

Positively Greene

COUNTY-WIDE UPDATE



GreeneGovernment.com

GreatNorthernCatskills.com

GreeneCountyEDC.com

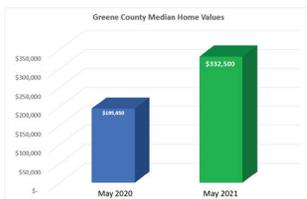
InvestInGreene.com

FilmInGreene.com

July 2021

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

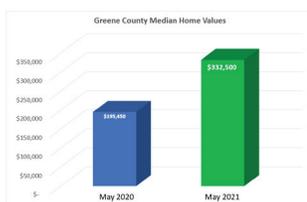
Housing Values Continue to Rise



The Greene County median housing price in May 2021, based on closed sales, rose to a record \$332,500. The price rose 70.1% from last year's \$195,450, according to data from the New York State

Association of Realtors (NYSAR). Closed sales rose from 46 last year to 67 this year and are up from 243 during the first five months of 2020 to 335 this year. 2020 was a record for closed sales in Greene County with 903 sales total.

Record Retail Sales Growth



Greene County sales tax for the first five months of 2021 rose a record 24.33% from a year ago, with collections rising \$3,512,446.83 from a year ago to a record for the period of \$17,948,969.84.

This increase is on top of last year's nearly 6% increase in sales tax collections, which was one of the highest rates of growth in the State. 2020 State-wide state tax collections fell 10% according to the NYS Comptroller. The sales tax growth shows that taxable retail sales in Greene County increased from \$361 million to \$449 million year-over-year.

The extremely high growth rate is a combination of deferred economic activity from the pandemic, increases in purchasing power from increased incomes & Federal stimulus, and more residents, second homeowners and visitors spending money in Greene County. Greene County has had increased sales tax collections every year since 2009, one of the longest streaks of any county or city in New York State. For business opportunities in Greene County visit <https://greenecountyedc.com>.



Karl Heck Retires from Greene County Economic Development Team

Since joining the Greene County Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Planning, Karl has tirelessly served our business

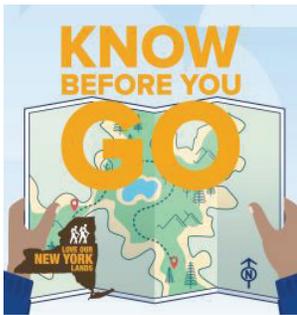
community with his exceptional insight, knowledge and dedication. An active member and office holder of the Greene County Chamber of Commerce, Karl also was named Executive Director of the Greene County Economic Development Corporation in 2019. He retires after 18 years with the county, most recently working as Director of Economic Development & Planning. We wish him success in his new position as President & CEO of Franklin Southampton Economic Development, Inc. in Virginia.

DON'T FORGET...

- The SBA's PPP loan forgiveness deadline is approaching – Get your application at <https://www.sba.gov/document/sba-form-3508-ppp-loan-forgiveness-application-instructions>
- If you're a Municipality, For-Profit or Non-Profit business seeking funding under Round XI of the NYS Regional Economic Development Council Initiative, Consolidated Funding Applications are due 4PM on July 30 <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>.
- New York State has grants available for small businesses impacted by the pandemic. Apply at <https://nysmallbusinessrecovery.com/>.

TOURISM

Love Our New York Lands



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation launched a campaign to educate and address use issues in certain locations in the Catskill Park. The campaign is focused on encouraging visitors to think of themselves as responsible

for helping protect these irreplaceable destinations for future generations. For more details, go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/119881.html>.

Meet the Newest Members of the Bailiwick Animal Park Family!



New BFFs Sebastian and Diego (a young dromedary camel and llama cria) are now welcoming visitors at the family-owned and operated Discovery Zoo in Catskill, where most of the animals in the over 30 exhibits have

either been donated or rescued. Watch them play together at <https://www.facebook.com/bailiwickzoo/videos/4106297339458445>.



Video Shoot at the Zoom Flume Water Park

Great Northern Catskills of Greene County partners with The Sherpa Adventure Show to feature Zoom Flume Water Park as THE place to go this Summer. The show, hosted by Josiah Brown, New York Sherpa, of Famous Destination Marketing, Inc., will be featured on New York's Best Experiences Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. It will also be shared on the Great Northern Catskills of Greene County social channels. Keep an eye out for the completed video. It is sure to be a SPLASH!!!

PLANNING

Matching Grants for Greenway Communities

Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 to develop plans or projects consistent with the five Greenway criteria: natural and cultural resource protection, economic development, public access, regional planning, and heritage and environmental education. Both Durham and Athens were recently able to secure Greenway funding to update their respective Comprehensive Plans. Higher amounts are awarded for intermunicipal projects. This grant program provides matching grants to Greenway Communities and Compact Communities. The program is open to municipalities that are within the designated Greenway area and have adopted a local board resolution to become a designated "Greenway Community." Upcoming 2021 grant application deadlines are September 10 and November 8. For more information and the application please visit <https://hudsongreenway.ny.gov/grants-funding>.

Greene County Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Planning

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