



News From

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Monroe County Executive

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE CHERYL DINOLFO DELIVERS 2017 STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS

Unwavering Focus on Jobs, Promises Kept and Investments in the Community

Monroe County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** today delivered her first State of the County Address at the new Monroe Community College (MCC) downtown campus. In the address, **Dinolfo** highlighted her promises kept, and she reiterated her focus on growing the economy, creating jobs and improving lives.

Unwavering Focus on Jobs

Dinolfo made job creation a major focus of her address, including three new economic development programs.

Paths to Empowerment – This innovative program will connect individuals transitioning from public assistance with job coaching, financial literacy and drop-in childcare. The program will ease the transition for newly employed workers and assist in building self-sufficiency.

LadderZup – This ground-breaking program will recruit, train and place workers into the most in-demand careers in Monroe County. Childcare will even be provided for program enrollees, funded by Imagine Monroe.

Job Creation Leadership Forum – Monthly meetings between business leaders, elected officials and community partners are now being organized by Monroe County. This forum will facilitate economic growth and local job creation.

Promises Kept

Dinolfo highlighted the promises she has made and the fact that she has kept each and every one.

Flat Taxes – The 2017 budget fulfilled the promise of keeping property taxes flat.

Local Development Corporations – Despite the naysayers, the LDCs have been disbanded, delivering cost savings and transparency to residents.

Office of Public Integrity – Created the OPI and hired former RPD Chief David Moore as its first Director. The Office is now fully autonomous and Moore is a certified Inspector General.

Online Contracts – Now, for the first time, all Monroe County contracts are available online so the public can see how their tax dollars are being spent. Visit contracts.monroecounty.gov for enhanced transparency and accessibility.

Investing in the Community

Dinolfo emphasized the importance of investing in the economic vitality of our community.

Airport Renovation – \$54 million Airport renovation project to enhance the economic impact of the airport on our community will be complete in 2018.

Seneca Park Zoo Expansion – An essential quality of life investment, the expansion of the Seneca Park Zoo will not only bring giraffes, it will also bring additional visitors and drive economic activity. The first phase of the project totals \$13.5 million.

Infrastructure – Monroe County is investing \$27 million in road and bridge projects in 2017 alone. Through 2023, that investment rises to \$175 million, including an additional \$24 million dollar highway lighting rehabilitation project.

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State of the County Address
Delivered by County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo
MCC Downtown Campus
May 10, 2017

Good evening, and welcome to the new MCC Downtown Campus. I hope you had an opportunity to see the spectacular new campus setting students will begin enjoying here in just three months. This evening, as you entered this beautiful repurposed facility, you were greeted by current MCC students who will soon fill classrooms, laboratories and lecture halls built upon the foundation of George Eastman, innovator, entrepreneur, and supporter of education. What a great fit for our new MCC campus!

Thank you to each of you and the people of Monroe County for joining me for my first State of the County Address.

Sister Francella Quinn, thank you for motivating a young girl with long hair and ponytails to always make an impact. I appreciate your willingness to offer such a beautiful invocation.

To the students of Monroe BOCES 2, thank you for being here tonight and leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. You'll hear more about these incredibly talented and ambitious young men and women shortly. Let's give them a warm welcome.

I would ask that we pause to remember all the men and women who made the commitment to place service to others above self, from the first responders protecting our community from dangers right here at home, to the members of our armed forces around the globe. We especially remember those who have lost their lives in this pursuit. Please join me in a moment of silence for our first responders and the service men and women of our armed forces.

I am so delighted that the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 20, are with us and graciously serve as our color guard this evening. We want you to know that a grateful Monroe County thanks you for your service.

Harmonica Pete DuPre, what an incredible and stirring rendition of our national anthem. I first heard Pete play at Honor Flight and after learning more about his World War II service, I knew he should be here tonight. Mr. DuPre, on behalf of the residents of Monroe County, thank you for your military service and your service to your fellow Honor Flight veterans who love to hear your harmonica resound with patriotic flair.

I'm sure that Chapter 20 and Mr. DuPre aren't the only veterans in the room tonight. If you are a veteran of our armed services, please stand so we may pay tribute to you.

