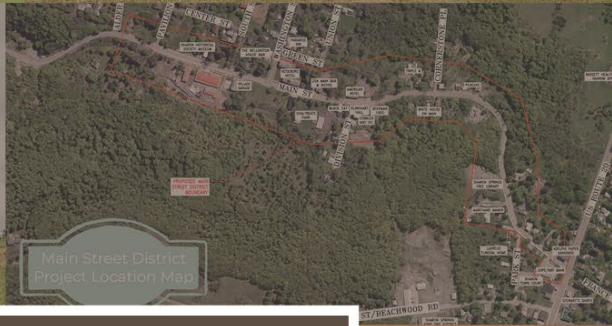




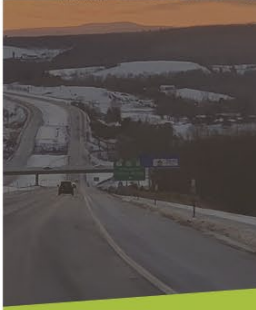
**FREE WIFI**

Network: Fountain Town Free WiFi  
Password: fountain



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2022



DEMONSTRATING 21ST CENTURY PROGRESS



Schoharie Economic Enterprise Corp



## MARCHING TOWARDS PROSPERITY

Fostering economic growth continues to be at the heart of SEEC's efforts, and 2022 offered a chance to demonstrate progress. Key initiatives required groundwork to be laid, and with the COVID-19 crisis becoming less impactful on day-to-day lives in Schoharie County communities, it was time to get back to resiliency-minded work building on key initiatives rather than the reactive work of recovering from the pandemic. Yet, the results of that crisis will continue to inform how economic development can march forward with main street, digital and industrial strategies.

In 2022, SEEC moved to address the digital divide in a tangible way to reduce the lack of equity that stems from a lack of digital connectivity. Forward also came a commitment to Main Street as a continuation of the community-centered work of the pandemic but with a rejuvenated perspective redirected to growth and progress. Finally, industrial development initiatives built upon previous corridor development efforts and offered a chance to attract investment. This goal of investment in targeted sites will offer new job opportunities and a decreased tax burden, benefiting the current residents and business owners while cultivating an environment for further investment.

What came to the surface throughout all of the work SEEC accomplished in 2022, was the importance of nurturing collaboration through each and every initiative. No one organization can foster growth and prosperity on its own. Schoharie County's impact is unmatched when community comes together. SEEC is honored to have a network of local and regional alliance members who are also working towards mission-driven goals that support prosperity, resilience, and community. As such, heading into our fifth year of operations, SEEC initiated the strategic alignment process to ensure we are strengthening into aligned efforts to build the prosperous Schoharie County of the future. ♦





## MISSION

Strengthen Schoharie County by fostering economic growth.



## SECC 2022 INITIATIVES

**MAIN STREET:** Preserving the character of our communities to ensure the essence that makes Schoharie County such a special place to live, work and play remains a throughline as we demonstrate progress and foster economic prosperity.

**DIGITAL STRATEGIES:** Building the infrastructure and services to ensure every person in Schoharie County has digital access and opportunities. From accessing healthcare and education services to leveraging digital marketing tools and talent - the 21st century economy is here.

**INDUSTRIAL STRATEGIES:** Leveraging key strategic investment sites for developing opportunities and addressing the supply chain. Industrial development unlocks large-scale investment that offsets the tax burden for residents and serves as a catalyst for downtown vitality. ♦



