



STEPS

7180 Main Street
P.O. Box 621
Ovid, NY 14521
stepscommunity@pivotalphp.org



ACHIEVEMENTS

2015

- Physical space improvement: tables and benches placed in front of the Three Bears historic court complex.
- Paint the Towns project: lead paint removal training for residents, several painting/beautification projects, planning for public art, and six murals completed by the end of Phase IV.
- The first (of three) Community Gardens were established.
- Walking competition and dance & movement series launched.
- Partnerships developing with institution and association partners.
- Initiated Design Connect Projects in two villages.
- Annual Day of Service and Currier & Ives Festival launched.
- Annual Engagement in Wellness Corner at Strawberry Festival and activities at Olde Home Day.



2016

- Hands-on Lodi: a series of community collective, multi-generational clean-up days in the village.
- Communiversity launched with Guatemalan Kite Making Workshop: an intergenerational activity led by a resident South County Volunteer.
- Transportation Corps Pilot Project launched.
- Residents and (especially) teens engaged in the literacy/book box project, eight book boxes placed in the community.
- Emergency House Numbers Project: 3,000 signs installed in the STEPS neighborhood.
- Food, Fun, and Family Series & micro-enterprise opportunity program launched.
- A successful Health, Safety, and Wellness Fair.
- Communications efforts building (website, social media, e-newsletter, brochures).
- NYSEERDA energy workshops and South Seneca Solar Project launched.



2017

- Residents organize against plans to build a large garbage incinerator at the depot to protect their interest in maintaining the scenic beauty and clean environment.
- Romulus Reads/Seneca Soars literacy project: successful STEPS movie/literacy night at an elementary school.
- Community gardens catalyze complementary activities, e.g., Art, English Language Arts, and Composting.
- Hosts AmeriCorps volunteers, Cornell Students, youth ambassadors, and a high school exchange student.
- Community Collective, playground improvement, and enhancements.
- Food security is an emerging issue, provide support to local food programs.



2018

- Environmental sustainability emerges as an area of interest.
- Microenterprise Panel Discussion launched, then twice annually.
- STEPS project presents at the New York State Public Health Association Annual Meeting.
- The community experiences devastating floods, STEPS community supports immediate and ongoing recovery efforts.
- Hosts a Finger Lakes Sustainability Forum.
- The Green Team launches with a focus on waste management and later evolves into the now-known South Seneca Composting Task Force





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2019

- Kitchen table discussion rolled out on various topics of interest to residents, e.g., lake-friendly living and water quality.
- Residents begin to talk about the importance of STEPS in venues around the region.
- Ovid Farmers Market and Resident Master Food Preserver Certification is supported.
- Hosts a BioChar learning event at the White Deer Association.
- Hosts the Be in the Know Program presented by the Paleontological Research Institution. The event focused on learning about extreme weather, climate science basics, and social science issues.



2020

- Suicide prevention emerges as an important issue.
- STEPS transforms everything it does to accommodate the emerging pandemic, virtual meetings, Facebook live classes, resident check-in calls, pen pal project, videos, PPE and mini grant support to small businesses.
- Works with the libraries to develop fun packs for kids at home due to COVID.
- South Seneca Community Services Center Non-profit is established to oversee Lodi's pantry and community garden.
- Hosts Complete Streets workshop,
- Launches Watch/Read/Listen, a series of movies and discussions about issues impacting the earth.
- Sponsors Introductory Mindfulness.
- Assisted with the launch of a local AA meeting.



2021

- Jeffrey takes on the role of shredding paper for STEPS and other recycling, reducing waste efforts deployed.
- Promote HeatSmart FLX South for free home assessments and other renewable energy efforts.
- Saplings planted at the former water tower site in Interlaken, plans for the creation of a park for all ages ensue.
- Sponsors another Watch/Read/Listen event, the movie Other Side of the Hill.
- Sponsors an Emergency Preparedness Workshop.
- Three Community gardens are thriving, one has established worm bin composting.
- Plans for moving into Phase V of the Neighborhood Health Status Improvement Initiative.



**2022:
2023**

- Expanded youth fitness opportunities leveraging county Youth Bureau funds awarded to STEPS.
- 111 Resident Health Promotion Projects carried out, yoga (chair, relaxation, yoga in the parks), themed walks (tree & bird), small business trail, art projects, Girl Scout Daisy Garden, and more!
- Lodi & Ovid Winter Festivals are launched as RHPP's
- 29 Micro-enterprise opportunities have been awarded to small businesses in the amount of \$85,000.
- Partnering with the Small Business Develop Center serving Seneca County to strengthen the small business program. Participatory Project evaluation feedback: surveys, observation, focus groups, and interviews reiterate that STEPS is making a significant impact on community health improvement and where course correction is needed.
- Compile residents' vision for the redevelopment of the Willard Campus and the various components for economic development and a sustainable, healthy future.

