



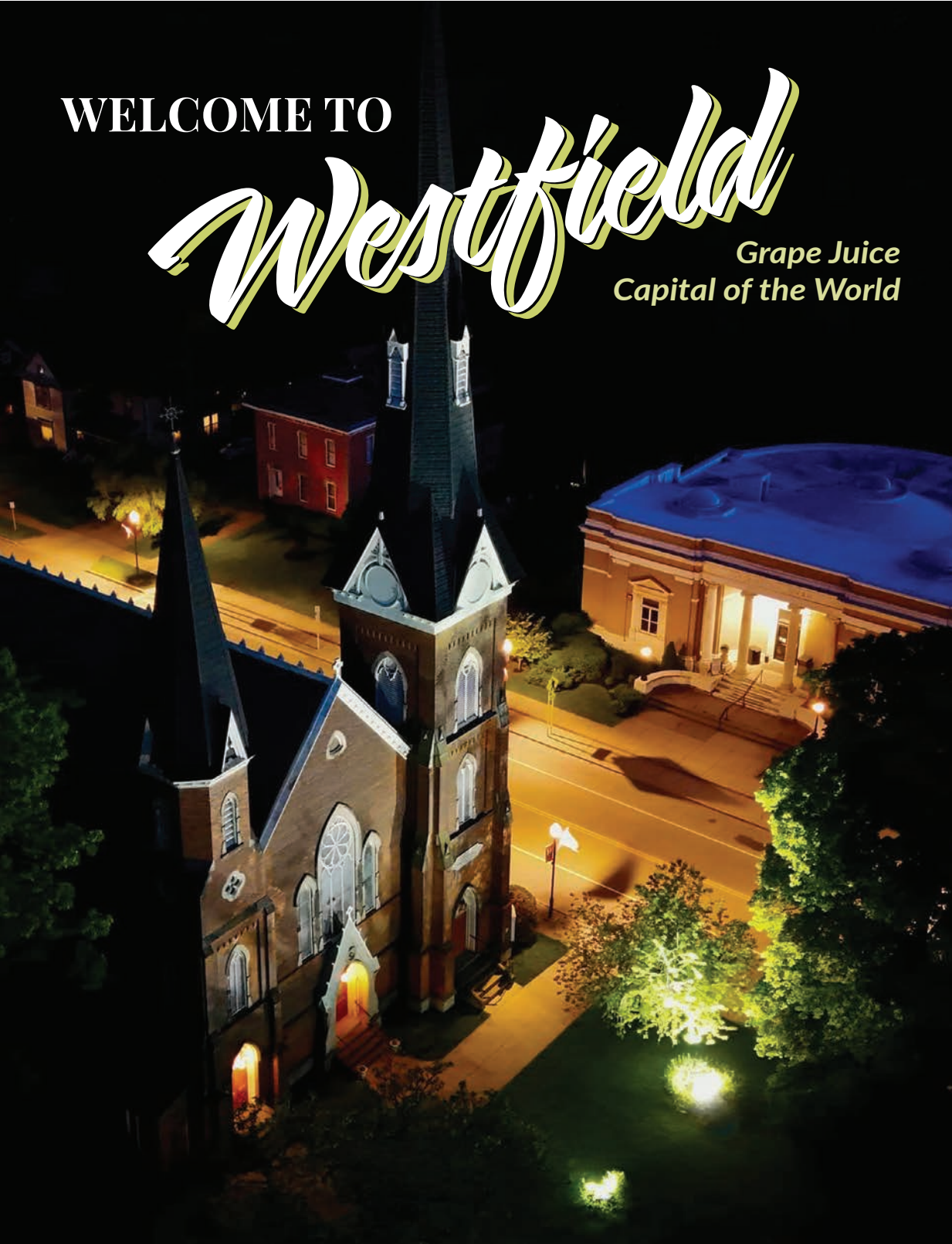
MEUA News and Views

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES
ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

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Capital of the World*



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MEUA Mission

To foster and advance the efficient operation of publicly owned and operated electric systems, including the production, distribution, conservation and prudent use of electric power and energy for public service for the mutual benefit of all members.