# A PLACE WORTHY OF INVESTMENT

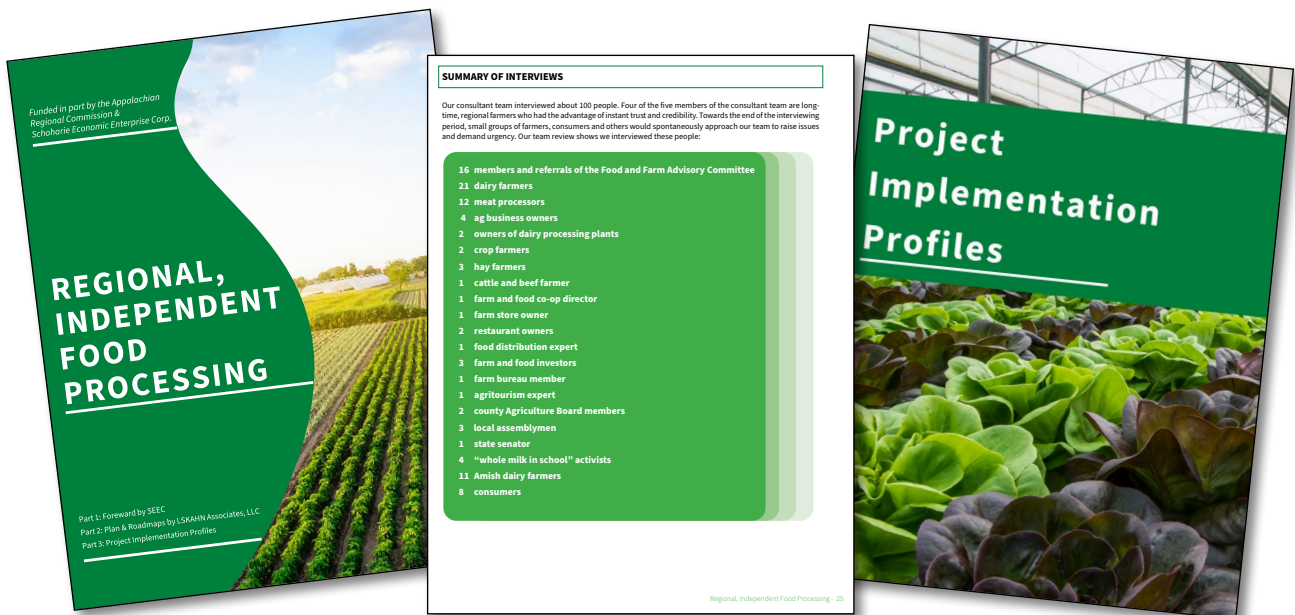
*Industrial development set record highs in 2022 and Schoharie County has fertile ground for supply chain investment.*

## REGIONAL INDEPENDENT FOOD PROCESSING

The pandemic shone a spotlight on the fragility of the supply chain. With a historical legacy in agriculture, SEEC acted to find solutions and ensure that Schoharie County served as a leading community for the regional effort. Awarded in 2021, funding from Appalachian Regional Commission matched by SEEC, was channeled to develop a Regional Independent Food Processing Plan and 7 Roadmaps. Guided by a volunteer Farm and Food Advisory Council and led by a consultation team, 85 agriculture-related organizations provided insights into their experiences and needs. The resulting Regional Independent Food Processing Plan highlights the work of 11 organizations poised to make upwards of \$6 million investments among the tri-county service area - Schoharie, Otsego & Delaware Counties. ♦

### THE AREAS OF FOCUS:

- ♦ **Independent dairy processing**, leveraging the highest sales volume commodity of the tri-county service area, SUNY Cobleskill Dairy Incubator and/or use of other nearby co-packing facilities
- ♦ **Protein processing**, leveraging USDA's \$500 million investment and recognized service shortage
- ♦ **Cold storage**, leveraging market trends and supply chain gaps
- ♦ **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)**, explore new models that may encourage multi-farm collaborations and address logistics issues ♦





## LEVERAGING KEY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In support of the recommendations of the County adopted corridor development strategies and MRB Group proposed industrial site assessments, SEEC coordinated site tours engaging elected officials and development professionals to leverage expertise to define opportunities at the I-88 interchanges and Route 7 commercial corridor. This included looking to Industrial Development Agencies across the state to utilize their insights to implement a best-practice approach to the development of these key locations. Advancing the work, SEEC advocated to direct \$750,000 of American Rescue Plan Act investments toward site readiness. The County Board of Supervisors agreed.

Building off of the MRB report that identified the key strategic areas for development, SEEC is poised to further assist the Towns along the corridor leverage FAST NY grant funding to make the infrastructure improvements necessary to accommodate larger-scale developments. These types of community investments offer new job opportunities, increase the tax base, including for school districts, and generate more sales tax revenue which offsets the real property tax burden for Schoharie County residents. This type of tax impact can serve as a catalyst for further investment.

