



It's Time to Get Our Money's Worth!

New York Needs Standards, Accountability & Transparency in Economic Development.

NY IDA Update
7.29.09

Since the state legislative session dissolved earlier this month without resolution of IDA reform or any of the other critical issues facing our state, **opponents of reform have turned their attention away from Albany and back to local governments where they are attempting to end-run statewide reform.**

The most public of these anti-reform efforts has been in Western New York where **Erie County Executive Chris Collins has run a vicious attack campaign against county legislators who will not support his anti-reform proposal.** He and the Erie County IDA crafted and tried to force a resolution through the legislature that would essentially allow the IDA to go back to business as usual without any reform.

Fortunately, we have a strong pro-reform coalition in Western New York as well as many legislative allies that stood up to the Collins attack—and won this round. The coalition packed the hearing rooms and organized letters and calls into legislators and the media to make sure the pro-reform message was heard. The Erie County legislature ultimately passed a resolution in line with the state reforms our coalition has proposed by requiring that if currently stalled projects are going to move forward with IDA support, wage standards must apply.

Our coalition was thus successful in arguing that it's no good to create just any kind of job—we need quality jobs and responsible employers in order to rebuild our economy in a sustainable and equitable way. Check out these media clips outlining their arguments:

- ⇒ **“Climbing out of our economic hole depends on creating good jobs that stimulate the economy...** Somewhere along the way, these IDAs lost their way and dropped the ball by funneling money to companies with virtually no conditions or assurances or even any way to keep tabs on these tax-dollar-supported projects. As a result, companies have been reneging on their commitment to create jobs, lining the pockets of developers and law firms and draining resources from local budgets that provide the public services we all depend on.” from an OpEd by Sam Williams of the UAW and WFP in Western NY (*The Buffalo News*: [Economic expansion starts with good wages](#))
- ⇒ **“I’m a single mother of two children...People in my neighborhood and across the city are struggling to find good jobs and support their families.** Our neighborhood needs economic development that prioritizes people over profit. Unfortunately, IDAs are giving huge tax breaks to developers and subsidizing hotels, empty office buildings in the suburbs, and retail jobs that pay poverty level wages. **The way we practice economic development in Buffalo isn’t working for neighborhoods like mine.** The fact that public dollars are being spent on economic development without taking into account the interests of the community should make people not just scratch their heads but be down-right angry. (Julie Boody of PUSH Buffalo in Artvoice: [IDA Reform Now](#))
- ⇒ **“If the workers are still depending on government aid programs for survival, gauging the job creation a success for taxpayers is questionable.** It is false to say there is no cost to the taxpayer if this body creates jobs at wages that don’t allow people to become self-sufficient,” (Allison Duwe of the Coalition for Economic Justice in the *Tonawanda News*: [Legislators dispute Collins’ figures](#))
- ⇒ **“The low-cost argument is over-simplified and ignores the full range of implications for construction projects.** Higher wages draw properly skilled workers who can do the job faster and at a higher quality. That process produces a superior product, cutting down on repair and replacement costs, and also yields fewer costly on-the-job injuries...the simple number comparison on a spreadsheet neglects real-world concerns,” (interview by Daniel Pye with Sam Capitano of the Laborers in the *Tonawanda News*: [Legislators dispute Collins’ figures](#))

When the state legislature reconvenes, we will resume our efforts for comprehensive reform in Albany. In the meantime, **we cannot allow the significant gains we have made toward statewide reform to be undermined by our local elected officials and IDAs.** We must continue to get our message in the media, fight back against anti-reform efforts in our communities and make sure our state legislators know we are counting on them to resolve this issue when they go back to Albany.

Please be in touch if we can provide any support for your local reform efforts and watch for notices soon about regional coalition meetings happening in September to outline next steps for the statewide campaign. Check out the clips below for more detail on the fight-back in Buffalo as well as economic development news from across the state. Thank you for your ongoing efforts and let us know how we can support you locally until it's time to take our campaign back to Albany!

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IDA Reform

[Economic expansion starts with good wages : Another Voice](#)

The Buffalo News (Opinion, Sam Williams, July 24, 2009)

In the debate over reforming industrial development agencies, most people agree the State Legislature should let non-profits access much-needed capital and get on with their business. But with IDAs ready to channel almost \$2 billion in federal stimulus dollars to profitable corporations around the state, we need to make sure the jobs they create are good, decent-paying jobs.

[Fair pay battle brews](#)

WIVB (George Richert, July 24, 2009)

The debate for your money rages on at Erie County Hall, where lawmakers want to require prevailing wages at non-profit projects financed by the IDA, and the county executive says it will kill millions of dollars in development. Erie County Legislature Chair Lynn Marinelli said, "If any of this helps get this economy moving, then Godspeed, let's go."

[State wage debate flares in Erie County](#)

Buffalo News (Matthew Spina, July 23, 2009)

"It is just what it is — an end-around of the IDA reform," Capitano told Erie County lawmakers gathered Wednesday to discuss the Collins approach. Capitano's message was both an attempt to air the union view and a pep talk for any sympathetic Democrat withering under Collins' recent attacks. Capitano and Allison Duwe of the Coalition for Economic Justice argued that workers earning the prevailing wage—a Depression-era reform — are better able to contribute to their local economies and that they are generally more productive.

[Legislators dispute Collins' figures](#)

Tonawanda News, (Daniel Pye, July 23, 2009)

Allison Duwe, executive director of the Coalition for Economic Justice, attacked from a different direction. She said that even if people are employed at a wage of \$8 an hour, that doesn't guarantee they'll end up above the poverty line. If the workers are still depending on government aid programs for survival, Duwe said gauging the job creation a success for taxpayers is questionable. "It is false to say there is no cost to the taxpayer if this body creates jobs at wages that don't allow people to become self-sufficient," Duwe said.

[Chris Collins' \\$200 Million Mirage](#)

WNYmedia.net (July 22, 2009)

Given that there won't be a flood of new development with or without this proposal, maybe we shouldn't rush into granting new authority to the Erie County IDA, a body that has consistently failed in its mission to create good jobs but had no problem throwing money away on a disaster like Leonard Stokes' One Sunset. Ahh yes, about those jobs. One of the key provisions of the amendments proposed by Kennedy and others is that they would ensure that a certain percentage of any jobs created would actually go to local workers. It's a dirty little secret that many projects that lack a Project Labor Agreement or other such "obstructionist" mandates end up hiring out-of-state workers to do the work.