Executive Director's Report

Jim Stokes

Where has the year gone? It certainly has been a busy one. Successful conferences and workshops, procuring and pursuing grant opportunities, expanding IEEP funding and working to ensure the continuing availability of clean, low-cost hydro power to our members and your customers—just to mention a few highlights.

I am pleased to report that 11 MEUA member systems were awarded grants in the initial round of funding of NYSERDA's PON 5737 for technical assistance to develop grid modernization projects. Four more member systems are in the application queue awaiting a second round of funding of this PON. We are also excited about the funding opportunity presented by recently released PON 5896, which is discussed in Mike Lyon's article later in this newsletter.

As I have previously been reporting to you, as your representative and contracting authority, MEUA has been engaged in discussions with the New York Power Authority for the better part of this last year concerning NYPA's plans to increase the rate charged to our systems and customers for the hydro power generated by the Niagara Power Project. On December 10th, NYPA staff presented a rate proposal to the NYPA Board of Directors that would, among other changes, increase the current all-in rate of \$12.88 per megawatt hour to \$33.05 over the next four years.

There is no single issue more important to MEUA than ensuring the continuing availability of clean, low-cost hydro power to our members and their customers. While we intend to continue informal discussions with NYPA, MEUA's position is that the proposed increase is excessive. Please rest assured that MEUA is working vigorously to represent our members and customers' interests and to that end we will be preparing formal comments and testimony on a number of points in opposition to the NYPA plan.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and the best of holiday seasons.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Stokes", written in a cursive style.

MEUA News and Views is published quarterly to provide information to the MEUA members on the safe, efficient and reliable operation of municipal electric utilities. Contributions from members and others that advance these purposes are solicited and appreciated. Address changes can be sent to MEUA, 6652 Hammersmith Drive, East Syracuse, NY 13057; tel: 315-453-7851 or by fax: 315-453-7849; email info@meua.org.

This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is furnished with the understanding that the Association is not engaged in rendering legal or other professional service. If legal advice or other professional or expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

Jim Stokes, *Executive Director* • Ashleigh Murphy, *Member Relations Coordinator*

NYISO Update

Chris Wentlent

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all the families that make up our electric municipal utility systems. I hope



this holiday season and calendar year 2025 are filled with health and happiness for you and your families. It is a personal privilege to represent our many systems.

NYISO Installed Capacity Working Group (ICAP) - 2025-2029 Demand Curve Reset Process

The NYISO Board of Directors conducted a hearing on Monday, October 14, 2024. On November 29th, the NYISO Board of Directors filed their Demand Curve Reset proposal at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the filing is now subject to stakeholder comments and FERC approval. We will utilize our next column to provide a detailed summary. If the filing made at FERC is approved, the new capacity market demand curves go into effect beginning May 1, 2025.

NYISO Reliability Needs Assessment (RNA)

On November 21, 2024, the NYISO released the final report from their 2024 RNA Analysis. The RNA evaluates the future reliability of the New York electric grid considering power demand forecasts, planned transmission and generation updates, and public policy requirements. Several major findings in the 10-year analysis include the following:

- The RNA identifies a violation of reliability criteria in New York City in 2033, driven by a combination of factors, including the required deactivation of the New York Power Authority's natural gas plants in New York City and Long Island. According to the findings of the RNA, the reliability need is 17 MW in summer 2033 and increases to 97 MW in summer 2034.
- Continued narrowing of statewide reliability margins: major factors included electrification of transportation and buildings, new large-energy intensive load such as AI, data, chip manufacturing, and hydrogen. Over 2,000 MW of large load facilities are expected to site in New York within the next decade.