A \$460,000 Empire State Development Capital Grant was also secured by SEEC to assist with the construction of a 40,000 sqft facility. The proposed Highbridge Development off of the I-88 exit 23 in Schoharie has received SEEC's endorsement as a proposed \$65 million investment to induce hundreds of jobs and demonstrate the value of the local transportation routes. ♦



*Photos: 2022 Highbridge Site Visit & Renderings*



# POWERING A DIGITAL REVOLUTION

**SEEC advocated for Schoharie County investments to implement 21st century digital strategies. CDBG-CV: \$741,000 ARPA: \$100,000**

## WI-FI FOR THE VILLAGE OF SCHOHARIE

Leveraging \$100,000 from the Community Development Block Grant program, SEEC worked with the County and the Village of Schoharie to install a free wi-fi network for the Village. This unlocks access for Village residents who may be unserved when it comes to internet access. MIDTEL ultimately won the bid to build out this network which is now live. Free wi-fi stickers adorn the front windows of Main Street businesses, encouraging locals and visitors alike to take advantage of this free resource. ♦

## FREE WIFI

Network: Fountain Town Free WiFi  
Password: fountain



Powered by Schoharie County's  
Digital Revolution

**Schoharie**  
VILLAGE OF  
A good life, in a beautiful place.  
schoharievillage.com

Are you  
connected?

Take the broadband survey  
**TODAY!**

SEEC  
NEW YORK STATE OF COMMUNITY  
Broadband Assessment Project

855-692-2627 | [WWW.SCHOHARIEBROADBAND.COM](http://WWW.SCHOHARIEBROADBAND.COM)

## BROADBAND FOR ALL

In a post pandemic world, SEEC has been monitoring the rollout of broadband build out funding at both the state and federal levels. Rural communities across the Country were impacted uniquely throughout the crisis due to the difference in broadband access. With this anticipated infrastructure funding in the pipeline, SEEC requested \$100,000 of the Schoharie County American Rescue Plan Act funding be allocated to broadband planning for the County to identify where the unserved locations exist and what the anticipated costs are for those different areas, with the goal of getting 100% access in Schoharie County. Approved in 2022, that plan is expected to be delivered in 2023 and will ensure Schoharie County is ready to take advantage of the state and federal funding as soon as it is formally announced to close the digital divide. ♦

Are you  
connected?  
We need your input about  
Schoharie County internet access.

Take the broadband survey  
**TODAY!**

To take the survey, visit [www.schohariebroadband.com](http://www.schohariebroadband.com)  
or call 1-855-692-2627 to request a paper copy of the survey.

Close the digital divide. Prosper in Schoharie County.

SEEC  
NEW YORK STATE OF COMMUNITY  
Broadband Assessment Project

[WWW.SCHOHARIEBROADBAND.COM](http://WWW.SCHOHARIEBROADBAND.COM)

**TODAY!** VERIFY YOUR  
BROADBAND ACCESS

MAKE SURE YOUR STUDENT HAS  
THE ACCESS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED.

TO VERIFY ACCURACY OF BROADBAND SERVICE  
AT YOUR HOME ADDRESS VISIT  
[WWW.MAPMYBROADBAND.DPS.NY.GOV](http://WWW.MAPMYBROADBAND.DPS.NY.GOV)

Contact SEEC at 518-517-1700 for support reviewing the NYS Broadband Map

SEEC  
NEW YORK STATE OF COMMUNITY  
Broadband Assessment Project

[WWW.MAPMYBROADBAND.DPS.NY.GOV](http://WWW.MAPMYBROADBAND.DPS.NY.GOV)