[County IDA approves economic grant for city](#)

Evening Observer (Michael Rukavina, July 22, 2009)

Three resolutions were approved during Tuesday morning's Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Board of Directors meeting at JCC North on Bennett Road in Dunkirk. Two of those three resolutions needed executive sessions, but in the end, each was approved. City of Dunkirk Mayor Richard Frey was in attendance to hear the IDA's approval of the \$125,000 economic development grant the city will use to help pay for the \$173,000 in renovation work done over two years to Memorial Park. That resolution began with an executive session. Five minutes before it was adjourned, Mayor Frey was called in, and in the end, it was approved.

Debate continues on a fair wage

Tonawanda News (Daniel Pye, July 22, 2009)

This newest round of in-fighting started after last week's session of the county legislature, during which legislators refused to give a part of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency power to issue tax-exempt bonds. The money would be spent on construction projects that County Executive Chris Collins estimates would be worth more than \$200 million and jump-start the local economy.

Legislators stymie Collins plan for IDA

Buffalo News Matthew Spina (July 20, 2009)

Lawyers for the Erie County IDA and County Executive Chris Collins recently proposed a way around the roadblock. They drafted a measure to let a special unit of Erie County's IDA, rather than the IDA itself, arrange the cheaper, tax-exempt financing that hospitals, schools and colleges prefer for expansions. Unions accuse the development agencies of wasteful spending by providing low-interest money to companies that do not produce promised jobs. Jobs With Justice, a labor-backed group, says one in every five IDA dollars went to failing projects in 2006. Denis Hughes, president of the state AFLCIO, has called IDAs part of a "failed economic strategy for upstate."

Collins says the legislature is a roadblock

WIVB (Judy Moore, July 20, 2009)

Erie County Executive Chris Collins calls it an unnecessary roadblock to economic promise. The County Executive is calling on the County Legislature to stop blocking more than \$200 million in development projects. Certain democrats want to change Collins' plan by adding the prevailing-wage requirement and requiring contractors to consider project labor agreements for unionized work.

Focus is on NY City as reshuffled Senate returns

Buffalo News (Tom Precious, July 14, 2009)

Asked Monday for the bills the Senate will be considering, a Senate Democratic spokesman could name only one: Legislation affecting an expired law that had the mayor in control of the New York City schools will be a "high priority" Wednesday. What's not high on the priority list of the Senate Democratic leadership? Bills dealing with lowering property taxes, or cutting state mandates to help localities cut costs, or improving how industrial development agencies are run, or making technical changes many lawmakers say are needed to the Empire Zone program that gives tax breaks to companies.

Fishman: Reform IDAs

Long Island Business News (July 7, 2009)

In the debate over reforming industrial development agencies, most people agree the Legislature should let nonprofits access much-needed capital and get on with their business. (See "Nonprofit construction on hold as Albany power play drags on," in the June 19 issue of LIBN.) But with IDAs ready to channel almost \$2 billion in federal stimulus dollars to profitable corporations around the state, we need to make sure the jobs they create are good, decent-paying jobs. Climbing out of our economic hole depends on creating good jobs that stimulate the economy, but IDAs are giving these corporations a pass and letting us all down in the process.

2009 Session Brings Glimmer Of Hope

Hudson Valley Press (July 5, 2009 LTE)

We must also institute unfunded mandate relief to alleviate the burden placed on our school districts and municipalities enabling them to lower property taxes. Finally, we have to enact a comprehensive economic development plan that reforms Empire Zones, strengthens local Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs), attracts businesses and encourages job creation.

FAILING NY'S WORKING FAMILIES

New York Post (Denis Hughes, July 2, 2009)

The labor movement in this state won't tolerate another legislative session as ridiculous as the one we've just been through. The failure to enact an unemployment-insurance increase is one example, but the list goes on -- the failure to rein in industrial-development agencies, ignoring the plight of farm workers and the failure to address the state's long-term structural revenue problems.

HANYS official displeased with Legislature

Bizjournals.com (Tracey Drury, July 1, 2009)

Calling the current state of the New York state Senate a "hellacious" place, the president of a statewide health trade group warned local hospital leaders they're in for a bumpy ride. The association is still working on several legislative issues on behalf of members, including managed care reforms, rate freezes on physician liability claims and financing from industrial development agencies. Other issues in the works include reform of the state's certificate-of-need process, new payment systems for skilled nursing facilities and workforce shortages statewide.

Union boss threatens retribution for government inaction

Business First Buffalo (Adam Sichko, July 1, 2009)

Denis Hughes, president of the New York State AFL-CIO, lashed out against the elected officials on Tuesday. The union, which claims 2.5 million members, is reviewing its political and legislative strategies ahead of the November 2010 elections to punish legislators and elected leaders who are not supporting union positions on a range of issues, Hughes said. Hughes outlined a series of grievances. Many are issues that business lobbies is fighting to delay, weaken or even kill, including what Hughes called "the failure to rein in industrial development agencies" by requiring all IDA-backed projects to pay what's called a prevailing wage. Those wages mirror union wages and are higher than standard market rates.

Senate siege: Week 3

Elmira Star-Gazette, NY (June 25, 2009)

The New York Senate is close to frittering away a third week in Albany as Republicans and Democrats continue their fight over who's in charge. The story line shifted from the absurd to the ridiculous on Wednesday when two GOP senators - one of them George H. Winner Jr. of Elmira - filed a state Supreme Court suit, accusing Senate Secretary Angelo Aponte of obstructing Senate business. Several bills requiring little more than approval for renewal need attention. Not the least of them are authorizations for counties, including Tompkins and Delaware, to levy up to 1 percent of additional sales tax. Without such approval, those counties will have to figure out where the lost revenue will come from. Other bills include Power for Jobs to help businesses with energy costs, Timothy's Law that extends insurance coverage for mental health problems and renewal of certain Industrial Development Agency benefits.

Kolb Comments On Conclusion Of 2009 Assembly Session

Hudson Valley Press (June 23, 2009)

Additionally, we need to enact a comprehensive economic development plan that leads to the creation of more private sector jobs, especially in Upstate; reform Empire Zones by honoring Qualified Empire Zone Enterprises for 2008 and 2009; strengthen IDAs by reauthorizing IDA financing for not-for-profit civic facilities; and enact a statewide energy plan that lowers costs for residents and businesses. We should also be proactive in addressing New York's projected budget deficit and our continued decline in state revenues. Each of these issues is important and should not be deferred to the 2010 Legislative Session.

Gridlock, everywhere

Albany Times Union (June 22, 2009)

Pressing matters include IDA reform, which would give industrial development agencies permanent ability to help finance so-called civic facility projects, many of which are sponsored by nonprofit organizations. Then there's the matter of the increased public pension contribution costs facing municipalities. Legislative relief would give them more time to adjust to payments that could be as much as 55 percent higher than they have been.