- Addition of new generation resources while maintaining existing generation resources is critical to maintaining the proper demand/supply balance.
- Additional Transmission & Distribution assets will be needed to support new load growth, new renewable and energy storage throughout New York State, and electrification of transportation and buildings at the lower system voltage levels.

New York Power Authority Releases Draft

The New York Power Authority released its draft NY Build Public Renewables Strategic Plan during October 2024. The plan outlines how NYPA will become more active in the renewable energy space within New York State including partnership with other developers and development of projects independently. NYPA will create a separate business model and subsidiary for this new area of business. Public Hearings will be held in Buffalo, Binghamton, Albany, New York City, Long Island and several virtual hearings. MEUA will participate in some of the planned hearings. The Municipal Electric Utilities Association (MEUA) provided comments at the Binghamton hearing.

NYSERDA Releases Advanced Nuclear Technologies Request for Information

On November 15, 2024, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) announced the issuance of a Request for Information (RFI) to gauge market interest in activities to develop advanced nuclear energy technologies in New York State. Through this RFI, NYSERDA seeks to identify entities that are currently pursuing or interested in a potential role in advanced nuclear energy development. Responses will help inform next steps following the Future Energy Economy Summit held in September at Governor Kathy Hochul's direction.

Entities encouraged to respond include:

- stakeholders who may be considering advanced nuclear solutions, such as users of large electric loads, industrial heat, and hydrogen—both those

continued on page 6



Independent Energy Efficiency Program Update

Mike Lyons

The Independent Energy Efficiency Program (IEEP) is on track to achieve our 2024 spending plan and has paid out over \$2.8 million of incentives through November for energy efficiency work completed, with another \$1.4 million of projects in process. Cold climate heat pumps, commercial LED lighting upgrades, and residential and commercial building shell improvements make up our top funding categories.



The chart below provides an overview of the wide variety of IEEP spending categories year-to-date.