Dr. Kress, thank you for your kind introduction and friendship. Your leadership here at Monroe Community College has continued the great work begun by those who have come before us. Soon the halls of our new downtown MCC campus will be alive and vibrant as students prepare to make their mark on the world. Thank you, Anne, and thank you for your leadership on the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council.

Thank you to all of my partners in government for being here tonight. Please join me in thanking Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn, District Attorney Sandra Doorley, Mayor Lovely Warren and County Clerk Adam Bello. I appreciate your service to the community.

Legislature President Anthony Daniele, Majority Leader Brian Marianetti, Minority Leader Cindy Kaleh and members of the County Legislature, thank you for your partnership in governing.

Please join me in recognizing all of our Federal, State, town supervisors, village and school elected officials, and members of the Judiciary here tonight for their cooperative efforts to serve our common constituents.

I would like to recognize Bill Reilich for his continued support of good government.

At this time, please join me in paying our respects to two local icons who have recently passed: Former County Executive Tom Frey; and, our first female Legislature President, Joanne VanZandt. I'd also like to pay respect on the passing of former Deputy Mayor Len Redon. Their legacy of service deserves our respect.

To my children, Patrick and his wife Callie, Russell and Jennifer, and my grandchildren Finley, Edith and Plum, all who could not be with us tonight but are watching online, thank you for your love and support. I miss you and can't wait to see you all soon.

And, of course, to my best friend and husband Vince. Your endless support and unwavering love, day in and day out, is inspirational. You are a wonderful role model for our children and grandchildren. I am so happy you are here tonight, and I love you with all my heart.

The State of our County is about people. It's about the many distinguished men and women who are here this evening. It's about our County employees who are the real backbone of County government. Their outstanding work, day-in and day-out, in service to their fellow citizens, makes our community an exceptional place to live. And most important, it's about the residents of Monroe County. It's about our families, the hard working men and women building on our forefather's accomplishments, and providing the promise of a bright future for our children and grandchildren.

This very building is a symbol of our vision for Monroe County. Within these walls, the future of our community will be molded. Our future business leaders, our attorneys, nurses, trades men and women, scientists and civic leaders will sharpen their craft and enter the workforce prepared and ready for any challenge and opportunity. Their young lives are full of promise and potential, and here at MCC and at the many universities, colleges and trade schools throughout our region; our young people prepare to realize the momentum we are building today.

As County Executive, my priorities are guided by three principles: growing our economy, creating jobs and improving lives. I have put these principles into action in everything I do. In many ways, these principles are also embodied by the students attending classes here. Higher education empowers individuals to seek new heights, find greater job opportunities and improve their lives and the lives of their friends and family. This is a dream we all share.

Monroe County stands ready to lend a helping hand, paving the way for those who rise ever upward. That is my goal -- to do everything in my power to help grow a stronger economy, create jobs and build a brighter future, and, when necessary, to move government out of the way and free the hard-working men and women of this community to do what they do best -- thrive.

I. Growing Our Economy

Long before taking office, I had a vision for Monroe County, and it was pretty simple. Monroe County deserves a government that provides first rate service and honors its sacred obligation to its residents.

The people of this community expected me to deliver on important promises that I laid out in detail. Promises that, most likely, you've heard about. First and foremost, my promise to keep property taxes flat. I believe government should operate under the same budgetary principles as a business or a family. Spend within your means and spend efficiently!

I operate under the principle that your tax dollars are not my money to spend, it's yours. It belongs to you, the taxpayers and people of Monroe County!

Despite the continued pressures placed on County finances by unfunded mandates, I fulfilled my promise in my first budget by holding the tax rate flat, and I will continue to do so in each and every one of my budgets. You can count on it!

Second, my promise to dissolve the Local Development Corporations (LDCs) is rooted in my belief that essential government services should be provided by government with transparency. Well, we delivered on that promise, too.

In my first week in office, we started to dissolve the LDCs and restore their operations to Monroe County. I was told over and over that, "it can't be done" and "it will take years." Was it easy to do? Not by a longshot. But we did it, in less than one year. That was my promise, and I kept it.