ALBANY Waiting for the dough

Crain's New York Business (June 21, 2009)

Organized labor, environmentalists, good-government groups and tenant advocates were also set to see their pet bills passed before the Senate stopped functioning June 8. Unions want companies receiving Industrial Development Agency subsidies to guarantee creation of prevailing-wage jobs and for the state to raise its low unemployment payments. In a reprieve for business, those measures are now stymied.

State of chaos leaves business in the lurch

Buffalo News (David Robinson, June 21, 2009)

But the disarray goes beyond Empire State Development's management. More than \$2.1 billion in civic facility projects planned by non-profit organizations have been stalled for a year-and-a-half because the state Legislature hasn't reauthorized industrial development agencies to help finance them. These generally are school, health care and senior housing projects, but labor groups want contractors working on all IDA projects to pay prevailing wages, which the Associated Builders and Contractors trade group says would drive up labor costs.

Non-profits' projects wait for state's next move

Olean Times Herald (Rick Miller, June 20, 2009)

There are more than \$32 million in construction projects in Cattaraugus County on hold until the state Legislature renews a financing program for not-for-profit organizations. A coalition of business, municipal and not-for-profit agencies met with state lawmakers in Albany on Friday to push for approval of a bill to reauthorize IDA financing for non-profit groups. The law that had been in place since 1986 was allowed to lapse by the state Legislature's inaction.

Construction projects stalled

Troy Record (Jake Lustick, June 20, 2009)

A coalition of New York's business, municipal and non-profit community organizations Friday released a list of major construction projects stalled as a result of state government's failure to approve financing legislation. Earlier this week, the

coalition called for the state Legislature to approve a bill re-authorizing IDA-financing for non-profit organizations. The law, which had been in place since 1986, lapsed last year and has not been renewed.

[County executives fuming over Senate gridlock](#)

Mid-Hudson News (June 19, 2009)

NYSAC Executive Director Stephen Acquario called on lawmakers to form a "fusion government" to move the Senate's work along. Legislators are scheduled to conclude their business on June 24, and county officials say if they don't get sales tax extenders, industrial development agency reform and other action, local taxpayers will take a massive multi-million dollar hit.

[Nonprofit construction on hold as Albany power play drags on](#)

Long Island Business News (David Winzelberg, June 19, 2009)

Students at St. Anthony's enjoy their recently completed \$41 million athletic field house and student center, thanks to financing from the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency. But the new facility built by East Setauket-based Tritac Development Group at the private high school in South Huntington was one of the last nonprofit IDA construction projects to get done in New York. That's because part of the state's IDA law expired in January 2008, shutting off the flow of agency funds for building at schools, hospitals and other nonprofits until a new law, stalled in the Legislature for the last 18 months, is finally passed.

[How the Capitol chaos might raise your property taxes](#)

WRGB (Steve Flamisch, June 18, 2009)

If the Senate cannot pass key legislation by Monday's end of the legislative session, county governments will be deprived of needed revenue -- forcing them to decide between raising taxes or cutting jobs and services. Besides tax revenues, county governments are also counting on the Senate to address Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and pension reform, legislation providing procurement flexibility for local governments, and a stimulus-related bill that would help the state leverage more federal support.

[Senate stalemate poses dire threats to NYC plans](#)

Crain's New York Business (Erik Engquist and Daniel Massey, June 17, 2009)

Reform of Industrial Development Agency subsidies and unemployment insurance now must wait. Unions want companies receiving IDA subsidies to guarantee creation of prevailing-wage jobs, and for the state to raise its monthly unemployment benefit, which is among the lowest in the nation. Bills that would give basic rights to farm workers and domestic workers also hang in the balance.

[IDA Reform Now](#)

Artvoice (LTE, June 17, 2009)

I'm a single mother of two children, and a member of PUSH Buffalo, located in the West Side of Buffalo. People in my neighborhood and across the city are struggling to find good jobs and support their families. I too understand this struggle firsthand. Our neighborhood needs economic development that prioritizes people over profit. Unfortunately, Industrial Development Agencies are giving huge tax breaks to developers and subsidizing hotels, empty office buildings in the suburbs, and retail jobs that pay poverty level wages. The way we practice economic development in Buffalo isn't working for neighborhoods like mine. The fact that public dollars are being spent on economic development without taking into account the interests of the community should make people not just scratch their heads but be down-right angry.

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[IDAs in the News](#)

[Sad but it's survival](#)

The Daily News Online (Opinion, July 29, 2009)

Those plans, up until recently, had been to not only keep its Batavia location open, but to expand even more in Batavia by building in Gateway II Corporate Park off Route 98. When the company announced its plans in 2004, officials envisioned as many as 450 jobs at the new site within three or four years. Pioneer Credit was on track to do more work through the IRS Debt Collection Program, but that contract never grew to its full potential, according to company spokesman Rick Castellano. Pioneer, fortunately, decided to wait for a firm contract before committing to what would have been a \$7.3 million expansion project. It never even got to the point of seeking incentives from Genesee County Industrial Development Agency for its building -- fortunate, because now it doesn't have to worry about paying that back. It had already paid off a \$366,000 state Small Cities loan it used as working capital when it opened its Mill Street location.

[Steinhaus won't sign audit request](#)

Poughkeepsie Journal (Jenny Lee-Adrian, July 28, 2009)

Approved with a bipartisan vote of 23-2 this month, the legislative resolution asks the state to review the following county public authorities: the Economic Development Corporation, the Industrial Development Agency, the Resource Recovery Agency, the Water and Wastewater Authority and the Tobacco Securitization Corporation. The reviews would analyze whether the agencies complied with the Public Authorities Accountability Act.

[Victor advances Eastview renovations](#)

MPNnow.com (Mike Maslanik, July 28, 2009)

Eastview Mall's planned multimillion-dollar improvement project cleared its first major hurdle Monday, when the Victor Town Board unanimously ruled the first phase would not have an environmental impact. In addition to another environmental review, the town, school district and county Industrial Development Agency still need to sign off on establishing a full/fixed tax agreement that would take effect in 2014 and last for about 20 years.

[Unions Encourage Democrats To Stay Pro-Labor](#)

Politics on the Hudson (Joseph Spector, July 28, 2009)

Labor leaders urged Democrats to not abandon legislative issues that are still outstanding, such as reforming the state's industrial development agencies—which have not allowed non-profits to get help for construction projects. They also talked about getting approval of a farmworkers' bill of rights, which has yet to pass in the Senate, passing a same-sex marriage bill and retaining funding for education and health care.

[St. Lawrence Gas request pending](#)

WatertownDailyTimes.com (Elizabeth Graham, July 28, 2009)

Some legislators said they would consider contributing slot machine revenue from the state's gaming compact with the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, but others said they would feel more comfortable if the company approached the Industrial Development Agency or the proposed St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency for assistance once that group is formed.