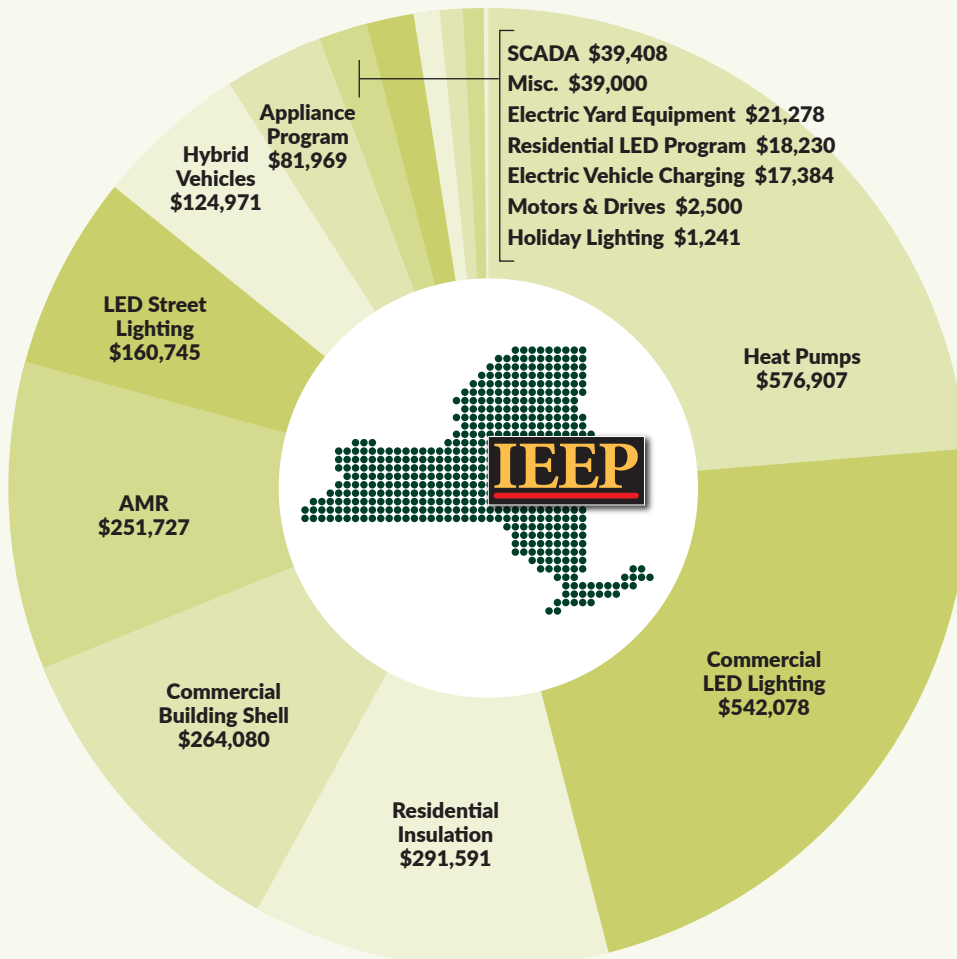
NYSERDA PON 5896

NYSERDA has released PON 5896 which offers \$22,000,000 in funding to NY electric municipals to assist in accelerating and expanding the development of a resilient grid that advances the equitable deployment of clean energy generation, transmission, and distribution assets.

Highlights of this PON are:

- Proposals are due **February 12th, 2025**, by 3:00 p.m.
- Proposers must provide a cost share that is 1/3rd of the amount of the NYSERDA subaward value.
- NYSERDA anticipates releasing multiple rounds of funding through this PON.
- Proposers may submit a proposal for PON 5896 without having applied for or received funding from an earlier PON 5737: *Technical Assistance Funding to Develop Grid Modernization Projects*.

IEEP SPENDING CATEGORIES THROUGH 11/21/24



Approved Project Types for PON 5896

- Project Type A: Adaptive protection technology
- Project Type B: Advanced modeling technology
- Project Type C: Monitoring and control technologies
- Project Type D: Relocation of power lines or reconductoring of power lines with low sag advanced conductors
- Project Type E: Replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables
- Project Type F: Use or construction of DERs for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events, including microgrids and battery-storage subcomponents

continued on page 6

NYISO Update continued from page 4

- already active in New York and those considering establishing operations in New York;
- supply chain companies that could provide critical components for development of advanced nuclear energy projects in New York;
- potential host communities for nuclear reactors or supply chain projects
- workforce development and training entities;
- nuclear generation project developers;
- financing/funding entities; and
- research and development entities including laboratories, universities and private entities.

Responses are preferred by December 16, 2024, to inform future engagement opportunities and planning. Responses may be submitted through NYSERDA's on-line portal. To view the RFI, visit NYSERDA's website. Technical questions regarding this RFI may be directed to NuclearRFI@nyserda.ny.gov.

IEEP Update continued from page 5

- Project type G: Weatherization technologies and equipment

The IEEP, together with MEUA and NYPA staff, will be hosting two webinars in early December and early January to review this PON in more detail and to offer municipal systems with proposal support options.

The IEEP continues to plan for 2025 and beyond to demonstrate the MEUA's commitment to programs and initiatives that support the achievement of New York's energy efficiency and electrification goals. Please contact the IEEP for assistance in promoting our programs to your customers such as:

- Insulation and air sealing programs for both commercial and residential customers
- Commercial LED lighting and variable speed drive incentives
- Appliance, Electric Yard Care, and Heat Pump Rebates
- Incentives for municipal electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging equipment
- Power factor correction for industrial customers
- Custom projects for C&I customers
- LED lightbulb distribution support
- AMI / AMR smart meter programs
- Program marketing support

Thank you to all of our IEEP members who continue to make this program successful. Have a wonderful holiday season.



Tim Moore

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But enough about what we do. Let’s talk about who we are.



