

# STC REGION TODAY

Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties

New York State

Fall 2009

## Groundbreaking for New Section of Rt. 15/ I-99



*(left to right) Ted Bennett, Chemung County Legislature; Assembly Member Jim Bacalles; Senator George Winner; Member of Congress Eric Massa; DOT Regional Director Peter White; and Appalachian Thruway Association Representative Oliver Bartlett were all on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony for future I99.*

Local leaders and citizens attended the ground breaking ceremony on September 21 for a new section of Rt. 15. The \$45.4 million project will relocate a five-mile stretch from Watson Creek Rd. in Lindley to the Presho interchange and make the road safer and more efficient and contribute to economic growth in the region.

“This is truly a milestone,” said Department of Transportation Regional Director Peter White. Completion of the project will create a final link to an 80-mile stretch of future Interstate Highway 99 from Williamsport, Pennsylvania to Corning. White thanked U.S. Representative Eric Massa, Senator George Winner, and Assembly Member Jim Bacalles for their support of the project.

Additional funding will be needed to finish the next phase, which will cost an estimated \$20 million to complete.

## NYS DOT Eco-Logical Approach to Transportation

“Integrating Transportation and Resources Planning to Develop Ecosystem-Based Infrastructure Projects” - a long title to describe an exciting project that STC is undertaking as a partner with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC), the Federal Highway Administration, and the NYS Department of Transportation.

Highway construction and maintenance projects can affect the environment, leading to the need for mitigation projects to offset the loss. Sometimes, the highway right-of-way (R-O-W) is not the appropriate place to construct the replacement wetland or other natural feature. STC staff is identifying land protection organizations, such as land trusts and conservancies, across the state, as well as local open space protection programs that could work with DOT to maintain mitigation projects outside the R-O-W.

Overall, the purpose of the project is to create an ecologically-connected web of potential mitigation sites to be constructed as needed by USC members and partners in full cooperation with FHWA/state DOT, using all natural resources information available and local land use protection tools that are in place.

## Multi-Regional Funding Announced

Action to bring a high-speed broadband network to the rural Southern Tier has been funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission. Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board, in conjunction with Southern Tier East and ECC Technologies, is identifying the requirements and sustainability of a fiber-optic backbone and will apply for ARRA funding to create the needed infrastructure across 11 counties, with connections beyond that region. Work commences with input from business, industry, government, education, libraries, EMS, and hospitals. Updates will follow!

## CEDS – Planning for the Region's Future



STC develops the CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) to coordinate economic development activities on a regional basis and to qualify the region for major development grants through EDA (Economic Development Administration) and ARC (Appalachian Regional Commission). CEDS also serves as a reference point for ranking vital project priorities that are being funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

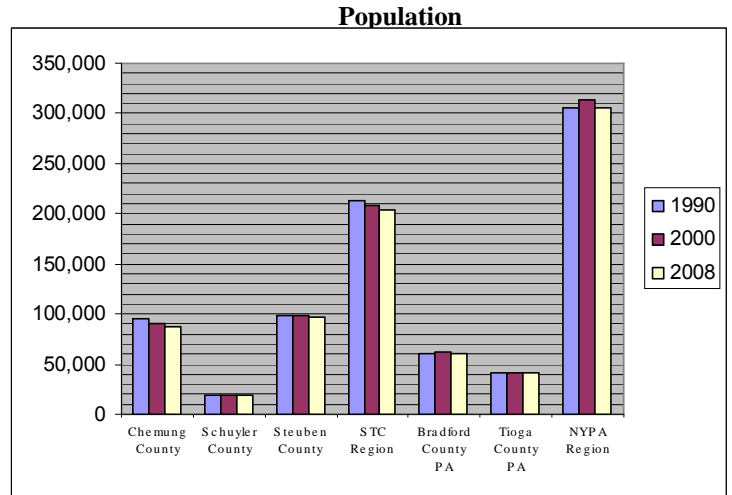
Regional and community based agencies and organizations play a major role in developing the CEDS. Areas addressed by the strategy include transportation, infrastructure, workforce skills and support systems, business development, telecommunications, housing, tourism, agriculture and farmland protection, energy, and the environment.

The CEDS serves as a valuable resource for community leaders, planning boards, organizations and businesses with a wealth of information including economic data, trends, tables, maps, charts, and priority lists. A copy of the strategy is available on a compact disc or can be viewed on the STC web site, [www.stcplanning.org](http://www.stcplanning.org).

## NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association

The STC Flood Mitigation Specialist, Janet Thigpen, completed a 2-year term as Chair of the NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association. The association provides an opportunity for members to be active beyond the scope of their individual jobs and work together toward the goal of protecting lives, property, and water quality throughout the state. In the words of an incoming officer, "The association is alive, kicking, and doing some great training." Janet will continue to be active on the Board of Directors and several committees.

## Regional and County Economic Profiles Available



Each year, STC prepares economic profiles for Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties that include updated data and trends relating to population, employment, unemployment, major employers, income, housing, transportation, and agriculture. Find the profiles at [www.stcplanning.org](http://www.stcplanning.org) ProgramAreas/Economic Development.

This year will also feature a new regional profile that provides a comprehensive source of demographic and economic development information on a multi-county basis and includes additional information from Bradford and Tioga Counties in Pennsylvania.

## Ted Bennett Receives Award



Ted Bennett, Chemung County Legislator and STC Board Member (center), was awarded the inaugural Theodore A. Bennett Award by the Elmira Chemung Transportation Council for his long term commitment to improving transportation in the Southern Tier. Pictured with him are Jay Schissell, Peter White, Tom Santulli, and John Tonello.

## Chemung County Receives EDA Grant

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke recently announced a \$1.45 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to the Chemung County Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) and Chemung County to provide water, sewer, and road infrastructure to serve industrial land including the new CVS distribution center. The project was made possible under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and is expected to create up to 600 new jobs and contribute private investment to the local and regional economy.

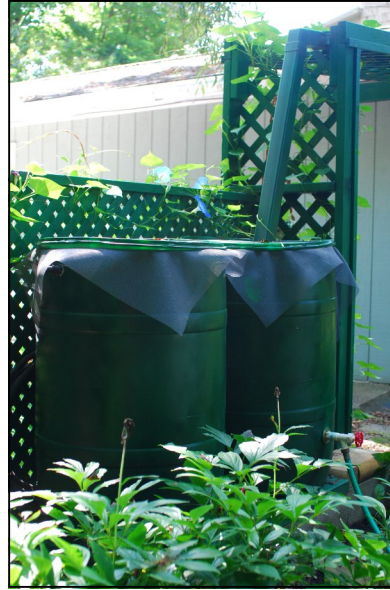
Proximity to Interstate 86 was a major factor in CVS/pharmacy's decision to build the 750,000 square foot distribution center. Senior Vice President of Logistics Ron Link said, "This is an ideal location to support the hundreds of CVS/pharmacy stores in the region. We are excited to be joining the Chemung County community."

## Floodplain Facts

STC has developed a series of "floodplain management fact sheets" to help municipalities, developers, and the public understand and implement the required standards for floodplain development. Minimum standards were established by the National Flood Insurance Program and have been enacted by all municipalities in the STC region (so that flood insurance is available within their jurisdictions). The requirements can be confusing, and many municipalities experience only infrequent requests for development within the mapped floodplain areas. In order to facilitate consistent implementation, floodplain development requirements are presented on 13 one-page information sheets, of which only a few will be applicable to any given project. This information can be easily referenced by both municipal officials and the applicant. STC also prepared several forms, including a checklist to assist with the review process for floodplain development permits.

These resources will be distributed to municipalities and are posted on the STC website ([www.stcplanning.org](http://www.stcplanning.org); Program Areas; Flood Mitigation; Floodplain Development Standards). While you're there, check out the wealth of information about flood hazards, flood safety, and other topics. For technical assistance, contact Janet Thigpen (Certified Floodplain Manager) at 607-737-5271 or [jthigpen@co.chemung.ny.us](mailto:jthigpen@co.chemung.ny.us).

## STC Staff Takes Stormwater Work Personally



Faced with runoff problems of her own, STC staff Jennifer Fais has used what she has learned from the STC Rural Stormwater Program and has installed rain barrels at her own home. "The rain barrels were a great help this summer keeping my flowers and shrubs watered," she said. "I have also taken care of the puddle (and

sometimes ice rink) on my walkway by diverting the water from my roof to the rain barrels."

Jennifer, along with hundreds of homeowners across the region, took advantage of a demonstration rain barrel program funded by the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA) and managed by the Chemung County Stormwater Coalition. If you are interested in obtaining your own rain barrel for next season go to [www.ruralstormwater.org](http://www.ruralstormwater.org).