[SIDA grants extension for Destiny project](#)

NewsChannel 9 WSYR (July 27, 2009)

Citing a judge's ruling that Citigroup breached its loan agreement with the Pyramid Companies, the Syracuse Industrial Development Agency has granted Pyramid, owners of Destiny USA, an extension on the time required to complete the Carousel Center expansion project.

[Syracuse agency grants Congel extension on tax deal](#)

The Post-Standard

(Rick Moriarty, July 27, 2009)

The Syracuse Industrial Development Agency has given developer Robert Congel an extension of Saturday's deadline to complete the first phase of the Carousel Center mall expansion and to start the second phase. In a letter today to Congel's partner, Bruce Kenan, agency Chairman Irwin Davis and Vice Chairman Vito Sciscioli said the agency has given the developer an 87-day extension.

[Doxsey says party punished him for vote](#)

Poughkeepsie Journal (Jenny Lee-Adrian, July 26, 2009)

Dutchess County Legislator James Doxsey, C-Town of Poughkeepsie, feels snubbed by the county Conservative Party for barring him from an endorsement interview, but party members feel he has alienated Conservatives. Doxsey said he thinks Conservative Party Chairwoman Patricia Killian denied him an interview a few weeks ago because he voted to replace her husband, Henry Killian, on the Industrial Development Agency board.

[One-stop shopping in Hunts Point gets heady meaning](#)

Crain's New York Business (Hilary Potkewitz, July 26, 2009)

The New York City Economic Development Corp., among others, was eyeballing the property as a possible site for companies the agency is trying to relocate from the Willets Point section of Queens. The agency is trying to move a dozen firms there to make way for a hotel-residential-retail development. Ironically, another city agency—the Industrial Development Agency—was already working with Manhattan Beer. It will grant the company more than \$9 million in tax

[Are winds of change blowing at the airport?](#)

MPNnow.com (July 25, 2009)

By and large, Fralick has done that. The town certainly isn't trouble-free, as evidenced by its escalating legal and engineering fees and the discord between the Town Board and Planning Board Vice Chairman Bob Mincer, but most everyone agrees things have been calmer since Fralick came on board. Now, in an effort to tackle another issue that has plagued the board over the years, Fralick has broached the idea of settling the town's dispute with the Ontario County Industrial Development Agency over a proposed expansion of the main runway at the Canandaigua Airport. Specifically, he plans to review a settlement proposal discussed nearly three years ago.exemptions for expanding in the Bronx.

Uniland wins grants for Avant Building

Buffalo News (Jonathan D. Epstein, July 24, 2009)

Empire State Development Corp. on Thursday awarded three grants totaling \$11 million to Uniland Development Co. for its Avant building project in downtown Buffalo. The grants will help defray some of the costs of the \$83 million project, which converted the former Thaddeus J. Dulski Federal Building at 200 Delaware Ave. into a modern mixed-use building that Uniland hopes will attract business and visitors to downtown. A \$40,000 grant to Erie County Industrial Development Agency to subsidize the rental of booth space for up to six New York businesses participating in the MEDICA 2009 Trade Show in Dusseldorf, Germany, on Nov. 20-21. The grant will also support the ECIDA's international marketing initiatives.

Distillery/arts project for Upstate NY

Examiner.com (Bill Dowd, July 24, 2009)

Drinks and music go together very nicely, so the husband/wife team of Stacy Cohen and Monte Sachs are planning on making a business of it for themselves. And, what better way to go about it than being supported through a \$295,000 grant? The Sullivan County Industrial Development Agency announced it secured a Rural Business Enterprise Grant for the project from the U.S. Department of Agricultural. It will purchase the distilling equipment, and lease it to the distillery. The leasing fees will go into a revolving fund used to finance other local agricultural projects.

No progress on new tax breaks for Hotel Utica

Utica Observer Dispatch (July 24, 2009)

For more than a year, Hotel Utica's owners have been pushing for a new tax break agreement, which they say would level the playing field with its biggest competitor — the Radisson Hotel-Utica Centre. But after discussions with Mayor David Roefaro, they say nothing has materialized. "Months and months keep going and nothing's been done," said Joseph Carucci, who owns the hotel with Charles Gaetano. "We're kind of at our wits end." Roefaro said the last meeting was two months ago and he referred them to the city's Industrial Development Agency.

Democrats' IDA picks remain unseated

Poughkeepsie Journal (July 24, 2009)

Four new board members of the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency are still not on the board four months after the county Legislature approved the appointments. Board Chairman Michael Tomkovitch has not formally seated the new members and has kept the seven-member board the same because, he says, the new appointments are invalid. In March, the Democrat-controlled Legislature voted to replace four longtime Republican board members with Democrats, despite the outcries of the Republican Minority Caucus and Republican County Executive William Steinhaus.

Economic Development Grants Awarded, New Jobs Coming

North Country Gazette (July 23, 2009)

The Erie County Industrial Development Agency ("ECIDA"), a public benefit corporation tasked with the promotion and assistance of private-sector industrial and economic development in Erie County, has been awarded a grant of up to 50 percent of eligible project expenditures or \$40,000, whichever is less. This grant will be used to subsidize the rental of booth space for up to six New York State businesses participating in the MEDICA 2009 Trade Show in Dusseldorf, Germany from November 20 to 21, 2009. The grant will also allow ECIDA to further its ongoing international marketing initiatives focused largely on increasing the ability of local medical manufacturers to compete internationally. The beneficiary companies have contributed to the funding of the project and will establish or expand their presence in overseas markets. Total project cost is \$80,000.

State gives \$3 million to Scenic Hudson for park

Poughkeepsie Journal (Craig Wolf, July 23, 2009)

The state's economic development agency announced today it will give \$3 million to the Scenic Hudson Land Trust to help turn Long Dock into a public park." This park is part of an integrated plan, which also includes a 166-room hotel and conference center on a formerly scarred industrial site along the Hudson River," noted the Empire State Development Corp. in its announcement. Most grants from this agency are to entities that are creating jobs directly. In this case, it's a separate group that's developing the actual hotel. Foss Group Beacon, headed by developer Ned Foss, plans a "green" hotel and conference center. It has been delayed by funding issues.

Mayor blames councilwoman for Newburgh's woes

Times Herald-Record (Doyle Murphy, July 22, 2009)

Mayor Nicholas Valentine said the city is headed for disaster and it's Councilwoman Christine Bello's fault. She said she publicly criticized Douglas because he had refused to answer her questions or put issues on the council's agenda as she requested. For example, she had asked to discuss the city's Industrial Development Agency at a work session. Douglas, worried a public discussion would complicate pending litigation between the city and IDA, never added it to the agenda.