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Let’s face it—accountants don’t exactly have a reputation for being fun. But at BST, we embrace our true colors (literally—purple!) and love to show off our sense of humor. That’s one of the reasons we recently moved to a new office at British American Office Park—it reflects our bold and playful spirit.

Visit us in the spring or summer, and you might catch us firing up the grill, taking a break for an ice cream truck visit, or getting competitive during a cornhole match on our patio. Speaking of competition, we take our annual summer picnic cornhole tournament seriously—don’t be surprised if you see teams practicing outside!

An Award-Winning Culture

We don’t just say we’re a great place to work—we’ve got the awards to back it up. We’ve been named one of the *Best Places to Work* by the Albany Business Review for six consecutive years, and we’re proud to rank among the *Top 300 Accounting Firms* in the U.S. by *Inside Public Accounting*.

Work Hard, Play Hard

Yes, you’ll find us burning the midnight oil during busy times like tax season or month-end deadlines, but we make sure to have fun along the way. Good food, drinks, and a collaborative, supportive team make even the busiest days enjoyable.

Come Visit Us!

Want to see what makes BST special? Stop by anytime. Ask for our managing partner, Ron Guzior—he’d be thrilled to give you a tour (seriously, he loves showing off our office).

At BST, we’re more than accountants—we’re a community of professionals who love what we do and know how to have a good time while doing it. Come see for yourself!

Complaint Handling Procedure

Ken Podolny, Esq.

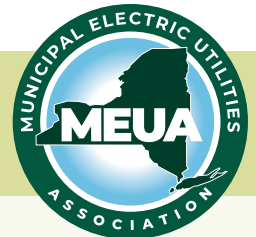


It was great seeing everyone who had a chance to attend the Accounting and Engineering Workshop last month. For those that did not get the chance to attend, and as review for those that did, here is a summary of your responsibilities when you are contacted by the Department of Public Service (“DPS”) about a customer issue.

Quick Resolution System (“QRS”)

Initial consumer complaints to the DPS are handled through the QRS system. You will receive an email indicating that a customer has contacted DPS. The email will include the relevant information about the customer and their dispute. Your responsibility is to:

1. Contact the customer.
 - a. Within 2 hours for service or collection related issue (shutoffs, loss of service, etc).
 - b. Close of business the next day—all other issues.
 - c. This initial contact should let the customer know the name and phone number of a designated representative who will be handling the matter.
2. Resolve the issue
 - a. Review the issue and decide what (if any) action is necessary.
 - b. All issues should be resolved within 14 days.
3. Let DPS know that the matter is resolved—including whether you believe the customer is happy with the outcome.
4. Do not terminate service for 15 days after you have resolved the issue.



John Jennings, Esq.

Harter Secrest & Emery LLP



Everyone is gearing up for January start to the new legislative session in Albany. But there is still some work left to be done. The legislature still has over 100 bills that it must send to the Governor to sign or veto before the end of the year, including several significant bills such as the Climate Change Superfund Act and the Grieving Families Act.

about the legislation because it would have imposed additional complaint handling procedures that would have been very challenging for our members to address. We had been meeting with the Governor’s team and leadership in both houses of the legislature about a chapter amendment that would have exempted municipalities, but in the end, she decided to veto it entirely.

As previously reported, every seat in the legislature was up for reelection this year. Heading into this election, the Democrats held veto-proof majorities in both the Assembly and the Senate. As expected, Democrats maintained strong majorities in both houses. In the

Speaking of vetoes, we have good news to report regarding A.1745-A/S.405—Governor Hochul recently issued a veto on that bill. We had significant concerns



Standard Resolution System (“SRS”)

If a customer is unhappy with your decision, they have 60 days to notify DPS. In that case, the issue becomes an official complaint, handled through the SRS. You will receive an email from DPS, notifying you of that happens. Your responsibility is to:

