

Energy loan program signed into law by WyCo Board of Supervisors

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WARSAW — A new law has been approved that will allow for sustainable energy loans to be taken out in Wyoming County.

The law passed unanimously at Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting. No one from the public spoke during the public hearing portion of the meeting; none of the supervisors commented on the law either.

By passing this law, Wyoming County now is one step closer to being declared an official Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

"We're doing it because this is an economic development initiative done by the state," Wyoming county Planning Director Bill Daly said when the law was introduced last month. "The state want to encourage building owners, property owners, businesses to upgrade their properties and create energy savings."

Commercial properties will now be able to take out loans for energy improvements like light bulb replacements or the installation of a wind turbine; the money owed will then be paid back on the properties taxes rather than in a separate payment to a lender.

This is done to ensure the loan's security while allowing for a low-interest rate and the money to be paid back over a long period of time.

"The Board of Supervisors see this as another tool that's available to businesses and various entities that own buildings in the community that will allow them to upgrade and become more energy efficient energy savings," Daly said last month.

A full description of the law can be found at wyomingco.net.

Other items:

- The United Way is seeking to raise \$150,000 during its 2017 campaign.

"It's really important that we have the support of all of our leaders and have their generosity," Linda Nash said, who serves on the United Way's executive board. She said the money goes to non-profits and crisis management in the county. She also reassured that "money donated in Wyoming County stays in Wyoming County."

- Developmental Disabilities month proclaimed for March 2017.

The proclamation stated that those with developmental disabilities should have opportunities like anyone else when it comes to education, housing employment and recreational activities.

Linda Leblond, who serves on the board for the ARC of Livingston-Wyoming and received the proclamation said serving on the board has been “the most rewarding volunteer work that I’ve ever been able to participate in.”

- Agricultural month proclaimed for the month of March 2017.

Wyoming County leads the state with \$318 million in sales of ag products according to the proclamation. It also is the top county when it comes to dairy farming.

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart and the agricultural community for your support and recognition in all that farmers do,” Joan Petzen said, who is the acting executive director of the Wyoming County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

- Town of Middlebury Supervisor Danial Leuer praised the efforts of Wyoming County’s planning department for obtaining funds to bring broadband to the county.

“I wanted to acknowledge the efforts of Bill Daly and Don Roberts and Todd MacConnell for lobbying for the funds and keeping our needs at the forefront for the New York State broadband,” Leuer said. “And also to acknowledge their efforts for working with some of the service providers that potentially could serve our needs.”

That being said, Leuer did inform the Board that he has received a phone call from a resident who remains without quality internet access despite the award announcement.

“I wanted to make sure that the residents of the county are aware that we will not rest until our county is completely served by high-speed broadband,” Leuer said.

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