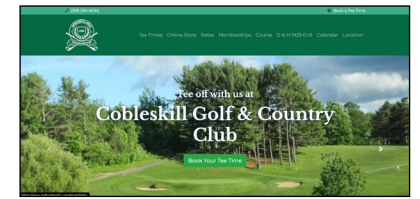
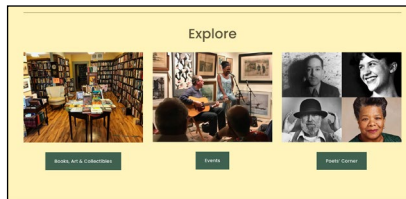
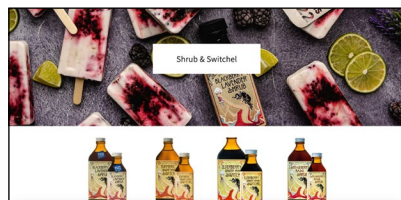
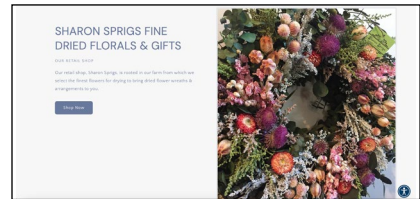
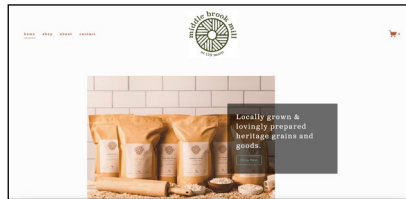
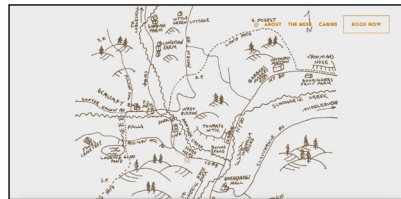
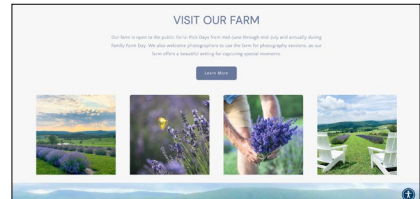
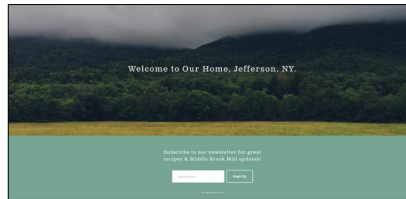
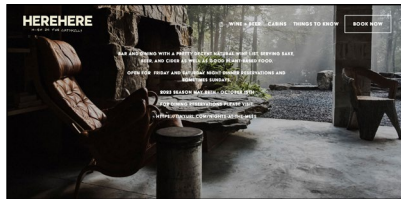




## ELEVATING THE DIGITAL PRESENCE

Once again leveraging Community Development Block Grant funding, SEEC led the disbursement of the direct-to-business digital marketing grants. This program was developed with the help of SEEC Advisors to channel dollars directly to businesses to help them utilize digital marketing professionals to create or enhance their digital marketing tools and platforms. The resulting first round of funding of \$366,000 was quickly exhausted while the demand was demonstrated through a high volume of qualifying applications. SEEC then successfully requested an additional \$375,000 from the State to ensure the qualified business would be able to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

The results ended with 26 businesses receiving funding, which represented 9 different Schoharie County Towns and 60% of whom are women-led businesses. Those businesses were able to retain 42 jobs and create 16 new jobs through 2022. Looking ahead in 2023, more jobs are expected to be retained and created through increased revenue and brand exposure for the business in the program as they embark on their first full year with these new and improved digital marketing tools at their disposal. ♦



## DIRECT-TO-BUSINESS DIGITAL MARKETING GRANT RECIPIENTS:

- ◆ Apple Barrel\*
- ◆ Bear Gulch Tack Shop
- ◆ Camp HereHere\*
- ◆ The Canine Center at Hessian Hill\*
- ◆ Casey Beal Designs\*
- ◆ Cobleskill Golf and CC
- ◆ Country Manor Inn
- ◆ El Taco Shack
- ◆ Empty Pockets Ranch\*
- ◆ Four Star Realty Group\*
- ◆ Hickory Knolls Thoroughbreds\*
- ◆ Hop House Farm
- ◆ McGillicuddy's Naturals\*
- ◆ Middle Brook Mill\*
- ◆ Olde Tater Barn\*
- ◆ Panther Creek Arts\*
- ◆ River Street Social\*
- ◆ Schoharie Valley Pilates\*
- ◆ Scrumpy Ewe Cider
- ◆ Sharon Sprigs Florals\*
- ◆ Smyth-Cid Pottery
- ◆ The Studio of Art and Craft\*
- ◆ W. Whitman Books
- ◆ Weathertop Farm\*
- ◆ Wood & Wool
- ◆ Wayward Lane Brewery

*\*women-led business*





# A COMMITMENT TO MAIN STREET

## TWO FINALISTS FOR NY FORWARD PROGRAM

A new program was announced by New York State in 2022 and SEEC was enthusiastic to provide support to Schoharie County Villages preparing and submitting applications to this program.