Third, I promised to create an Office of Public Integrity. I sought public input on my proposal, incorporated suggestions, and it passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the County Legislature. The office promotes the integrity, efficiency and accountability of the County of Monroe and its operations, as well as the contracts of outside vendors doing business with the County. That was my promise, and I kept it.

Upon the establishment of this office, I appointed David Moore as Director of the Office of Public Integrity. With a lifetime of experience in law enforcement, as well as the professional and personal qualities essential to do the job, Chief Moore is the perfect individual to lead this important office. Since assuming his duties as director, Chief Moore obtained certification as an Inspector General and is leading the office with full autonomy. Chief, please stand and be recognized.

I'm proud of the work we did in fulfilling these promises. And for anyone keeping score at home, there are actually two more promises I made. Tonight, I am pleased to announce that all Monroe County contracts are now available online for public review. Just go to contracts.monroecounty.gov, and you will be able to see how your tax dollars are being spent. That was my promise, and I kept it.

And there is one more promise that I made, which is part of a greater driver of our community's future, and you'll hear more about that later.

My pledge to the residents of this County -- to keep taxes flat, eliminate LDCs, and, establish the foundations for a more transparent, accountable and ethical County Government -- have all been delivered. Promises made are now promises kept. And, as our work goes on, we must ensure that these promises continue as guiding principles throughout the months and years to come.

Keeping these promises is not the end of my vision for our County, but actually the beginning. In my time as County Executive, we have already seized upon many opportunities and the results are exciting! Let's talk about some of them.

In public service, we rarely have the opportunity to radically change the way we see ourselves and the way visitors view us. It is in these moments that we either seize the opportunity or let it slip through our fingers.

One such opportunity is the renovation of our County Airport. If we want to have a first-class economy and a first-class community, we need a first-class front door. The County Airport is the front door to not only Monroe County but the Finger Lakes Region, as well. What does the Airport say about us? What first impression are we making on visitors and businesses? We want them to know what we already know, that Monroe County is a great place to live and work so they will join us, locate here, stay here and bring their jobs here.

That's why, when the State announced an airport revitalization funding competition, I knew that we needed to compete, but not just compete. We needed to win, and win we did!

With our winning proposal, funding that could have gone to another community came to Monroe County. This success means construction jobs transforming our Airport into an economic driver.

With our winning proposal, we are making \$54 million in renovations and improvements including a new state of the art canopy which protects passengers from the elements and is equipped with new cameras and sensors for improved Airport security.

With our winning proposal, travelers arriving at our community's front door will be greeted with new dining options, improved shopping, greater accessibility, enhanced technology, quicker security screening, a new children's play area, a new smart phone lot for tracking arrivals, and opportunities to taste some of the great flavors of the Finger Lakes region. WOW!

Business and family travelers expect that a first-rate community founded on innovation and hard-work will have a first-rate Airport. And that is exactly what we will have. It's not some distant hope, a ten year plan or a far off dream. It's already begun, and in less than 18 months, we will have the Airport we need and deserve to help drive our economy.

This project will not only deliver a first-class airport but will have a positive economic impact creating hundreds of local construction jobs. This is *in addition* to the nearly 10,000 jobs directly and indirectly supported by the Airport and the \$800 million annual economic impact the Airport has on our community. The revitalization of the Airport into the 21st century will significantly increase its economic footprint. What a win!

Please join me in thanking our Airport team: Director, Mike Giardino; Deputy Director, Andy Moore and their staff; our engineers, Passero Associates and CHA; our construction manager, LeChase Construction; and, architect, SEI Design Group, for their hard work to make this project a reality. Please stand and be recognized.

Let me also take the opportunity to thank Governor Andrew Cuomo, the members of the New York State Legislature, and so many community partners who supported this project.

Since day one, I have been a steadfast supporter of expanding ridesharing services to our community. Tonight we're just a few weeks away from being able to use our smartphones to do what has become commonplace in the rest of the country, book an Uber or Lyft!

What does ridesharing provide? In a word - jobs. Safe, quick, convenient and cost effective transportation is an important need crossing the spectrum of residents in Monroe County. With ridesharing technology, we'll see more money come into our local economy spurring development, investment and job creation.

