# **Chautauqua County, New York State of the County** March 22, 2023 Paul M. Wendel, Jr. **Chautauqua County**

Executive

## **Plans for 2023**

#### Invest In:

- Our Workforce
- Our infrastructure
- Our Communities
- Our Economy



## **Conservative Budgeting**

- \$19 Million to Fund Balance
- \$0.71 Tax Rate Reduction
- Fiscal Management Plan Increase Contribution to Fund Balance
- Strong Fiscal Position











#### Bringing Economic Revitalization to Chautauqua County

- 1,123 New Businesses
- Record Investment
  - 300 New Jobs
  - 774 Retained Jobs
  - Construction Projects









#### Record Investment in Chautauqua County











#### **Serve the Needs of County Residents**

- Restructure Public Health Department
- Department of Mental Hygiene and Department of Social Services Integration
- Centralized Finance Department
- Unsolved Cases Team
- Office for Aging Services
- Department of Public Facilities
- Chautauqua County Emergency Medical Services













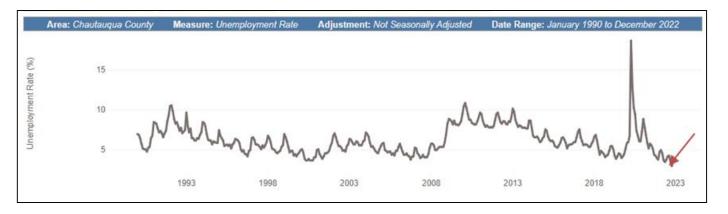


### **Investing in Our Workforce**

- Jamestown Community College
  Workforce Readiness
- Unemployment
  - December 2021: 3.5%
  - October 2022: 2.9%



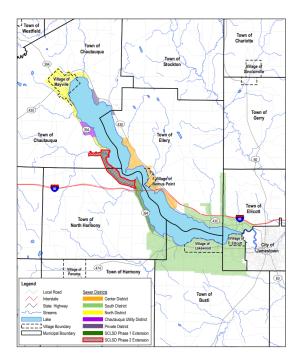






### **Investing in Our Infrastructure**

- Expand Sewer and Water
  - Grant Funded
  - West Side Expansion SCCLSD
- Broadband Expansion
  - ECC Technologies
  - Local Service Providers











### **Investing in Our Communities**

- Downtown Revitalization Effort
- Threat Assessment Team
- Mental Health Response
- Support for Local Hospitals











### **Investing in Our Economy**

- Reactivate Key Vacant Buildings: Furniture Mart Building, Welchs Building, Silver Creek Main Street School, Talcott Street Building, Truck Lite, Lakeshore Hospital, and the former NRG power plant.
- Reactivate Key Strategic Areas: Chadakoin River, Mayville
  Waterfront
- Establish a 150 acre Industrial Park
- Sustainable Lake and Waterway Management Funding











### **Sustainable Lake and Waterway**

## Management Funding to:

#### 2023 Aspirations

#### **Recent Initiatives**

- Improve lake conditions for Revenue Generators
- MOA/MOU Chautauqua Lake Consensus Strategy
- Acquisition of Lake Maintenance Equipment
- Equipment Licenses with the CLA and Town of Chautauqua
- Chautauqua Institution Jefferson Project on Chautauqua Lake
- Village of Lakewood \$450k Loan
- USGS Lake & River Gage Maintenance & Operation
- NEXUS Federal Advocacy for Water Resources Funding
- City of Dunkirk Lake Erie Weed Harvesting Program
- Barcelona Harbor Emergency Dredging
- Dunkirk Harbor Wave Attenuation Study

#### **Co-funding Opportunities**

- Jefferson Project on Chautauqua Lake
- USACE Chautauqua Lake Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study
- HABs mitigation studies and projects

#### Advocacy for State and Federal Funding

- Chautauqua Lake
- Barcelona, Dunkirk and Cattaraugus Creek Harbors

#### Collaboration with County Planning Initiatives

- Mayville Waterfront Activation
- Chadakoin Riverfront Activation
- Chautauqua Lake LWRP updates
- Northern Chautauqua County LWRP
- Chautauqua Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District





The Jefferson Project at Lake George



### **Challenges Faced in 2022**

- Unfunded State Mandates impact 2023 Budget Local Share ullet
  - Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- **Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentages**
- **Record Inflation** .





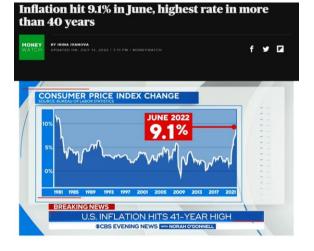
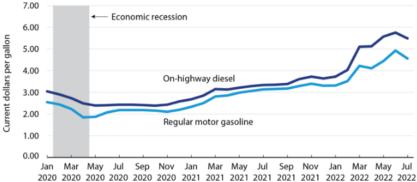


Figure 1. Monthly Sales Price of Transportation Fuel to End Users (current dollars per gallon)





# Thank you for attending my 2023 State of the County Address and God Bless Chautauqua County!