County assists housing project in Gates

RocNow (Jim Stinson, July 22, 2009)

A \$9.8 million project with 126 units was approved Tuesday for tax incentives by the County of Monroe Industrial

Development Agency. The COMIDA board granted Affordable Senior Housing Opportunities of New York Inc., a Buffalo developer, \$846,000 in property tax abatements. The company is planning a three-story apartment building on about five acres near the southwest corner of Lyell Road and Elmgrove Road. The project will serve low- and middle-income people 60 and older and employ three people full-time.

County IDA approves economic grant for city

Evening Observer (Michael Rukavina, July 22, 2009)

Three resolutions were approved during Tuesday morning's Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Board of Directors meeting at JCC?North on Bennett Road in Dunkirk. Two of those three resolutions needed executive sessions, but in the end, each was approved. City of Dunkirk Mayor Richard Frey was in attendance to hear the IDA's approval of the \$125,000 economic development grant the city will use to help pay for the \$173,000 in renovation work done over two years to Memorial Park. That resolution began with an executive session. Five minutes before it was adjourned, Mayor Frey was called in, and in the end, it was approved.

Committee to discuss plan for tax-exempt financing

Buffalo News (Matthew Spina, July 21, 2009)

With the county executive on the attack, a key committee of the Erie County Legislature will meet at 2 p. m. Wednesday to again discuss his request to let an arm of the county Industrial Development Agency arrange tax-exempt financing for nonprofit groups planning expansions. IDAs have been blocked from arranging such lower-cost financing for civic projects since the state failed to renew the authority in January 2008.

Suffolk shows off Leviton

Long Island Business News (July 21, 2009)

In the wake of losing OSI Pharmaceuticals, elected officials will tout the arrival of Leviton to its new headquarters in Melville Tuesday. Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy will join Suffolk IDA officials, Huntington Town officials and representatives from Leviton, an international electronics manufacturer, at a ribbon cutting for its newly renovated 140,000 square-foot facility.

APARTMENTS COMING ALONG

WatertownDailyTimes.com (Nancy Madsen, July 21, 2009)

Mr. Treanor received about \$1.4 million in public financing through the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency, Watertown Local Development Corp. and Development Authority of the North Country. The project also won a \$1 million Restore NY Communities Initiative grant.

Unity to expand dialysis services in Monroe County

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (Angela Meradji, July 20, 2009)

Unity Dialysis Center at Spencerport will have sixteen regular dialysis stations, and one isolation station, that feature the newest technology, such as a central delivery station, and state-of-the-art water treatment equipment. Designed with patient comfort in mind, each dialysis station will have its own television set, and free wi-fi will be available for patients. To staff the new Dialysis Center, Unity expects to add an additional seven jobs, including nurses, technologists, and clinical assistants. Due to the creation of new jobs at the facility, and because other criteria were met, the \$4.7 million project was eligible for property tax abatement from the County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency (COMIDA).

Vernon Downs is looking to begin a \$16.5 million expansion project

WKTV (Gary Liberatore, July 20, 2009)

The owners of Vernon Downs, Mid-State Development have applied for tax breaks with the The Oneida County Industrial Development Agency for their proposed \$16.5 million improvement project. Pete Savage, a spokesperson from Mid-State Development tells NEWSChannel 2, his vision is to have a 10,000 square foot convention center in place within two years to host some major conventions.

Garbage up, revenue down at trash plant

Glens Falls Post-Star (Blake Jones, July 20, 2009)

The Hudson Falls trash plant saw record garbage delivery during the first half of the year, but the rates for trash drop-off and electricity generation have been driven down by the recession. The waste-to-energy plant — which is owned by the Warren-Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency and subsidized by both counties — reported weaker revenue for the year to date, despite more business. This year, the plant has invoiced \$4.189 million in tip (disposal) fees to customers, while last year it invoiced \$4.566 million for the same period with less waste coming in.

Tax breaks for hotel recommended

Ithaca Journal (Krisy Gashler, July 17, 2009)

Developer Jeffrey Rimland's Hotel Ithaca deserves tax breaks because it will provide 26 defined community benefits, the committee decided by a 4-1 vote late Wednesday night. Under the city's Community Investment Incentive Program, a

developer must meet a minimum of 14 benefits in order for the council to recommend they receive tax breaks. The Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency is the board that actually decides whether to grant tax abatements.

[Rockville Centre settles squabble over former drug company site](#)

Long Island Business News (David Winzelberg, July 17, 2009)

A New Jersey-based developer will accept \$1.15 million from the Village of Rockville Centre to settle a five-year-old lawsuit over development of the former Darby Drugs. AvalonBay has applied for tax incentives for the project from the Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency, to which village officials have expressed their opposition. Another \$25 million lawsuit filed against the village by Darby Drugs for holding up the deal is still pending. The village's motion to dismiss was on hold, awaiting the outcome of the Chase Partners suit.

[Broadband efforts are moving forward](#)

Buffalo News (Kathy Kellogg, July 17, 2009)

Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Agency is moving forward with efforts to provide broadband connections from Falconer in Chautauqua County to Whitesville in Allegany County, Southern Tier Extension Railroad Authority upgrades and a multimodal facility. The organization's staff told the agency's board of directors Thursday they hope to receive \$4.5 million in grants and could begin construction of a broadband system late next year.

[West End Water Project hits funding crisis snag](#)

Evening Observer (Joel Cuthbert, July 16, 2009)

In 2007, the Chadwick Bay Regional Development Corporation - in conjunction with the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency and the city of Dunkirk - performed a water system analysis to determine the condition of the water infrastructure supporting the city and surrounding municipalities. Results showed severe tuberculation in the lines running along Route 5 through the town and city of Dunkirk.

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[Broadband efforts are moving forward](#)

Buffalo News (Kathy Kellogg, July 17, 2009)

A grant request is due Aug. 14 from the broadband stimulus package administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and from the Economic Development Administration. Another \$900,000 will be needed from local sources, including Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties' industrial development agencies, as well as private industry and telephone companies that have been recruited as partners.

[Committee recommends abatements for Ithaca hotel](#)

Ithaca Journal (Krisy Kashler, July 16, 2009)

Developer Jeffrey Rimland's Hotel Ithaca deserves tax breaks because it will provide 26 defined community benefits, the committee decided by a 4-1 vote. Under the city's Community Investment Incentive Program, a developer must meet a minimum of 14 benefits in order for Council to recommend they get a tax break on new construction. The Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency is the board that actually decides whether to grant tax abatements.