Turning my support into action, I collected the signatures of over one thousand residents who wanted to see ridesharing in Monroe County. If we want millennials to stay in Monroe County and businesses to locate here, we need ridesharing. I'm proud to say we got the job done. I can't wait to take an Uber or Lyft in July.

I would like to thank the members of our State Delegation for their role in bringing the economic power of ridesharing to our community.

Tourism generates \$1 billion of economic impact in Monroe County each year, and that means jobs!

Known for our wide variety of family-friendly activities and attractions, our community hosts nearly two million visitors each year! We are home to world-class events, including the Lilac Festival at Highland Park starting this Friday and the Xerox International Jazz Festival centered around the home of the renowned Eastman School of Music. The streets and parks of Monroe County are alive! So let's capitalize on our vitality and take it to a new level!

One of our leading attractions in Monroe County, for both residents and visitors alike, is the Seneca Park Zoo. Work will begin next month on the first phase of our much anticipated Master Plan, which includes an African Savannah featuring giraffes, zebras and rhinos, as well as a public giraffe feeding station. Visitors will be able to purchase romaine lettuce and hand-feed the giraffes and get slobbered on! Wow! Up close and personal takes on whole a new meaning!

There's also a Cold Asia exhibit featuring the Zoo's two snow leopards, as well as animals that will be brand new to our Zoo, red pandas!

And a passenger tram with on-off stations at both ends of our Zoo. From the front entrance to the new African Savannah, the tram will be available for kids of all ages!

Three local companies have recently been awarded the prime construction contracts for this very exciting project: Crane-Hogan; Crosby Brownlie; and, Schuler-Haas.

Additionally, two local firms have been on-board throughout the design phase of the project and will continue to play important roles during the construction phase. They are Clark Patterson Lee and LeChase Construction. All local companies providing great jobs to local residents!

You can feel the excitement growing throughout our community as this transformative project moves ever closer to becoming a reality. Our \$13.5 million investment in the Seneca Park Zoo and the local economy, during this first phase alone, will create more than 200 jobs for area workers over the 13-month construction period.

Over the long-term, investing in a world class zoo will pay dividends for years to come by contributing to our community's overall quality of life, attracting both jobs and job seekers to Monroe County.

Please join me in thanking our County Park's team who worked so hard to help take this project from concept to reality, especially our Parks Director, Larry Staub, our Zoo Director, Larry Sorel, as well as the Zoo Society and their Executive Director, Pamela Reed Sanchez. Their combined efforts will greatly enhance the overall visitor experience, which is expected at a world class Zoo. Please stand and join me in recognizing our great team.

Recently, we have been named one of the top 10 best golf cities in the country by Golf.com.

Rochester's golf history is as long as it is illustrious. We are the birthplace of one of the game's greatest champions, Walter Hagan. Our community has hosted decades of LPGA events and most recently, the LPGA Championship in 2014. Just down the road from Hagan's birthplace, Monroe County is home to Oak Hill, the only golf course in America that has hosted all six of the men's major championships. Recently, I attended a big announcement that the Senior PGA Championship is returning to Oak Hill in 2019 and, of course, the PGA Championship will be played there in 2023.

Well, the last time the PGA came here, the economic impact was \$102 million dollars for an event that lasted only one week! That was \$102 million dollars in hotel bookings, restaurants and shopping for our local businesses, and that means jobs.

Tonight, I am pleased to welcome the 2019 PGA Senior Championship Chair, Kevin Horey, and the 2023 PGA Championship Chair, Ron Pluta. Please stand and be recognized.

Golf in Monroe County is accessible and affordable to all players at our County owned and operated golf courses at Genesee Valley, Churchville and Durand Eastman Parks. We have continued to make noticeable improvements at our three County courses to the conditions, staffing, equipment and overall experience.

In fact, 2016 was the second straight season that saw an increase in rounds played. Between the three courses, golfers played almost 100,000 rounds, that's a 34% increase in rounds played since the County took the courses back in 2015.

The numbers only tell part of the story. If you look beyond the stats, we've received very positive feedback from so many players about the condition of the courses. They've been great!

For us, this is an important quality of life endeavor, and I'm glad that excellence is once again par for the course.

II. Jobs

While tourism and its benefits serve as one key to building our economy, we must remember that at the end of the day, it is all about jobs. Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!

