the highest response rates by a County in the State with a total of 1,263 responses (6.3% of housing) in the county.

Based on these surveys and on-the-ground cross-referencing, the NYSPSC released a Broadband Map showing the availability of internet services at specific addresses throughout the County. In reviewing these maps, we found discrepancies and immediately began working with the NYSPSC to correct the maps with local knowledge and data.

Additional Advocacy

On June 28th, nearly 200 government and community leaders, national broadband experts, and members of the business community came together for the first-ever Upstate Rural Broadband Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Binghamton. The conference was hosted by Southern Tier 8 Regional Board and the Regional Broadband Collaborative to help build the future of New York's Southern Tier through high-speed broadband infrastructure and economic development initiatives.

Shane was a featured panelist, sharing his experience and giving advice to attendees on how to start implementing broadband projects and programs within their communities, while also advocating for more transparency from providers about locations they serve and the speeds available.

Further advocacy has included meetings with NYS Senator Peter Oberacker, NYS Assemblyman Joe Angelino, ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin, the NYS Deputy Secretary of State Mark Pattison and other State and Local officials, and encouraging residents to submit challenges to the FCC maps.



CLEAN ENERGY/ CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

Airport LED Lighting Grant

After achieving our goal of 25 participants in the Community Solar Campaign, we were awarded a \$15,000 Action Grant for clean energy upgrades. After coming up with ideas on what we could utilize this money for, we decided to apply for LED upgrades at the Lt. Warren E. Eaton Airport. As a part of the grant, we had a complete Energy Audit of operations at the airport. By replacing and upgrading the lighting to LED fixtures, it is estimated that we will save about \$1,000 a year on the cost of electric. As we move to 2023, we are compiling estimates from several local electricians in hopes to implement new fixtures in the summer.

County Hosted Trainings

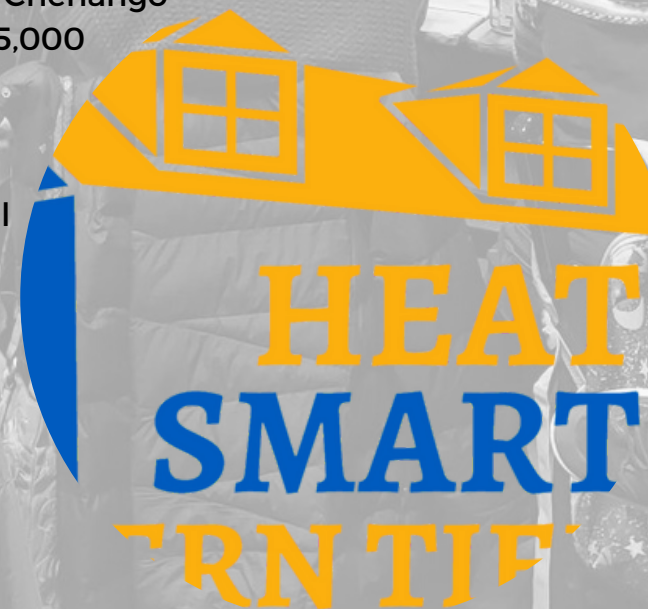
As a part of the Clean Energy Communities program, we hosted three trainings regarding clean energy development. The trainings covered the Model Solar Energy Law, Model Battery Storage System Law, and Clean Energy and Your Comprehensive Plan. These trainings, held virtually, helped many different municipalities understand how to manage responsible clean energy development in their communities. All three trainings netted 69 participants from Chenango County and beyond. A special thank you to Bill Oberkehr from NYSERDA for presenting for all three trainings!

Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign

The Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign, in coordination with the Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow (NEST), residents and businesses will be able to upgrade their current heating and cooling technologies to more energy and cost-efficient ones. NYSERDA altered their guidelines in 2022, and now Chenango County only needs 10 participants to qualify for a \$15,000 Action Grant.

Going into our second year of this campaign, we partnered with the City of Norwich to reach our goal of ten participants in this program. By partnering with the City, we have hosted numerous webinars promoting the program. In December, we hosted an in-person event at Hidden Springs Brewhouse which netted 30 participants. We hope to reach our goal in 2023 to earn points and a \$15,000 grant.

Thank you to all who have participated so far!