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[2 Lyons Plants Closing; Over 200 Jobs Lost](#)

13WHAM-TV (Sean Carroll, June 16, 2009)

Local leaders are already in talks with state representatives and the county's I.D.A. They're going to try to save the jobs, but in this global recession it's tough. The recession has already seen Wayne County's unemployment rise 3% in the last year, up to nearly 8.5% this month.

[Biotech's move welcomed](#)

Westfair Online (John Golden, July 16, 2009)

OSI's recent decision to consolidate its North American operations at the Ardsley Park Science and Technology Center in

Greenburgh was hailed by members of the New York Biotechnology Association gathered at The Landmark at Eastview, the expanding life sciences campus on Old Saw Mill River Road in the towns of Greenburgh and Mount Pleasant. Earlier that day, the Westchester County Industrial Development Agency approved a leaseback agreement with OSI for approximately 400,000 square feet in six buildings at the largely vacant Ardsley center. IDA officials also approved a sales tax exemption estimated at \$3 million for the project.

[IDA seeks to keep Towers Perrin in county](#)

Westfair Online (John Golden, July 16, 2009)

Westchester County officials hope to keep a merging professional services company and 180 jobs in the county if the company decides to move its office operations in Valhalla next year. The county Industrial Development Agency last week gave its preliminary approval to a straight-lease deal at 44 S. Broadway in the White Plains central business district with Towers, Perrin, Forster and Crosby Inc. A spokesman said the company is exploring several options, including staying in Valhalla, when at the end of 2010 its lease expires at 100 Summit Lake Drive in the Reckson Summit office park.

[Canandaigua to consider airport settlement](#)

MPNnow.com (Julie Sherwood, July 14, 2009)

At a special Town Board meeting June 26, the board voted unanimously to file an intent to appeal a ruling by a state Supreme Court justice allowing the Ontario County Industrial Development Agency to close a section of Thomas Road to make way for a runway expansion at the airport.

[Chemung County Continues to Develop](#)

WENY-TV (Kelsie Smith, July 14, 2009)

And another company in the private sector looking to expand is the Seneca Beverage Company on Upper Oakwood Road. They're hoping to build and move to a 91-thousand square foot building on Lake Road in Horseheads, allowing them to retain jobs and create 8 new jobs. Today, the Chemung County Industrial Development Agency approved sales tax and mortgage tax assistance for the Seneca Beverage Company's new facility. They're hoping to break ground this summer.

[Resolution to review public agencies goes to Steinhaus](#)

Poughkeepsie Journal (Jenny Lee Adrian, July 14, 2009)

County Legislature Chairman Roger Higgins, D-New Hamburg, wants the state to review the Dutchess County Economic Development Corp., the county Industrial Development Agency, the county Resource Recovery Agency, the county Water and Wastewater Authority and the county Tobacco Asset Securitization Corp.

[Legislature to vote tonight on seeking review of 5 Dutchess authorities](#)

Poughkeepsie Journal (Jenny Lee Adrian, July 13, 2009)

Higgins, D-New Hamburg, sponsored a resolution asking the state Authority Budget Office to review the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation, the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency, the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency, the Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority and the Dutchess County Tobacco Securitization Corporation, which oversees tobacco settlement money from the class-action suit against Philip Morris Inc.

[Applebee's, Lowe's opening shortly](#)

Hornell Evening Tribune (Bob Clark, July 13, 2009)

Originally, the company expected to be open in January, but delays in purchasing the property and the building crew's prior commitment to another location pushed construction to start in mid-May. Applebee's also is choosing its staff, said Jim Griffin, executive director of the Hornell Industrial Development Agency. "They're down there hiring now. Down at the (Hornell Erie) Depot," Griffin said. On the other side of State Route 36, construction work has wrapped up on the Lowe's home improvement store, but it will still be a few more weeks until the location is open for business, according to the home improvement giant.

[Harlequin launches \\$6M upgrade](#)

Bizjournals.com (Thomas Hartley, July 13, 2009)

Harlequin Sales Corp. is getting help for its \$6 million project to upgrade technology at its Depew warehouse. The Erie County Industrial Development Agency on Monday approved a tax abatement package for the global publisher of romance and women's novels. Harlequin said it plans to invest the \$6 million in new equipment and machinery at the Harlem Road distribution center.

[Entity failed to file reports to the state](#)

Poughkeepsie Journal (Mary Beth Pfeiffer, July 12, 2009)

Dutchess has two other active authorities as well: the Dutchess County Industrial Development Agency and the Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority. The IDA submitted all four of the most recent required financial reports; the water agency submitted just one of the four, state records show.

[How the Yahoo! deal got done](#)

Buffalo News (Jonathan D. Epstein, July 12, 2009)

"We are Yahoo!." For the previous few months, regional economic development officials had been working quietly to win a big project, code-named Project Pilgrim. But that statement, back in April during a visit by Kang and her site selection team, was the first time Kinyon knew who he was dealing with and just how big a deal he was looking at. "We were very surprised, and very impressed that Lockport would be considered for a Yahoo! data center location," said Kinyon, the CEO of the Town of Lockport Industrial Development Agency. "We never imagined that it was Yahoo!."

[Long-awaited Amsterdam Web site goes online today](#)

Schenectady Gazette (Jessica Harding, July 12, 2009)

Funding for the Web site, which included a \$20,000 grant from the Amsterdam Industrial Development Agency and a \$20,000 grant from National Grid, was not in place until last summer, and a contract with Engines of Creation, a local Web development firm out of the Clock Tower building, wasn't signed until the middle of January.

[Reporter responds to Bion official's objections](#)

Fulton Valley News (July 11, 2009 Opinion)

Legislator Morris Sorbello, chairman of the EDP committee and a member of the Oswego County Industrial Development Agency: "They really haven't been clear in telling us what they want to do." Majority Leader Shawn Doyle: "I think they are out on a fishing expedition to see how receptive we are. I felt they were vague and indirect in answering our questions."

[Seneca Beverage may get tax cuts](#)

Elmira Star-Gazette (G. Jeffrey Aaron, July 11, 2009)

The Chemung County Industrial Development Agency has laid the groundwork to grant tax abatements for the \$8.5 million Seneca Beverage warehouse and office building project planned for Lake Road in the town of Horseheads. The IDA has taken the steps to begin the preliminary environmental review of the project and will schedule a public hearing - actions that would qualify the project for sales, mortgage and property tax abatements.

[Hotel Ithaca may request tax abatements](#)

Press & Sun Bulletin (Krisy Gashler, July 11, 2009)

Long Island developer Jeff Rimland may seek local property tax abatements for his \$27 million Hotel Ithaca, members of the Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency learned Friday. When Rimland received Common Council permission last spring to purchase a small strip of land on Aurora Street, he said he would not seek any tax abatements. Then last month, citing the soured economy, the developer announced he would seek abatements, but only for sales tax on construction materials, not for property tax.