NY Forward is a program that adopts the plan-then-act strategies of their hallmark Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). Both programs are designed to support the revitalization of communities across New York State through significant and strategic funding. Applications require clear direction and demonstrate targeted investments. Upon the announcement, two Schoharie County communities acted to put together applications, the Village of Sharon Springs and the Village of Schoharie. SEEC worked to provide support to both Villages.

Both communities were finalists, meaning Schoharie County was poised to have at least one winner in the first round of this new program. The Village of Sharon Springs ultimately won a \$2.25 million grant award, which was announced in early 2023. With this success, SEEC's team is helping to revise the application for the Village of Schoharie and is ready to provide support to other interested Villages to ensure that these grant dollars are channeled into Schoharie County communities to revitalize the one-of-a-kind character that makes each Village such a special place to call home. ♦



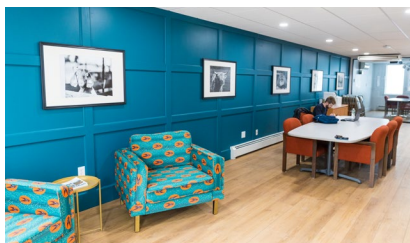
## SEEC celebrates economic development collaboration.

### CUTTING THE RIBBON ON 287 MAIN

In September of 2022, SEEC cut the ribbon on its new headquarters and hub for economic development. Facilitated by Assemblyman Tague, the building was donated by Bank of America in 2021 and underwent a robust renovation throughout 2022, transforming the space into a physical embodiment of 21st century progress. The formal Ribbon Cutting in September 2022 welcomed dignitaries, alliance members, community stalwarts, small business owners and more.

Even before the formal opening, SEEC launched the programming series Women Leading Business. The first in the series featured women in agriculture and created a dialogue about what realities exist for women who are balancing their businesses, careers and families. Each in the series built upon that foundation and panelists and attendees alike were able to build connections and uplift fellow rural women innovators.

The programming continued, offering two additional Women Leading Business events, a Resource Roundtable covering project development targeted for the grant application process, an After Hours networking event in partnership with the Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce, a digital marketing series, and two help desk opportunities. The first help desk featured Destination Marketing Corporation and offered marketing support for tourism related businesses. The second help desk featured Mosaic Mountain Media, which offered digital marketing support to any Schoharie County business. The programming will continue to serve as a community resource and opportunity for enhanced connections with the variety of people in Schoharie County who participate in furthering economic development. ♦



**DIGITAL MARKETING SHOWCASE**

FEATURING

**H-P HOUSE HUNTER**

**FOUR STAR REALTY GROUP INC.**

**W. Whitman Books**  
Middleburgh, NY

**September 21, 2022**  
Panel Starts at 4:30pm

**WOMEN LEADING BUSINESS SPEAKER SERIES**

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**  
SEPTEMBER 21 • 6-7PM | 287 MAIN ST SCHOHARIE

*This event is free and open to the public.*  
We welcome people of all genders to celebrate and uplift the inspiring women of Schoharie County.

**JESSIE CORALLO**  
Sustainable Growth

**ELAN FRASER**  
Farm Valley

**LESLIE J. PRICE**  
JL & Co. Organic Hair Salon and Barber Shop

**ERICA WEISS**  
Weiss Ferments

**REGISTER TODAY!**





## A TOAST TO THE TOWN

SEEC celebrated 2022 with a first-of-its-kind event to honor the collaboration that makes everything SEEC achieves possible. The event was hosted by honorary chairpersons Dusty and Tom Putnam and featured local fare. Catering was handled by Farmer's Beef & Brew, a Schoharie restaurant that is committed to sourcing local farm fresh ingredients to the menu. Local beverages were also featured from Middleburgh Winery, Wayward Lane Brewery and a signature cocktail spotlighting Sauvage Distillery Kosher Vodka. Both Wayward Lane Brewery and Sauvage Distillery are award-winning producers and were awarded grants through programs administered by SEEC.