So what does that mean exactly? Having a job means having the opportunity to improve your life, provide for your family and provide a foundation for a brighter future.

As County Executive, I engage with hundreds of business owners all across our County and region. I'm a hands-on, boots-on-the-ground person. I want to meet face-to-face with the many businesses and people who make Monroe County work. You see, this is how we know what our businesses need to succeed and employ our local residents.

We have so many incredible local businesses making their mark, not only in Monroe County, but around the world. Businesses like Visual DX, led by CEO Art Papier, an industry trailblazer in medical diagnostic technology, which employs many graduates from MCC, U of R and RIT.

Businesses like JML Optical, led by CEO Bob Bicksler, a high tech optics and photonics company operating in Monroe County for over 40 years. These success stories show that Monroe County has dynamic businesses thriving and growing, here at home.

However, when I meet with business owners, I often ask, "What is your biggest challenge to doing business here?" The answer may surprise you. More often than not, business owners note the difficulty in hiring skilled, qualified workers. There are jobs available, but our workforce sometimes doesn't have the skills or training necessary to fill those jobs.

One of my top priorities is to connect Monroe County residents with quality, good-paying jobs. But to do that, we needed to change the way we do business and think differently.

So what did we do?

Late last year, I was joined by Monroe BOCES 2 District Superintendent, JoAnne Antonacci, to unveil new state of the art manufacturing equipment which was purchased by Monroe County's Industrial Development Corporation and was provided to BOCES 2 in Spencerport, Edison Tech in the City of Rochester and BOCES 1 in Fairport. This state-of-the-art precision manufacturing equipment will help train students to join the local workforce with the skills required to do the job.

Right now, more than 1,500 students are enrolled in career and technical education programs and will be taking advantage of this new equipment. I visited these highly motivated and industrious young adults and was so impressed. These students don't simply want to learn how to use the equipment. They want to own their own manufacturing companies!

Tonight, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by students enrolled in the BOCES 2 Precision Manufacturing Program. I'd ask that they please stand so we can thank them and wish them much success in the future.

What else have we done?

Let's talk about our partnership with MAXIMUS, a telecom service center now located in Gates. In 2016, when I heard that MAXIMUS was locating here and needed an abundance of employees, we contacted the principals of this national company and asked, how could Monroe County help.

As a result of our direct outreach, we began a new partnership with MAXIMUS, connecting local residents with good paying jobs.

Since that first contact, 47 people have been hired as a direct result with plans for more.

What makes this partnership with MAXIMUS special is the fact that the County was able to connect individuals who were on public assistance with the opportunity to build toward self-sufficiency in a good-paying job without more taxpayer support.

MAXIMUS representatives, Ferdinand Morales, Sharon Angell and Angela Sablosky, are here tonight. I would like to thank you for your investment in our community and workforce.

Building upon the dignity of employment, we want to ensure that the newly employed remain successful and continue to build self-sufficient lives for themselves and their families, and that's cause to celebrate!

Here in the County of Monroe, we're taking that one step further because we know that the first 90 days of a new job are pivotal to remaining employed. That's why we created "Paths to Empowerment."

This first-of-its kind program, which re-allocates existing funding, will provide nearly 2700 households with job coaching, financial literacy, drop-in childcare and other services.

Here in Monroe County, we're open for business, and we're excited to get people back to work!

I want to thank Human Services Commissioner, Corinda Crossdale, and her team for making this opportunity a reality.

By now, it's evident that Monroe County is all about jobs. Jobs for local residents.

My economic development team has been hard at work to bring exciting new companies with plenty of jobs to our area, and 2017 is turning out to be a stellar year for job creation and business investment in our community.

Last year, from January to April, the County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency generated \$164 million in private investment. During the same time period in 2017, we have already generated private investment worth \$205 million. That's a 25% increase over last year. Even more exciting, our current projections expect the creation of nearly 150 more jobs than last year.

I want to recognize our Chief Economic Development Officer, Jeff Adair, and his team for their outstanding work to make sure that Monroe County continues to be a great place to locate a business and grow jobs. Jeff please stand and be recognized.

When businesses think about growing, we want them to be inspired by our vision of a thriving economy, and we want businesses to look to Monroe County as a partner in their growth.

