



MOHAWK VALLEY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2014 NEWSLETTER

02.21.2014

SCHOHARIE COUNTY: BACK TO THE NEW NORMAL



In 2011, Tropical Storm Irene swept through the Mohawk Valley, leaving hundreds of small businesses faced with the choice to rebuild, relocate, or fold. Schoharie County planners immediately seized an opportunity through New York State's CFA process to design and implement a program that helped more than 17 small businesses open their doors again and 23 farms resume production.

Before six feet of water had the chance to fully recede from their county office on Main Street, Alicia Terry and Sarah Blood from the Schoharie County Department of Planning, Promotion, & Development worked with Sarah Blood to prime the pump for a masterful recovery effort that ranged from storefront to haymow.

Down On Main Street. A testament to collaboration, planning, and resiliency, the Schoharie County Microenterprise Assistance Program was awarded \$200,000 through the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council (MVREDC) in 2011 to assist small businesses across the county not simply to rebuild; but to rebuild *better*. From cafés to salons, the matching grant program helped to bridge the troubled water between disaster and recovery, leveraging more than \$1 Million in new investment on the main streets of Middleburgh and Schoharie.

One example is Mrs. K's Kitchen on Main Street in Middleburgh. On August 29, 2011, the owners of the popular main street diner stood among the silt and debris field that was, just days before, filled with familiar faces and the smell of fresh-brewed coffee. Floor-to-ceiling, the shop seemed a total loss.



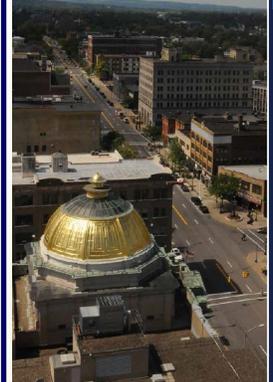
MVREDC Acts Locally, Thinks Globally

On Wednesday, February 12, 2014 the MVREDC kicked off the 2014 season with a meeting at SUNY-IT. Co-Chairs Larry Gilroy and Dr. Robert Geer led an engaging series of discussions, ranging from heritage tourism to global economics. Learn more on facebook or check out the MVREDC [web page](#).

Mohawk Valley
Regional Economic
Development Council

Transforming Ideas into

Economic Engines



2013 Action Plan
Fulton • Herkimer • Montgomery
Oneida • Otsego • Schoharie

Download the [2013 Action Plan](#)

REDC CO-CHAIRS
LAWRENCE T. GILROY III
DR. ROBERT E. GEER

MVREDC EVENTS CALENDAR

Friday, Feb 28th
**MVREDC EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Saturday, March 1st
**ONEONTA
SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT**





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Using a combination of matching grants from the Schoharie Microenterprise Assistance and the National Grid Emergency Main Street programs, the business was completely reconstructed, restocked, and back in business less than a year later. In the span of ten months, Mrs. K's was back to making some of the most delicious waffles this side of the Hudson

Meanwhile, back on the Farm... While Main Street residents and businesses were up to their ears – literally - in floodwaters, farms in the valley were completely and hopelessly underwater. The Schoharie Creek and Mohawk River tributaries rose to 500-year flood levels, saturating hundreds of farms and thousands of structures across the county. To look upon the landscape on August 28th, one might have easily mistaken the Schoharie Creek for the Mississippi River.

The response by local, state, and federal agencies and elected officials was not only swift, but comprehensive and thorough. In addition to long-term watershed management planning and the New York Rising initiative, Schoharie County planners worked with Richard Ball and the Mohawk Valley REDC in 2012 to sponsor a \$475,000 application to the Department of Agriculture & Markets for an on-farm capital grant program that helped dozens of farmers get back on their feet again. Leveraging another \$1.4 Million in capital investments – from equipments to buildings – farmers across the spectrum of sows, cows, and plows rebuilt, reinvested, and expanded production capability.

Fast-forward to 2013. The water has receded and sun is shining again in Schoharie County and the communities are continuing to recover. The Town of Middleburgh was recently awarded REDC funding in 2013 to complete a comprehensive plan in order to be better prepared. Schoharie is leading a cross-regional effort with a **\$480,000 MVREDC award** to implement Phase I of the Mohawk River Watershed Management Plan. Most, if not all, of the farms mentioned here have increased production and are now producing fresh proteins and produce for the Corbin Hill Food project – a CFA Round 3 Priority Project award recipient – fulfilling shares for households in New York City.

These are just a few ways the MVREDC is making positive change; and a few more reasons why the Mohawk Valley represents the very best of New York. **Rising.**



- Ladan Alomar**
Executive Director, Centro Civico of Amsterdam, Inc
- Juanita Bass**
Owner, Juanita's Soul Classics Inc.
- Vincent Bono**
Chairman, Herkimer County Legislature
- Kathleen Clark**
Chairman, Board of Representatives, Otsego County
- Steve DiMeo**
President, Mohawk Valley EDGE
- Frank DeRiso**
President, United Food & Commercial Workers International
- Marianne W. Gaige**
President & CEO, Cathedral Corporation
- Charles Green**
President & CEO, Assured Information Security, Inc.
- Joseph Griffo**
State Senate, 47th District
- Wally Hart**
Director for Business & Community Development
Lexington Center
- Dr. Todd Hutton**
President, Utica College
- William L. Keller III**
President & CEO, Keymark Corp.
- Mark Kilmer**
President, Fulton-Montgomery Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Dayton King**
Mayor, City of Gloversville
- Carolyn A. Lewis**
SUNY Oneonta, Economic Development Coordinator
- William Magee**
State Assembly, 11th District
- Nicholas O. Matt**
President, Matt Brewing Company
- Mary Morse**
Owner, Kwik-Kut Mfg
- Robert Palmieri**
Mayor, City of Utica
- Nancy Pattarini**
President & CEO, The Paige Group
- Anthony J. Picente Jr.**
County Executive, Oneida County
- Michael J. Reese**
President & CEO, Fulton County Economic Development Corporation
- V. Daniel Robinson II**
President & CEO, New York Central Mutual Insurance Company
- Dr. Renee Scialdo Shevat**
President & Owner, Herkimer Diamond Mines Inc.,
Unlocked Legends Inc. & Out of India to New York, Inc.
- Dr. Dustin Swanger**
President, Fulton-Montgomery Community College
- Ann Thane**
Mayor, City of Amsterdam
- John Thayer**
Chairman, Montgomery County Board of Supervisors
- William Waldron**
Chairman, Fulton Co. Board of Supervisors
- Scott White**
President, Bank of Cooperstown



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