SEEC's team hoped to create a night to honor community and connection, culminating with the newly established Enlighten and Aspire Awards. Schoharie River Center was the recipient of the Enlighten Award, honoring an organization that filled educational gaps supporting Schoharie County's resiliency. The Aspire Award, meant to recognize an individual or organization that has ascended or transcended in their industry, was granted to Tina Wellman, CEO of BrightDrive Healthcare Solutions.

*Save the Date for Toast to the Town 2023: December 6, 2023* ♦



*Photos: 2022 Toast to the Town*





# SEEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**THOMAS O. PUTNAM**

Founder & Executive Chairman,  
Fenimore Asset Management;  
Co-Manager of FAM Funds,  
SEEC Chairperson

**ERIC H. STEIN, FACHE**

President of Cobleskill Regional Hospital,  
SEEC Treasurer

**PETER J. JOHNSON**

Former Historian  
for David Rockefeller,  
SEEC Secretary

**JAMES R. BECKER**

President of MIDTEL; President of INOC Datacenters  
SEEC Founder

**STEPHEN A. HARRIS**

Executive Chairman of Sterling Insurance Co.  
SEEC Founder

## SEEC ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Korsah Akumfi**, Schoharie  
County Administrator (2023)

**Richard Ball**, Commissioner  
of Agriculture, NYS  
Department of  
Agriculture & Markets

**Cindy Barber**, President,  
Barber's Family Farm

**Jim Barber**, Ag & Farmland  
Implementation Specialist,  
Cornell Cooperative  
Extension

**Paul M. Conroy**, Retired  
Vice President of Global  
Marketing and Sales,  
Hanwha L&C

**Ron Filmer**, Chief Executive  
Officer, Schoharie  
County IDA

**Bart Finegan**, Retired  
Executive

**Dr. S. Scott Ferguson**,  
Executive Director,  
Institute for Rural Vitality  
at SUNY Cobleskill

**Jacqui Hauser**, Owner,  
Global HR Strategies

**Donna LaVigne**, Retired  
Small Business Owner

**Maureen Lodes**, Owner,  
Cobbler & Co

**Leo T. McAllister**, Wealth  
Advisor, Cadaret Grant & Co

**Augustus McGiver**, Chief of  
Staff, SUNY Cobleskill (2023)

**Benjamin Oevering**,  
Councilman, Town of  
Schoharie

**Doug Plummer**, Mayor,  
Village of Sharon Springs

**Nan Stolzenburg**, Principal,  
Community Planning &  
Environmental Associates

**Dr. Marion A. Terenzio**  
President, SUNY  
Cobleskill

**Alicia Terry**, Supervisor,  
Town of Gilboa (2023)

**Dr. Tara Winter**, Chief  
Strategic Planning and  
Institutional Effectiveness  
Officer, SUNY Cobleskill

## SEEC ASSOCIATES, 2023

**Julie Pacatte**, Executive Director

**Autumn Roney**, Administrative Associate

**Sam Forehand**, Strategic Collaborations & Communications Associate

**Spencer Cocca**, Associate Project Specialist (2022)

**Anne Sacket**, Finance Associate (2022)

## SEEC FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022

<b>Revenue &amp; Support</b> (Donations w/o Restrictions)	\$ 512,595
<b>With Donor Restrictions (287 Main)</b>	(\$ 125,000)
<b>Expenses</b> <i>Program</i>	\$409,192
<i>Management</i>	\$64,804
<b>Net Assets Year End 2022</b>	<b>\$ 1,158,764</b>

**MAILING ADDRESS:** PO BOX 1099, SCHOHARIE, NY 12157

**PHYSICAL ADDRESS:** 287 MAIN STREET, SCHOHARIE, NY 12157

518-517-1700 | WWW.SEECN.Y.ORG | @SEEC\_UPSTATENY