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (EMC)

River Clean Up

To celebrate National Trails Day, roughly 30 volunteers, including members of the Chenango County Environmental Management Council, the Chenango Greenway Conservancy, Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District, Friends of Rogers, and community volunteers, gathered at two locations to pull more than 1,250 pounds of litter, tires, debris and junk from the Chenango River on Saturday, June 4th.

A little over 1000 pounds of trash was gathered from site one, an area which included three miles of the Chenango River, three miles of the Greenway River trail, Weiler Park, and Greenway Park. At site two, held at Friends of Rogers on State Route 80 in the Town of Sherburne, eight volunteers gathered and pulled 250 pounds from the Chenango River.

Among the half ton of litter found at site 1 were tires, clothing items, blankets, and plastic containers. The largest items found were three shopping carts and the most unique item found was an antique road sign dating to the early to mid-1900's. Friends of Rogers noted that the most interesting object found was a twelve-foot metal post.

Thank you to our volunteers who joined us in cleaning up the River Trails!

Teaching Vermiculture to Students

Vermiculture is an efficient way to break down organic materials and food scraps by a species of worm who are efficient in digesting organic matter. Matt and Allison visited Oxford Academy and Unadilla Valley and were given the opportunity to teach six classrooms.

In these classrooms, they stressed the importance of composting food scraps. Instead of disposing of them in the trash. Studies show that excess food scraps take up nearly 25% of landfills in the United States. In October, we were able to purchase their own bin in hopes to reach out to additional schools and educate. By doing this, we will be able to analyze interest in the project. After interest is gauged, we can then seek funding for schools to obtain their own bins. Right now, we have set up days at Sherburne, Norwich, Oxford, Greene, Unadilla Valley, and Afton. We will be visiting these schools in Spring 2023.

**A special thank you to Mr. Hunter at
Madison Central School who helped us get
this project started!**



HOUSING

Our office has had a long-standing partnership with Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango, Inc., formerly Opportunities for Chenango. This partnership has resulted in millions of dollars in grant funding coming to Chenango County for a variety of housing programs. 2022 has been no different. Thank you to the staff at Greater Opportunities for their hard work enhancing housing options in Chenango County!

Red Mill Property - Town of New Berlin

In January, a \$5.2 million award was announced for Chenango County to renovate the Red Mill Housing Complex, owned and operated by Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango Inc. in the Town of New Berlin. Funded by the NYS Office of Community Renewal, the project will renovate 18 permanent housing units (9 two-bedroom and 9 one-bedroom apartments). Construction on the facility began in early November and is slated to be complete in May 2023.



Homeownership Program IX

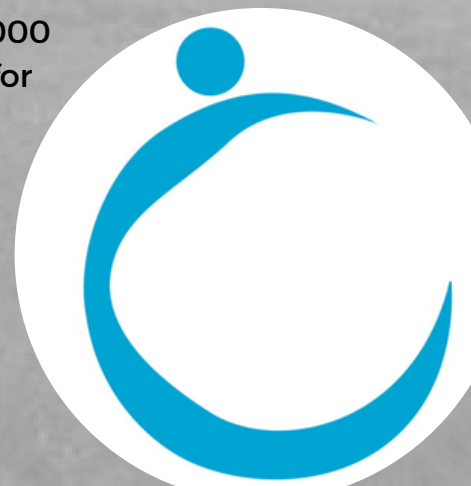
The COVID-19 pandemic really hampered the effectiveness of this program due to the housing climate including increased asking prices and a reduced housing stock due to out-of-area buyers. Originally awarded by the NYS Office of Community Renewal as a \$350,000 grant, the program only assisted four clients purchase their first home. To try and assist more families, we were approved to utilize some of the funds for housing rehabilitation in connection with the home purchase. The grant was closed out on December 31st.

Housing Rehabilitation Program I and II

In May, we closed out the \$500,000 Housing Rehabilitation I Program, having assisted twelve (12) households with serious health and safety threats to the home.

With 125 residences still on the waiting list, Chenango County with sub-recipient Greater Opportunities applied for another \$500,000 grant through the NYS Community Development Block Grant for a Housing Rehabilitation Program II. It was announced in November that we were awarded the grant which will assist fourteen (14) households.

For more information on programs and services offered by Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango, Inc., or to be added to the waiting list, please visit their website at <http://www.greaterops.org> or call (607) 334-7114.