[Westchester's OSI pitch pays off](#)

Lower Hudson Journal news (Jerry Gleeson, July 11, 2009)

Theresa G. Waivada, executive director of the county's Industrial Development Agency, and Sal Carrera, director of the county's Office of Economic Development, said [collaborative](#) work with other institutions helped seal the deal. In early December, they took OSI officials on a bus tour of various sites around Westchester. The company's identity was still a mystery, Waivada said; their guests were on a first-name-only basis.

[Smaller projects occupy IDA in '08](#)

WatertownDailyTimes.com (Elizabeth Graham, July 10, 2009)

St. Lawrence County's 2008 economic news wasn't all bad. Thirty-one businesses worked with the county's Industrial Development Agency to make investments totaling \$117,603,554 last year, according to the IDA's annual report. IDA assistance in the form of Local Development Corp. loans and micro loans, Greater Massena Economic Development Fund loans, and Workforce Investment Board job training funds made up \$4,186,648 of that total.

[Fate of old Vet's Home building unknown](#)

Evening Sun (Melissa deCordova, July 10, 2009)

On June 30, Village Mayor Terry Stark asked members of the Chenango County Health and Human Services Committee whether the county supported an alternative use for the 1970s era 200-bed facility and what those possible uses would be. And prompted by a letter from Stark, New York State Senator Thomas Libous wrote to Department of Health Commissioner Richard Daines on June 12 asking for a meeting to discuss the following options: demolition as recommended by a consultant's study last fall, continued use by the state, or deeding the building over to a local government entity such as the Chenango County Industrial Development Agency (IDA).

[Pointing fingers and naming names on OSI's departure](#)

Newsday (July 10, 2009)

Until recently, an entity called the New Long Island Partnership drew together industrial development agencies and other players, such as the Long Island Power Authority, the Long Island Association and the Empire State Development Corp. But Nassau stopped paying dues, and it fizzled. Its members still consult on an ad-hoc basis, but that's not enough. We need a

well-funded, well-staffed entity to keep track of emerging situations like OSI and mount an all-hands response.

Good fences make excellent neighbors

Queens Chronicle (Lisa Fogarty, July 9, 2009)

Boundary has recently received preliminary approval from the New York City Industrial Development Agency for up to \$1.4 million in sales and real estate tax benefits. Because of its location in the South Jamaica Empire Zone, the company also qualifies for \$425,235 in Empire Zone wage tax credits. Thank to the benefits, the company can continue on its path to using only eco-friendly green building materials. Between 30 and 50 percent of its electrical usage is through solar energy and Boundary is in the process of installing cogeneration systems that will burn natural gas to supply 100 percent of electrical usage at New York Vinyl Extrusion facility.

“When the first solar panels came, I said ‘that’s the way we should go,’” Sibení recalled. “I wasn’t aware of the incentives and rebates, I was going to do it anyway. It’s still very expensive, but it pays off because you’re cutting back in burning coal and diesel fuel.”

Graymont concrete-plant move OK'd

Plattsburgh Press Republican (Kim Smith Dedam, July 9, 2009)

Graymont will become the first occupant of the industrial park, built in 1999 as the Altamont Wood Products Business Park. The industrial park encompasses a total 135 acres of mostly Low and Moderate Intensity land-use areas. It is owned and managed by Franklin County Industrial Development Agency.

Onondaga County may get federal money for railroad bridge, but there's still no train to cross it

The Post-Standard (Rick Moriarty, July 9, 2009)

It won't be a bridge to nowhere, but it could be a railroad bridge without a train. The state Department of Transportation has notified the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency that federal stimulus money may be available to complete the long-stalled construction of an excursion train bridge over Park Street to the Walsh Regional Transportation Center and Alliance Bank Stadium.

Yonkers IDA finalizes inducements for Hudson Scenic Studio expansion

Mid-Hudson News (July 9, 2009)

The Board of Yonkers Industrial Development Agency has passed a resolution finalizing an economic development package for Hudson Scenic Studio, an award-winning national production and scenic fabrication firm that has served Broadway and the professional entertainment industry for nearly three decades. The approval is a critical step in helping Hudson Scenic, currently located at 130 Fernbrook Street in Yonkers, move forward with a major renovation of 78 Fernbrook to accommodate a new manufacturing and warehouse facility.

NIAGARA FALLS: Hotel offered tax-free deal

Niagara Gazette (Mark Scheer, July 8, 2009)

The Board of Directors for the county’s Industrial Development Agency on Wednesday granted tentative approval for a pair of tax break agreements that would help Faisal Merani — the son of prominent Falls hotel owner Ashak Merani — as his companies move to purchase and renovate the former Fallside Hotel and Conference Center at 401 Buffalo Ave. and the eight-story Inn on the River at 7001 Buffalo Ave. in LaSalle.

Dunkin' Donuts franchisee dips into bankruptcy

Buffalo News (Matt Glynn, July 8, 2009)

The company said the doughnut-making plant has been “a major cash drain on Kainos from its inception.” The site produces 26,000 doughnuts per week for about 125 customers in the Buffalo and Rochester areas, according to a court document. The project in 2006 was granted \$64,000 in sales tax breaks, related to machinery and equipment purchases, by the Erie County Industrial Development Agency.

Guest column: Inside look at Harza Building

Utica Observer Dispatch (Tom Clark, July 7, 2009)

In November 2008, Mayor David Roefaro and the Utica Industrial Development Agency decided to openly seek bids for the Harza Building. They put notices in the appropriate papers. The Harza Building was not a concern of mine at the time. It was a building that was occupied and was kept up. I had no idea that it was costing the IDA and the city more than \$8,000 per month to operate it, and the IDA was running out of money.

Backtracking: Rise and fall of SJ Bailey

Oneonta Daily Star (Mark Simonson, July 6, 2009)

Both the Delaware County Industrial Development Agency and Catskill Watershed Corp. offered financial incentives to the company to stay in Walton or build the plant slated for Carbondale somewhere in Delaware County. S.J. Bailey claimed no offered sites were acceptable, including Sidney and Deposit.

[APA To Review Concrete Batch Plant Plans](#)

North Country Gazette (Ray Brook, July 6, 2009)

At 9:15 a.m., the Regulatory Programs Committee will consider a proposal from the Franklin County Industrial Development Agency and Graymont Materials (NY) Inc. to undertake a two-lot subdivision and relocate Graymont's existing ready-mix concrete batch plant from the Village of Tupper Lake to an existing 135+/- acre business park located on the westerly side of Pitchfork Pond Road in the Town of Tupper Lake, Franklin County.