## Save the Date



Mark your calendars! The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Regional Leadership Conference is scheduled for **Thursday, April 15, 2010** at Corning Community College.

Members of the conference advisory committee are already busy planning a full day of informative classes, innovative ideas, and opportunities for sharing. Suggestions for class topics and requests for display and vendor space can be submitted to the STC office or by email to [tmcgarry@stny.r.com](mailto:tmcgarry@stny.r.com).

## Southeast Steuben River Vision Project Has Kick Off Meeting



Local officials from the City of Corning; Villages of Painted Post, Riverside, and South Corning; and the Towns of Corning and Erwin met recently with the Friends of the Chemung River Watershed and HAAS Landscape Architects to get the River Vision project rolling. First on their list: a van tour of existing river-related facilities with stops along potential trails and points of interest that took place in early October.

The year-long project will identify “gaps” in the network of river-related trails, launch sites, and amenities in southeast Steuben County and recommend new projects. The effort will dovetail with the recently released “Chemung River Comprehensive Master Plan” developed with LWRP funds in neighboring Chemung County and help expand regional, state, and interstate blue and green trail systems.

The project will result in a Southeast Steuben “River Vision.” Over the long term, communities hope to improve public access to the Chemung River, protect the river’s natural resources, generate jobs/revenue for outdoor sports/water-related businesses, strengthen community cooperation, and further advance the Chemung River as part of the Susquehanna River Trail and the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. The project totals \$52,860 including match provided by the communities.

## 2009 STC Board of Directors

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**Thomas Santulli**, *Chemung County Executive*

### Vice Chair

**Philip Roche**, *Chair, Steuben County Legislature*

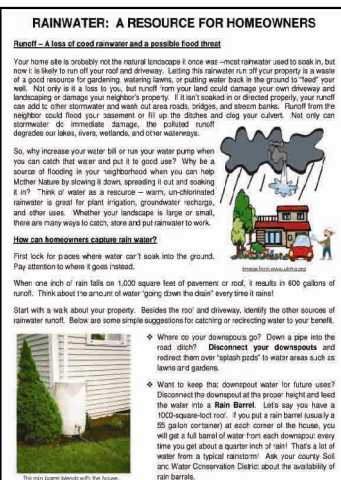
- Mark Alger**, *Steuben County Administrator*
- Theodore Bennett**, *Chemung County Legislator*
- John Burin**, *Municipal Representative*
- Donald Creath**, *Steuben County Legislator*
- James Curatolo**, *Environmental Representative*
- Thomas Gifford**, *Chair, Schuyler County Legislature*
- James Griffin**, *Commerce/Business Representative*
- Richard Gunderman**, *Chemung County Legislator*
- Ernest Hartman**, *Labor Representative*
- Danielle Hautaniemi**, *Schuyler County Planning*
- Greg Heffner**, *Steuben County Planning*
- Shawn Hogan**, *Municipal Elected Official*
- \*Diana Hughes**, *Chemung County Planning Board*
- Kelsey Jones**, *At Large - Schuyler*
- Paul Marcellus**, *Schuyler County Legislator*
- Robert Nichols**, *Agricultural Representative*
- Timothy O’Hearn**, *Schuyler County Administrator*
- Mark Ryckman**, *Municipal Representative*
- G. Thomas Tranter, Jr.**, *Industrial Representative*
- Scott VanEtten**, *Steuben County Legislator*

\*left board during the year

## STC Staff

- Marcia D. Weber**, Executive Director
- David M. Bubniak**, GIS Specialist
- Susan M. Cratsley**, Executive Assistant
- Victoria A. Ehlen**, Planner
- Jennifer G. Fais**, Principal Planner
- Thomas D. McGarry**, Economic Development Coordinator
- Janet L. Thigpen**, Flood Mitigation Specialist
- Timothy J. Tostanoski**, Technology Coordinator
- Daniel C. Wilhelm**, Accountant

## Homeowner’s Brochure Available



STC just released this brochure with helpful hints for homeowners on ways to capture stormwater and put it to good use. Produced as part of the Rural Stormwater Program, the brochure is linked to [Better Site Design](#) under Program Areas/Stormwater at [www.stcplanning.org](http://www.stcplanning.org) under Program Areas/Stormwater (“Better Site Design”)

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- The report has also been funded in part by Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties.

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