PLANNING BOARD

GML 239 Reviews

General Municipal Law 239-m requires the referral of certain proposed city, town and village planning and zoning actions to the county planning agency or regional planning council. Actions include adoption or amendment of a comprehensive plan, adoption or amendment of a zoning ordinance or local law, issuance of special use permits, approval of site plans, use or area variances, or other authorizations under provisions of a zoning ordinance or local law, so long as those actions are within 500 feet of certain parameters including but not limited to; State or County roads or highways, municipal boundaries, county or state parks, or the boundary of any farm located in an agricultural district.

The Planning Department coordinates this review process with the County Planning Board. In 2022, 38 applications were reviewed with recommendations or concerns sent back to municipal planning or zoning boards. Of those 38 reviews, 19 were Subdivisions, 15 were Site Plan Reviews, 2 were Special Use Permits, 1 was Moratorium and 1 was a Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

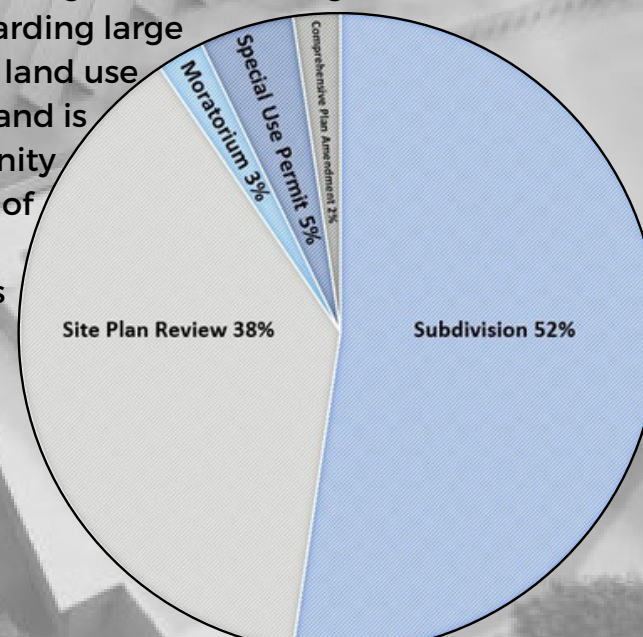
NYSDOS Planning/Zoning Board Training

In partnership with the NYS Department of State, we held our annual Planning/Zoning Board Training on August 24th. Of the 34 individuals in attendance, 23 were from Chenango County, 5 were from Otsego County, 3 were from Madison County, and one from Columbia and Oneida County. Topics were Introduction to Planning & Zoning, and Comprehensive Planning.

Thank you to the New York State Department of State for providing the training and SUNY Morrisville - Norwich Campus for hosting us!

Concerns Regarding Land Use Regulations

2022 brought new concerns to our community regarding land use management. Almost every week, our office was receiving phone calls regarding large development projects in our county. The concept of land use management focuses on regulating the use of land and is crucial in preserving certain aspects of your community such as agriculture or green space. With the growth of renewable energy development in our county, we began to focus on revisiting several different aspects of land use management. Looking forward to the future, we hope to gain interest from municipalities regarding adding or updating their land use management regulations in their towns.



TRANSPORTATION

Since late 2017, the Planning Department has been contracted by the Rural Health Network of South-Central New York (RHNSCNY) to help residents of Chenango County gain access to transportation and promote the Getthere Mobility Management Program.

Much like 2021, we wanted to get out in the community and go to as many events as possible to share the services that RHNSCNY provides for our community. This year, Matt and Allison attended multiple events around the county. Many of the people that stopped at the Planning Department booth took home informational packets and brochures so they could read more about the programs offered by Getthere Mobility Management and pass along the information to friends and family. The most impactful event Matt and Allison attended was the Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival. Over 150 attendees visited our booth and collected information about the transportation programs in Chenango County, as well as information about multiple other services offered by our department.

One of the ways we disseminated information out to the community was by partnering with the Chenango County Area Agency on Aging. Quarterly, they publish the Bullthistle Bulletin, a community newsletter which provides information and services available to the residents in Chenango County who are over the age of 60.

After the initial partnership with Aging, we also began collaborating on a project that would provide the same age group with "ready-to-go bags". These bags contain items such as flashlights and documents with contacts and checklists to ensure you are prepared for any situation. The Planning Department ordered 500 bags that have the GetThere logo inscribed on them, while Aging packed these bags with items. Also contained in the bags, are flyers that promote the services that GetThere has to offer.

