



Submitted by Ed Bartholomew, President EDC of Warren

January 28, 2014

EDC OF WARREN COUNTY 2013

2013 was a year of changes for many corporations and organizations in the Warren County region:

- New leadership came to Glens Falls Hospital – long-time CEO Dave Kruczynski retired and Dianne Shugrue was named CEO.
- Tom Hoy retired as CEO and President of Arrow Financial Corporation and Thomas J. Murphy was designated as his successor.
- Debabrata Mukherjee assumed the position of CEO of Finch Pruyn from Joe Raccuia, who is now back in the paper business having purchased Morcon with facilities in Cambridge, New York and Rock Hill, South Carolina.
- Richard Cusick is the new CEO at Tribune Media following the retirement of John Kelleher.
- SUNY at Adirondack has a new President Dr. Kristine D. Duffy, who succeeded Dr. Ron Heacock.

Non-profits in the region also saw their leadership change:

- Long-time Crandall Library Executive Director Christine McDonald retired, and they welcomed new Executive Director Kathleen Naftaly.
- Hyde Museum Director David Setford, who has served as Executive Director since 2008, was succeeded by Charles Allan Guerin.
- The successor to the Children's Awareness Museum founder and CEO Jacky Touba departed after a few months on the job and the Museum will make an announcement regarding their new leadership shortly.
- Wood Theater's Bill Woodward retired and his successor is Erin Coon.
- EDC of Warren County also experienced a change in leadership Ed Bartholomew, succeeding Vicki Pratt Gerbino.

Changes occurred among local and State elected officials representing our region as well:

- Dan Stec, Queensbury Supervisor and Chairman of Warren Board of Supervisors, was elected to the NYS Assembly.
- Kevin Geraghty, Supervisor from Warrensburg, was elected to succeed Stec and was recently re-elected for a two year term in January 2014.

Global and national economies continue to affect the stability of our growth in the Warren County region. Governor Andrew Cuomo and area legislators Senator Betty Little and Assemblyman Dan Stec are working in a bi-partisan manner to improve NYS business environments and have demonstrated a strong commitment to assist businesses and communities in Upstate New York. This effort and cooperation is vital to an upswing in economic activities and increased employment for our region.

In addition, Governor Cuomo's recently announced tax reduction package(business, energy, estate tax, residential), which is designed to increase economic opportunity and attract and grow business, will go a long way toward our recovery in Upstate New York once implemented by the State legislature.

2014 Goals & Initiatives EDC of Warren County Where EDC is Going

Our EDC Goals for 2014 include:

- Expand and improve our working relationships with Warren County, Town, area state and federal officials.
- Continuing our commitment to assist existing manufacturing and businesses .in Warren County.
- Promoting and marketing available property sites for business /commercial development throughout Warren County.
- Working with clusters of significant geographically-based businesses, companies, institutions, and organizations within Warren County, including:
 - Paper Industry and related forestry and wood products;
 - Medical Device Companies;
 - Health Care Services and Providers, such as Glens Falls Hospital and Hudson Headwater Health Network;
 - Hospitality and Tourism;
 - Banking and Financial Services; and
 - Arts, Cultural and Entertainment Venues.
- Work with Warren County officials, town officials ,state, federal and the business community to develop priorities for infrastructure needs and assist in seeking funding for: roads, bridges, waste water facilities, extension sewer connections such as Corinth Road, Lake George-Bolton, storm water treatment, telecommunication and broadband, alternative transportation, including buses and trains, Exit 20 (rt9)traffic improvements, and recreation in all areas, including walking trails, bike routes.
- Supporting winter activities/sports, Ski Areas (Gore Mountain and West Mountain, cross country trails), and expansion of snowmobile trails.
- Collaborating with SUNY at Adirondack on workforce development and Governor Cuomo's initiative Start up NY.
- Advocating and assisting in funding the eradication of Asian clams from Lake George and other lakes.
- Supporting efforts to bring an American Hockey League team to the area, together with making improvements to the Civic Center and constructing a Downtown Glens Falls mixed-use commercial/retail/housing parking structure.
- Developing and implementing a new small business loan program to be offered by Warren County LDC.