That's why I'm excited to announce a relaunch of the County's Industrial Development Agency, which will now be known as "Imagine Monroe," inviting businesses to imagine the limitless possibilities and endless potential here in Monroe County. Visit our website and follow the amazing progress we have made at imaginemonroe.org.

I'm excited to tell you about one of Imagine Monroe's new programs tonight.

We know that education and training are the keys to obtaining a good-paying job. When people have the required skills, employers will hire them. It's really that simple.

Through a first-of-its-kind partnership, I am proud to announce that MCC is partnering with Imagine Monroe to launch a new program called "LadderZup." That's ladderz with a "Z"!

This exciting program will recruit, train, and place workers into the most in-demand careers in our region. LadderZup works on the concept that education and training enable us to move up the economic ladder and provides tailor-made training to achieve that goal.

"LadderZup" will include high-demand programs such as mechatronics, precision tooling, healthcare, photonics, IT medical assistance as well as early entry for high school students looking to learn specific skills leading to gainful employment with businesses ready to hire them.

Recognizing that sometimes the ability to obtain child care may impact participation in job training programs, we are prepared to offer child care to enrollees. You may ask, "How is this going to be paid for?" Imagine Monroe is allocating a portion of its revenue to where it can do the most good.

A trained and skilled workforce is a tremendous asset to our economy. By providing the workers in Monroe County with the skills and knowledge required for today's advanced economy, more companies will choose to invest here and bring their business right to our County, creating more jobs and injecting more money into our economy. Welcome to LadderZup!

Clearwater Organic Farms came to us in early 2016 looking to locate in Monroe County. What an exciting opportunity Clearwater Organics presented for our local economy and local jobs!

Clearwater utilizes state of the art hydroponic technology to produce fresh, locally-grown, organic, leafy greens year round for markets across New York State and the east coast.

With plans to construct a 650,000 square foot growing facility on eight acres of land in Monroe County, Clearwater will be the largest hydroponic commercial greenhouse in the United States and will be capable of producing more than 2.7 million pounds of fresh produce annually.

Clearwater's facility will be constructed at Eastman Business Park in Rochester and will involve a total private investment of \$42.6 million along with the creation of over 100 skilled, good-paying jobs for our local residents.

One significant challenge Clearwater faces as their operation gets up and running is identifying and hiring employees certified to work in the organic farming industry.

To help Clearwater address this challenge, I asked Imagine Monroe and MCC to create the certification program necessary to meet the needs of this new agricultural industry. With ingenuity and a creative solution, we were able to work with Clearwater to help ensure that they located in Monroe County.

We are providing County residents with the training to start on an exciting career path right here at home. With programs like this, our region will become a hub for advanced businesses *and* advanced training. Creating an environment where businesses know that when they're looking for a place to locate, Monroe County's workforce has the skills required to get the job done.

I want to thank Jim Campbell from Clearwater for choosing Monroe County. Please stand and be recognized for your great work to bring this new venture here.

There's no doubt, our veterans are among this community's greatest assets. Veterans come home from their tours of duty, fully equipped with the skills needed to lead our local businesses to success. In far too many communities, Veterans are underserved but *not* in Monroe County.

I am proud to announce a new initiative focused on connecting local Veterans with local companies. Every business working with Imagine Monroe will be linked to our Veterans Service Agency providing a direct connection between veterans and employers who are hiring.

I am happy to say that we already have a success story. Clearwater Organics enthusiastically said "Yes!" at the chance to hire local veterans and will be employing our hometown heroes.

Thank you to Clearwater and my thanks also goes out to Laura Stradley, the Director of our Veterans Service Agency, for your work on this new program. Please stand and be recognized.

I mentioned the numbers earlier but this has been a great year for economic growth in Monroe County.

American Packaging Corporation, headquartered right here in Monroe County, is planning to build a state of the art manufacturing facility on 40 acres of land in the Town of Chili.

American Packaging specializes in food, beverage, medical, personal care and agricultural packaging. Many of the products you purchase at local stores are wrapped in American Packaging materials. With the help of Imagine Monroe, this new facility is creating 70 new jobs in addition to the 170 jobs that already exist here.