In hopes to update the maps that outline the bus routes Chenango County has to offer, we began to work with Chenango First Transit to update the data. By using coordinated GIS data, Matt will be beginning to compile the data and provide a much needed update to the current maps. Hopeful to be completed in early 2023, the maps will then be distributed to members of the community. Chenango First Transit will also use these maps to better the services they provide to the community.

We continue to look for other opportunities to further transportation options in Chenango County. Feel free to contact us with your ideas!



PARTNER COLLABORATION

Biking Skills Course - City of Norwich

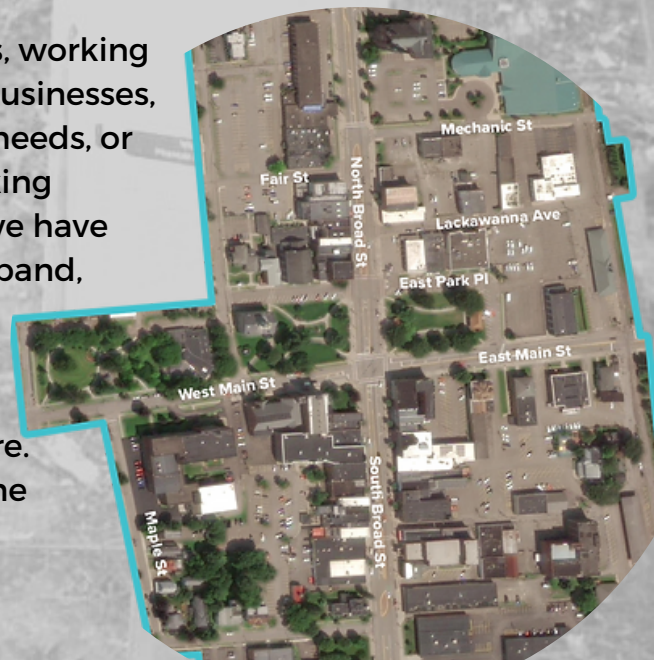
During the summer, Matt presented the idea of building a recreational mountain bike skills park in the City of Norwich. This park will include features that are crucial to learn the skills and techniques necessary before venturing out into the local trail system. After having a conversation with Erik Scrivener, Community Development Director at the City of Norwich, Erik expressed interest in partnering with us to make this plan happen. The first step was to locate land within the City that could be converted into the park. A survey was also created to see if there was interest in the community. 73 individuals responded with 88% who said they supported the idea. From there, Matt, along with the City Planning Department, the City Youth Bureau, and the City Attorney, began the process of looking into the logistics and legalities of the project. Looking forward to 2023, Matt is hoping to finalize these logistics and to begin searching for funding opportunities to make it happen.

City of Norwich Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)

In 2021, the City of Norwich was selected as a \$10 million recipient of the DRI by the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council. A Local Planning Committee, made up of 17 community members from a variety of backgrounds led by Co-Chairs Mayor Brian Doliver and Commerce Chenango CEO Kerri Green, was tasked with recommending a slate of projects for Empire State Development to review and approve. From the original 33 projects with \$25.3 million worth of DRI investments originally proposed, 15 projects worth \$13.6 million of DRI investments were recommended to the State, where the projects will be further narrowed down to the allotted \$9.7 million investment.

Commerce Chenango

Whether providing guidance or support on projects, working together to secure funding sources, meeting with businesses, individuals and organizations about their pressing needs, or just bouncing ideas, we have an extraordinary working relationship with Commerce Chenango. This year we have worked together on opportunities related to broadband, childcare, grant applications on behalf of ourselves or others, site selection for potential businesses, tours of existing businesses, presentations to organizations about our roles and services, and more. We look forward to continuing our partnership in the future!



PARTNER COLLABORATION.. CONT'D

Gaius Cook Park

During the late winter months, we were approached by Julie Gates to assist with their project at Cook Park to replace and upgrade their bathhouse. Due to NYS regulations, facilities must be within a certain distance of each campsite. Knowing this, we were able to put our mapping skills to the test and mark out exact coordinates of the locations at the park. By doing this, we created a buffer-map that was able to mark out the exact places that the bathhouse had to be.