1. Contact the customer.
 - a. Within 2 hours for service or collection related issue (shutoffs, loss of service, etc).
 - b. Close of business the next day—all other issues.
2. Resolve the issue
 - a. Review the issue and decide what (if any) action is necessary.
 - b. All issues should be resolved within 10 days.
3. Submit your resolution to DPS. The resolution should contain a detailed summary of your findings, including:
 - a. The customer’s name and case number
 - b. An explanation of the actions taken by you before the customer contacted DPS.
 - c. An explanation of the actions taken by you after the customer contacted DPS.
 - d. An explanation of why you believe the actions you took are reasonable.
 - e. Any documentation that supports your position.
 - f. Any additional relevant information.
4. After reviewing your response, the DPS will either request additional information or direct you to take some specific action on the customer’s account.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Assembly, the Democrats retained their veto-proof majority, but the Republicans broke the supermajority in the Senate. Because of some retirements and other changes in the makeup of the legislature, there will be some changes in the chairs of committees in both houses of the legislature. We expect that the new chairs will be announced in the next week or so.

The Governor and her staff are busy putting together her proposed budget, which will be released in mid-January. We anticipate that it will include policy related to energy and the environment that be of interest to our members, and we will keep you apprised once the budget is released.

An interesting dynamic that we will be watching related to the interrelationship between the State and Federal government. Governor Hochul and leadership in both houses have expressed concern regarding policies that the Trump administration will likely pursue. Accordingly, we expect to see legislation and administrative action reacting to actions taken at the Federal level—especially policies related to energy and the environment.

Undoubtedly, this is going to be a busy legislative session, so we will appreciate the relative quiet of the upcoming holiday season (I just jinxed us, didn’t I). I hope everyone has a great holiday, and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

MEUA News and Views • December 2024

Member System Spotlight

County of Chautauqua
23 Elm Street, Westfield, NY 14787
Website: www.westfieldny.com
Email: info@villageofwestfield.org

Office Hours: 8:00am-4:30pm
Phone: (716) 326-4961
Fax: (716) 326-2119

Electric Department:
Phone: (716) 326-2145
Fax: (716) 326-2119

Customers: 3,470
System Operating Voltage:
4,800 Delta Voltage
Utility Established: 1892



VILLAGE OF *Westfield*

Early History

The first Europeans to visit Westfield were French explorers interested in finding a water route between the Great Lakes and Ohio River systems. None exists, but in 1615 Etienne Brule found the next best thing when he discovered that only a short eight miles separate Lake Erie and Chautauque Lake between the present towns of Westfield and Mayville. Indians had used the same path for centuries, but the French soon established their own trail that started in Barcelona Harbor, followed Chautauque Creek for several miles, then ran over an escarpment to current-day Mayville. This trail remained in use more than 130 years, and today is known as the Old French Trail or, more commonly, the Portage Trail.

Settlement

The first European settlers came to Westfield in 1802 with the arrival of the McMahan family, and more followed on their heels. The early village was known as the "Cross Roads" because it lay at the intersection of the Portage Trail and the road between Buffalo, New York and Erie, Pennsylvania.

Chautauque County at that time was blanketed with great hardwood forests and the first industry in Westfield arose to process this timber as it was cleared to create farmland. The main products were pot and pearl ashes, and black salts produced by burning the trees,



which could be shipped to the emerging cities in Pittsburgh and Montreal and across the Atlantic Ocean to the ports of Europe. Sawmills, gristmills, textile mills and other manufactories eventually grew up around Chautauque Creek to serve the burgeoning population. John McMahan's grist mill, built in 1804 at the mouth

of Chautauque Creek, was dismantled during the War of 1812 to prevent it from falling into the hands of the British. The millstones can be seen at the entrance to the Patterson Library.

The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 gave manufacturers a faster route to markets on the Atlantic coast and in Europe, and it was soon followed by the railroads, which opened trade routes with markets both to the east and west.