Our Monroe County economic development team, especially Lydia Birr, were heavily involved with American Packaging's site selection from day one and worked closely with its leadership to make sure that these jobs would stay here instead of moving out of state. Monroe County is here to work with businesses, and Lydia is here to work with you! Lydia, please stand and be recognized.

Each year, the Monroe County Finger Lakes Procurement Technical Assistance Center, or PTAC, helps support Monroe County's efforts to create and retain jobs by helping local businesses do business with federal, state and local governments.

Earlier this month, Monroe County celebrated Small Business Week. Several local companies were recognized as each achieved \$1 million worth of business with the federal government since September 2016. Each of these businesses are PTAC success stories.

ExactData, led by John Dawson, creates simulated test data for applications and technology allowing products to be tested in a real-world environment without the risk of security or data breaches.

Robert F. Hyland & Sons is a veteran-owned general contractor. Established in 2009, by Air Force Veteran Donald Padilla, this company often hires and works with veterans and is currently working on a \$3 million Federal construction contract.

I know you've heard me say it before, but it's worth repeating, Monroe County is open for business!

Remember that last promise I mentioned? Well, tonight I am proud to announce the establishment of my Job Creation Leadership Forum, which will connect job creators with our community's leaders.

I've visited countless businesses and there is nothing like meeting with employers and their employees, face-to-face. Through these meetings, I have seen first-hand how the County can collaborate with business owners to help them grow and create jobs.

That's why the County will host monthly meetings with local business leaders and elected officials in different towns and villages, on a rotating basis.

We understand that when our business and government leaders come together, they can best address the needs of our community, filling gaps and creating more jobs.

It's imperative for our town, village and County officials to understand what it takes for businesses to not only stay here, but to thrive here. We must learn from employers about the challenges to growth, in order to understand what the County and local governments can do to assist. It's about helping businesses expand and addressing needs such as infrastructure, access to sewer or water or public transportation. Ideally, these forums will facilitate a rapid and informed response to our local business needs.

The first Job Creation Leadership Forum will take place in Penfield next month. We look forward to kicking-off this initiative and seeing it produce real results for the families of Monroe County. That was my promise, and I am keeping it.

As part of our commitment to growing our economy and creating jobs, Monroe County continues to make investments in our infrastructure. Without the ability to transport goods, our economy cannot meet its full potential.

I'm pleased that our capital budget passed with bipartisan support, and I thank my colleagues in the Monroe County Legislature.

With help from our State and Federal partners, in 2017 alone, we are investing \$27 million in road and bridge rehabilitation projects. Through 2023, that investment rises to \$175 million including a \$24 million project to upgrade our highway's lighting to install long-lasting LED technology.

I want to thank Transportation Director, Terry Rice, and his team for bringing this project to fruition and overseeing it every step of the way. Please stand and be recognized.

III. Improving Lives

Each and every day, I have the privilege of working with some of the finest men and women this community has to offer, who consistently go above and beyond in the performance of their duties. Ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you about two such individuals.

As one of the few remaining County-owned skilled nursing facilities in the State, Monroe Community Hospital provides the highest quality of care for our residents. Under the leadership of Director, Gene Larrabee, and Deputy Director, Colleen Rose, we have added new AccuVein technology which improves the accuracy of locating veins and, importantly, patient outcomes. MCH is the only facility of its kind in our area with this equipment.

Recently, Colleen Rose received the Thomas Clarke Award, which is given to an outstanding professional leader under the age of 40 by the largest organization of skilled nursing professionals in New York State.

That is what we do here in Monroe County. We help people. This is evident not only in the outstanding work County employees do on a daily basis, but also what they do after-hours, when they've left their jobs but never leave behind their sense of duty.

On February 26, Deputy Katie Levy was at a local restaurant when a nearby customer began choking and could not breathe. She jumped into action and performed the Heimlich maneuver, dislodging the food and allowing the woman to breathe again.

Would Colleen Rose and Deputy Levy please stand and be recognized?

As County Executive, I want to seize every opportunity to continue to build a community where every family has a brighter future. When residents have quality jobs and the opportunity to advance their careers, they care even more about their community.