Oxford NY Forward

In August, Allison was approached by Mayor Terry Stark from the Village of Oxford to assist with a grant application to the NY Forward Program. Like the DRI that the City of Norwich was awarded, the NY Forward Program is for the purpose of revitalizing downtowns, particularly smaller villages, and towns. The Grant award ranges from \$2.4 million to \$4.8 million. After submitting our application in September, we received news in October that we had made the Top-5 applicants. Allison, along with 4 other committee members presented to the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council with plans for the project. So far, we have not received word of any awards yet, but look forward to hearing news regarding the application.

Southern Tier 8

As a member-county of Southern Tier 8, we are constantly collaborating with Southern Tier 8, other member counties, and additional partner agencies. We are actively involved in a number of meetings including the Planning Committee, ARC Project Review Committee, Regional Broadband Collaborative, Opportunity Zone/Site Promotion, CEDS Sync-Up and the Southern Tier 8 Regional Board. While only contributing \$56,400 towards membership since 2019, we have received \$2,104,320 in grant funding or support from Southern Tier 8, a Return on Investment (ROI) of \$1 : \$34.

Support Letters and Grant Application Review

Where projects align with the Chenango County Comprehensive Plan, we are happy to provide support letters to organizations serving Chenango County residents. In 2022, our office provided 11 support letters to organizations applying for grants through various funding opportunities through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Empire State Development (ESD), New York State Energy and Resource Development Agency (NYSERDA), and the Preservation League of NYS.



LT. WARREN E. EATON AIRPORT (OIC)

Airport Community Day 2022

With beautiful weather, Airport Day on Saturday, June 11th was a huge success! As always, the focus of the day was connecting our local residents to all the airport has to offer while also encouraging STEM Education to younger attendees.

The National Warplane Museum provided rides to 56 individuals, including several Veterans of various foreign wars. On D-Day, Whiskey 7 was the lead aircraft of the second wave and transported paratroopers from the 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. The aircraft was actually one of the few that made it to the drop-zone assigned to the paratroopers: the town of Sainte-Mère-Église.

EAA Chapter 1204 had five pilots providing Young Eagle rides to youth ages 8 to 17 throughout the day. A total of 84 kids were able to take rides and learn about the inner workings of planes! Of those rides, 14 were Boy Scouts who participated in or earned their Aviation Merit Badge.

Additional displays and presenters included Just Jump Skydiving, DCMO BOCES Career Destinations Program, NYS Police with their Aviation and K9 units as well as "The Convincer", Chenango County Sheriff's Office Child-Safe Program (46 identification cards issued), US Air Force, Mohawk Valley Community College Aircraft and Airframe Maintenance Program, Civil Air Patrol, Norwich Fire Department, and others!

To our sponsors, The Pennysaver, Burrell's Excavating, Chenango Tourism/Commerce Chenango, C&S Engineers, Labella Engineers and NBT Bank, our Volunteers, and all those who attended.... THANK YOU!

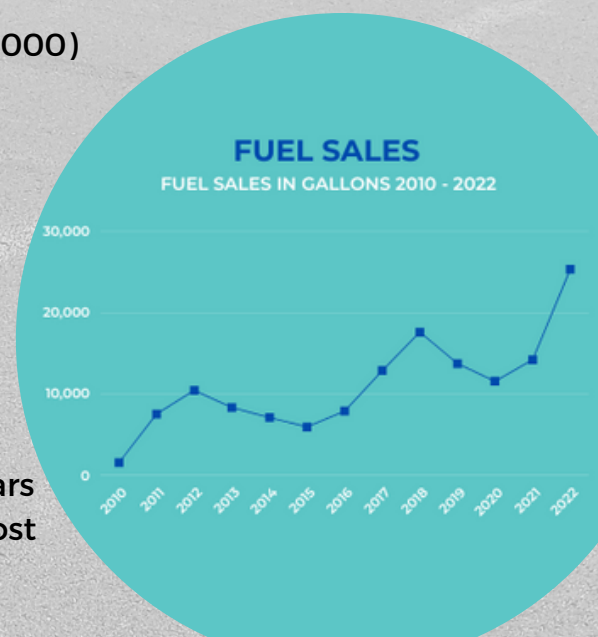
Current Projects

- Pavement Management Study (\$70,000)
- Taxiway Pavement, Lighting, Signage, Design (\$285,000)
- Jet Hangar/Admin Building Renovation (\$463,000)

Fuel Sales

Aviation took a significant hit during the COVID-19 pandemic, but have now rebounded to pre-pandemic levels.