- a. Finalize -Implement Warren-Washington Bi-County Loan Fund (NY ESD Grant \$500,000),
- b. Create outreach campaign for promotion of economic incentives for retention and recruitment of industry and manufacturing within the County ,
- c. Launch a marketing & promotional campaign for (i).further development of industrial and technical parks Queensbury Business Park, Airport Industrial Park. Tech Meadows, Carey Park in Queensbury , Towns of Chester, Warrensburg and other properties within Towns/Warren County AND (ii) identify/market existing vacant suitable buildings within County
- d. Assist Town,, County, State Officials, and owners of development (Outlet Stores and Great Escape along route 9 exit 20 /rt 149 regarding traffic/pedestrian improvements, identify sources of funding ,
- e. Assist Johnsburg, North Creek, ORDA, Rail Officials , Business leaders regarding retail-commercial development within hamlet, promote North Creek Railroad for increase in passenger ridership /freight deliveries, explore sewer project feasibility and funding, assist Gore in seeking additional funding for capital improvements,
- f. Examine with Town/Village Officials Destination Retail Stores (Recreation/Sporting Retail at exit 21,
- g. EDC available to assist and work with all Towns, Village and City within the County on specific needs/projects.
- h. Assist in implementing Downtown Glens Falls Vision and Development Strategy and Transportation Bike/Pedestrian Pathways Recommendations, Pruyn's Island improvements including connecting pedestrian bridge, Warren,South Street & Hudson Avenue Redevelopment,
- i. Coordinate, partner with Warren County Planning, County Tourism, Councils of Chamber in promotion of County Tourism,First Wilderness Heritage Corridor, Economic Development-share, partner promotional materials, videos, brochures, information areas, linkage websites along with upgrade to EDC display, presentation material for trade shows, meetings,

- j. Serve (President of EDC) as member on the newly created Warren County Airport Advisory Marketing Committee, development of marketing strategy for airport and development of properties along airport, Airport Industrial Park, and Queensbury Industrial Park
- k. Participate with Queensbury, State, County, BSAF officials on future use of former Ciba Geigy Hercules Plant Site (45 acres in South Queensbury),
- l. Coordinate, (assist where possible) with County including County Planning, Town officials on submittals of New York State Consolidated Funding Applications (CFA),
- m. Continued enhancement and development of EDC's new website for developer usage,
- n. Expand and strengthen regional (Warren & Washington; and Capital District) recruitment & retention economic development efforts with coordination with Capital Regional Economic Development Council (CREDC), Empire State Development Corporation (ESD), Center for Economic Growth (CEG), Adirondack Gateway Council (AGC), North Country Economic Development Council, New York Economic Development Council, Business Council of New York, Councils of Chamber, Lake George Chamber of Commerce, Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce, Washington County LDC, Saratoga County, Hamilton County, SEDC and other regional organizations
- o. Support and assist in efforts of SUNY@Adirondack Community College in development of New York State Economic Development Initiative "STAR UP NY" as well as working with area school systems including BOCES, School Districts such as Queensbury, Glens Falls and others to develop greater linkage, connectivity and relationship with economic development organizations and businesses,
- p. Enhance and align workforce development services with related agencies Workforce Investment Board (WIB), One Stop Center (Warren County), NYS Department of Labor, Glens Falls EPA Job Training Program, Veterans Services, Building Trades including Local 773, Community Action Agency, NAACP in order to prepare local residents and businesses for appropriate training/retraining in key industries with regions.

q. Further development outreach programs by EDC

. State of State/State Budget Presentations Jan 10, 2014

Economic Forecast by Hugh Johnson Jan 29th

Senator Little/Assembly Dan Stec Update Feb 21, 2014

Conduct Joint IDA (Warren-Washington County IDA –Glens Falls IDA) Meetings

Conduct Joint Local development Corporations Meetings (Warren County LDC & Glens Falls LDC)

Business Council of NY and Center for Economic Growth partnership programs

EDC Luncheon May

Zoning Planning Forum Fall

Tourism Summit

r. Continue working relationships with federal legislators Congressman Owens, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Governor Cuomo, State Agencies, state legislators Senator Little, Assemblyman Dan Stec

s. work on expedited permit process for development within designated industrial/business parks together with consolidating the various development funding applications (IDA, LDC) and expand/improve on educational/assistance component(including Microenterprise Program at SUNY for potential loan applicants and for actual loan recipients

t. create/develop/expand network of potential developers, brokers, businesses within 125 mile radius of Warren County including Canada

EDC Move to other location and examine/develop IT comprehensive Plan

- Communication Plan – complete a plan and identify necessary funding to address current and future IT needs, including customer management database, e-mail server, integration of all staff hardware(laptops, i-pads, phones etc) for all co located organizations

Expansion of EDC Board & PAAA Transition implementation

- Designated new EDC Board members including representatives from Warren County Board of Supervisors,, Town of Queensbury and City of Glens Falls ,
- Successfully implement all aspects of compliance including all adoption of required procedures and required reporting,
- Update and maintain all aspects of the website related to PAAA, finances of EDC and financial incentives available to Warren County businesses