Residents are invested in not only seeking economic opportunity, but in keeping their neighborhoods safe. We must ensure that every family, every child and every individual believes that greater opportunity exists.

In every town, village and neighborhood, the opioid epidemic threatens the promise we hope to pass on to our children. We hear about heroin and fentanyl overdoses far too frequently. These are our sons and daughters, our siblings and parents, and our friends and neighbors.

Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn has been a leader in our efforts to keep these dangerous substances off our streets and bring drug dealers to justice.

Our local efforts also involve identifying these deadly drugs at Monroe County's Crime Lab so that District Attorney, Sandra Doorley, can prosecute the dealers.

The grim reality is overdoses are more frequent and more lethal, but science has progressed to the point where, with quick action, lives can still be saved.

Here in Monroe County we are fortunate to have Dr. Michael Mendoza as our Commissioner of Public Health. As part of our Opioid Task Force, Dr. Mendoza will be working with his colleagues in the medical community to improve the appropriate prescribing of opioids, particularly in the treatment of chronic pain. Recently, Dr. Mendoza was certified on the administration of Narcan, and he will begin conducting classes open to the public on opioid prevention and intervention.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Mendoza for his proactive approach to public health. Please stand and be recognized.

Monroe County is becoming all too familiar to responding to weather emergencies. When we faced the March windstorm, our emergency response professionals answered the call to help those in need.

As the winds increased, I activated the Emergency Operations Center, working with responders and local officials around the clock to coordinate resources and help our residents in need. We coordinated shelter operations, deployed stockpiles of blankets and cots, all to ensure that no one had to stay home in the cold and to help our residents remain safe.

No sooner had the winds died down, when we were hit by the largest snowstorm of the season. Once again, our emergency response team, led by Public Safety Director, Bob Burns, and County Emergency Manager, Tim Kohlmeier, worked around the clock to keep our families safe.

Bob Burns is a dedicated public servant, who formerly led our Probation Department and is the recipient of multiple awards and recognitions.

Tim Kohlmeier joined our team last December. Tim is a long-time West Webster firefighter and responded to the horrific, Christmas Eve tragedy of 2012. Tim comes from a long line of West Webster firefighters so you know the type of man Tim is. I'm grateful to have them on our team.

Please join me in thanking them, and all of our first responders for their service. Bob and Tim please stand and be recognized.

As if our community hasn't had enough, record high water levels and flooding are eroding our shoreline, threatening our infrastructure, impacting our residents and potentially damaging our tourism and recreation economy.

Just last month, I stood along Irondequoit Bay at Mayer's Marina with Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn and my government partners to address the dangers of rising waters and call on the International Joint Commission to reduce lake levels and provide resources to residents and businesses.

I saw the concern on the face of Allison Mayer who owns Mayer's Marina. Her family has operated on Irondequoit Bay since 1960, and I saw first-hand the risks to the future of their business, and to all the businesses and residents, along Lake Ontario.

Monroe County's shoreline is being ravaged, and this is not an isolated event. That's why I have called on our Federal government to demand that the International Joint Commission abide by its own rules and provide relief from this flooding by reducing and properly managing lake levels. Tonight I repeat that call.

I specifically requested that the Federal government provide restitution for property damage and economic loss along Lake Ontario and provide resources so this won't happen again. Our businesses are being impacted, our public infrastructure is in danger, and our residents and property owners are suffering.

As County Executive, I am inspired when I witness the best of our community during challenging times, like neighbors helping neighbors weather the storm.

The State of Monroe County is *strong, resilient, and ready for any challenge*.

We're doing great things in Monroe County to grow our economy, create jobs and improve the lives of our 745,000 residents.

We have accomplished a great deal, but we're just getting started. I won't rest until every family, every child, every individual and every business knows that greater opportunity exists and that they have the opportunity to seize it. I have faith that we can do it.

I believe in the people of our County. I believe in the businesses in our County. I believe that our County is headed in the right direction. I believe that together, as one County, a community of neighbors helping neighbors, we will get there. We will continue to grow our economy, create jobs and improve lives. That remains my promise, today and every day. And working together as one community, we will succeed, because I truly believe that our best days are ahead of us.

God bless you all, and God Bless Monroe County.