In 2022, we sold 10,822.5 gallons of AvGas and 14,486.7 gallons of Jet-A for a total of 25,309.2 gallons, equivalent to \$148,963.39 in total sales. In the last 12 years that the County has operated the Airport, this is the most fuel that has been sold in a fiscal year.



2023 AT A GLANCE

2050 Vision Plan

In April, Southern Tier 8 notified the various County Planning Directors that additional funding was available through the Appalachian Regional Commission and asked what priorities each County had. For Chenango County, it seemed logical to update the 2020 Vision Plan into a 2050 Vision Plan. Since the 2020 Vision Plan was so massive, it was decided to condense it into three of the most important sections, Economic Prosperity, Public Services, and Energy/Environment.

After discussions with the Chenango County Planning & Economic Development Committee, Development Chenango Corporation (DCC), and Southern Tier 8, our office applied to and subsequently were awarded \$90,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission and also \$80,000 from Empire State Development. We also secured a \$10,000 commitment from Development Chenango Corporation.

The project will start in January 2023 with the issuance of an RFP to select a consultant to write the plan. The County Planning Board will serve as the Executive Committee to oversee the process with completion set for December 2024.

ZEV Grant

In early 2022, New York State released their Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan, which addresses the ever-changing climate and its plans to achieve net-zero emissions. The Plan addresses the goal of shifting completely to zero emissions vehicles. With very little infrastructure in Chenango County to address this matter, we deemed it extremely important to explore the idea of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Chenango County.

In the Spring, it was announced that the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation grant for Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Infrastructure was available for application. A few weeks earlier, Matt and Allison had met Livingston Energy Group, an EV solution provider. Matching with the DEC ZEV grant, Livingston will apply for the NYSEC Utility Provider funding on behalf of the county for two charging stations, providing 4 ports for charging at the Northeast Classic Car Museum.

As of December, we have not heard news of any award for our application. However, if funded, we hope to expand the project to other parts of the county with future grant funding opportunities. If your business or organization is interested in a charging station, let us know!



Anticipating the 21st Century

2023 AT A GLANCE CONTD.

Taxiway Pavement, Lighting and Signage Construction

As part of our Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP), the next construction project at the airport will be the Taxiway Pavement, Lighting and Signage Construction Project. Depending on the timing of grant announcement, contractor start dates, etc., the project will begin sometime in late May/early June 2023. This project includes milling all of the existing pavement, putting down new pavement, installing new LED lighting and also new LED signage along the parallel taxiways.

For convenience, the taxiways will be completed in stages so operations can continue throughout construction, starting at the southern end and working north. Depending on funding, the FAA may allow us to do all three taxiways in 2023. If not, the northeast taxiway will be completed in 2024.

Due to new FAA standards, there will be some modifications. The FAA no longer allows a "straight shot" from the apron out to the runway. To remedy this, some of the pavement will be removed and a new section will be added to the apron on the north side to make a noticeable turn. This ensures pilots have to make a turn and not go straight out to the runway by mistake, preventing "runway incursions" where a pilot/aircraft enters the runway inadvertently, representing a safety hazard. Since this is new construction, this new section will only be 25 feet wide. We are not pleased with this but we have to follow the FAA regulations. All other taxiways will remain at 35 feet.

Jet Hangar/Admin Building Renovation

The great news is we were awarded two grants to renovate both the Jet Hangar and Admin Building. Unfortunately, the Appalachian Regional Commission grant is pending a "Basic Agency." A Basic Agency is a State or Federal agency who can administer the grant on behalf of ARC. We have made requests to several State and Federal Agencies to become our Basic Agency, but at this point we have not been successful. We continue to work with multiple organizations and agencies in order to secure a Basic Agency. Hopefully we will have this secured and maybe, just maybe, we can start working on it in 2023!

Additional Airport Projects

The Federal Government passed the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) last year. As part of this, our airport will receive funding over the next few years for infrastructure projects. Projects we look to complete in 2023 include a new AWOS III, updating the water system, a new roof over Plane Leather Repair offices, a new sign at the entrance, and a new logo with additional marketing of the airport.!