Grape Juice Capital of the World

The most important agricultural product in Westfield's history arrived in 1859 in the form of the Concord



grape. Though it was popular as a table grape, the production of the Concord rose to new heights when Dr. Charles Welch popularized the consumption of pasteurized grape juice. This product was introduced to a wide audience at the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893, and it quickly be-

came a popular drink across the nation. In 1897 Dr. Welch built the world's first large grape juice plant in Westfield and Westfield quickly became known as "The Grape Juice Capital of the World." Today, Chautauqua County is the largest grape growing county outside of California, with approximately 20,000 acres devoted to vineyards. Some grape



growers have transitioned to winemaking and the town is home to several well-known labels.

Grace Bedell

Westfield is home to the *Westfield Republican*, the first Republican newspaper established soon after the Republican Party formed in 1854. Westfield also was

the home of Grace Bedell, a young girl who changed the face of the 1860 Presidential campaign, or more accurately changed the face of Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln. Grace went to see Candidate Lincoln at a cam-



paign stop and later sent him a letter suggesting that he could garner more votes by growing whiskers. Lincoln took the message to heart and began to grow a beard immediately and just a few weeks later won the election. President-Elect Lincoln later stopped in Westfield and specifically asked to meet the young lady who had advised him to grow whiskers. Their meeting is depicted in statues adorning a small park in the Village of Westfield.

Today

Our grape heritage remains vibrant today with much of Westfield's agricultural acreage still devoted to grapes. New wineries continue to open, and several large manufacturers rely on grapes produced in Westfield, including Welch's, Mogen-David Wine and Grower's Cooperative Grape Juice Company. Other major employers include Better Baked Foods (Schwan's), Renold Engineered Products, Consolidated Communications, Westfield Memorial Hospital, Absolut Care, Westfield Academy and Central School, Family Health Medical Services and Westfield Family Physicians.

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Member System Spotlight continued from page 11



Westfield has seen an increase in economic development activity over the past few years. The building that was the former Welch's Corporate headquarters until 2003 has been purchased by a developer with plans underway to transform it into a mix of residential and commercial space. The Westfield Maid Co-op, which is made up of local grape growers, has purchased a former car dealership property with the intent of turning it into a manufacturing facility for their products. Currently a third party manufactures products on their behalf under the Westfield Maid label. Westfield is home to several restaurants that are highly regarded throughout the region including Brazill's, The Parkview, Grace & Abes, the Main Diner and Quagliana's Bark Grill. A Tim Horton's franchise built a new location in the Village in the past year.

The Village of Westfield retains a quaint historical housing stock and has established two historical districts to



help preserve the integrity of the Portage Trail and the Main Street districts. Homes in the Town are being built in newly established water districts along Lake Erie and overlooking the lake vista along the escarpment.

Westfield is located on the shores of Lake Erie, which provides many recreational

opportunities, including Barcelona Harbor, which is one of only three harbors along Lake Erie in New York State,

and Chautauqua Creek, which is home to healthy runs of steelhead trout, and which offers hiking and camping opportunities as well. We have several beaches and a pier with public boat launch access (Daniel Reed Pier). The McClurg Museum, located in Moore Park in downtown Westfield, is home to the Chautauqua Historical Society and hosts several events based on local history each year. The Westfield Farmer's Market is in Moore Park every Saturday from Memorial Day until October. It was voted 15th best farmers market in the USA and Best in New York by American Farmland Trust in 2017. The Grape Discovery Center provides visitors with information regarding the local grape growing industry and other local grape based attractions including several wineries.

Contact information for visitor / tourism information:

Westfield-Barcelona Community Chamber of Commerce
Coordinator: Staunzie Grady,
email: sgrady@chqchamber.org,
phone: 716-484-1101 ext. 300

Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau
Chautauqua Main Gate, Route 394, P.O. Box 1441,
Chautauqua, NY 14722 • 866-908-4569

Contact information for economic development opportunities (local offices and/or county Industrial Development Agencies):

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Ph: (716) 326-2200
Donald McCord, Executive Director
dmccord@westfieldny.com

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