[JCIDA, DANC approve funds for YMCA day-care facility](#)

WatertownDailyTimes.com (July 5, 2009)

The boards of the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency and Development Authority of the North Country approved their financing pieces for the Watertown Family YMCA to develop a day-care facility. The two agencies and Watertown Local Development Corp. are each contributing \$200,000 loans. The Y plans to buy the former Obstetric & Gynecologic Associates of Northern New York, 514 Washington St.

[Chairman seeks more info on slaughterhouse proposal](#)

Fulton Valley News (Carol Thompson, July 3, 2009)

Oswego County Legislature Chairman Barry Leemann said Tuesday that he is seeking additional information on a proposed cattle slaughterhouse that could have a significant impact on the area. Minutes from the Feb. 12, 2008 meeting of the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency, state, "Project is having difficulty getting the support from the community."

[JCIDA requests additional control](#)

WatertownDailyTimes.com (Nancy Madsen, July 3, 2009)

A disappearing photography business led board members of the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency to ask for more controls on its microenterprise loan fund. In November, the board approved a \$26,570 loan to Carla J. and Brian J. Coones for Creative Touch Images, a photography studio and art gallery at 268 State St., Carthage.

[City values up by 3.5 percent](#)

Ithaca Journal (Stacey Shackford, July 2, 2009)

Homeowners in Ithaca's Fall Creek and Belle Sherman neighborhoods have been affected the most by this year's newly revised property assessments, with the values of some homes increasing by as much as 12 percent. That reassessment was done as part of a 20-year agreement made last year between AES and the county's Industrial Development Agency that will see the plant's valuation increase 10 percent annually. In exchange, the plant was removed from the tax roll, with set payments in lieu of taxes.

[State grant to be utilized to assist small businesses in Herkimer County](#)

Herkimer Evening Telegram (David Robinson, July 2, 2009)

A \$50,000 state grant announced Wednesday is being utilized to establish a Revolving Loan/Grant program to assist small businesses in Herkimer County. Chamber officials and members actually worked over the past year in helping form program specifics. Becker, who is a member, said agricultural loans were included promptly after the chamber explained the demand. Already having existing structures for RLFs, a county Industrial Development Agency committee will be tasked with processing applications, according to Butler. Mark Feane, IDA director, said the new program will fill a "void" by making funds available to smaller retail, commercial and agricultural businesses.

[An artist's rendering of the proposed Avalon at Rockville Centre apartment complex](#)

Rockville Centre Herald (Judy Rattner, July 2, 2009)

The now-vacant 7.1-acre corporate campus at 80-100 Banks Ave. is a brownfield that is undergoing environmental remediation, at a cost of at least \$10 million, financed by tax incentives from a brownfield cleanup fund. There is also controversy over AvalonBay's application for tax incentives for the development from the Town of Hempstead Industrial Development Agency, a request vehemently opposed by village officials and residents, who spoke against it at a packed public hearing on March 13 at the Rockville Centre Public Library. If the tax abatement is granted, AvalonBay's mortgage recording, sales and property taxes would be reduced for up to 15 years. During that time the developer would make payments in lieu of taxes, or PILOTS, which are discounted from standard tax rates.

[Clark backs off Harza building interest](#)

Utica Observer Dispatch (Dan Miner, July 2, 2009)

Michael Cancilla is the last man standing, for now, in the bid to buy the six-story, city-owned Harza Building downtown. Neither the purchase nor management of the Harza Building would be an easy task. It requires approval from Empire State Development Corp., which holds the mortgage with \$3.8 million left by a former owner, and from the city Industrial Development Agency, which owns the structure.

[Seed money](#)

Evening Observer (Gib Snyder, July 1, 2009)

As construction is progressing and even as people passing by Dunkirk's 214 Central Ave. may wonder what it will be and when the building under construction will open, behind-the-scenes progress is being made. The funding will come from the establishment of a Chautauqua Seed Fund through a collaboration between Chautauqua County Executive Greg Edwards, the Chautauqua Region Industrial Development Corporation (CRIDC), the SUNY Fredonia Technology Incubator and the city of Dunkirk.

[Moody's rates Yankee Stadium project debt](#)

Reuters (July 1, 2009)

In a report from Tuesday, Moody's assigned the Baa3 rating to the New York City Industrial Development Agency's \$111.9 million in rental revenue bonds. It also affirmed its outstanding Baa3 rating on other types of bonds related to the Yankee Stadium project and said the outlook for all the bonds was stable.

[Yahoo! decision to build here may attract others](#)

Buffalo News (Jonathan D. Epstein, July 1, 2009)

Yahoo! will buy the land from the Lockport Industrial Development Agency for \$450,000. Plans call for a two-phase construction project and computer equipment "fit-out," using what Yahoo! executive Dibble called a "brand new design and engineering approach" to create an environmentally friendly, "green" facility, with about 191,000 square feet on one floor. Plans submitted to the town show the facility as a grouping of prefabricated metal pods packed with computer servers and other hardware.

[NYCIDA Assists Manufacturer & Distributor with Expansion in Queens](#)

New York RealEstateRama (July 1, 2009)

The Board of the New York City Industrial Development Agency (NYCIDA) has approved a sales and real estate tax incentive package that will help Boundary Fence & Railing Systems Inc. to expand its operations in Richmond Hills, Queens. The company plans to invest approximately \$4 million dollars in the expansion project, which will result in a return to City of about \$7.5 million over 25 years. The company has leased the property from New York City Economic Development Corporation for 25 years. Boundary received preliminary approval from NYCIDA for up to \$1.4 million in sales and real estate tax benefits. Located in the South Jamaica Empire Zone, the company also qualifies for \$425,235 in Empire Zone Wage Tax credits. It has decided to remain in New York City despite identifying properties in New Jersey that would be cheaper to acquire and operate. Boundary Fence and Railings employs 64 employees and expects to hire four more in the next three years.

[Police chief, back on Mechanicville school board, eyes job as president](#)

Schenectady Gazette (Kathy Bowen, July 1, 2009)

The Mechanicville Industrial Development Agency is negotiating a proposed payment in lieu of taxes deal with the developers of a multi-million dollar residential and retail project on North Main Street. The Esplanade development is planned for 11 acres between Route 4 and the Hudson River on property that now includes the Leonard Bus Sales and warehouse.

[New Plattsburgh hotel seen as sign of the region's strength](#)

Plattsburgh Press Republican (Dan Heath, June 30, 2009)

Plattsburgh's newest hotel is seen as another sign of the area's stability in the current global economic crisis. The hotel, which has been open since June 16, has brought 35 new jobs to the area. County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency President Adoré Flynn Kurtz said the state legislation that regulates IDAs targets tourism as well as industrial development. That allows the local IDA to help businesses such as Hampton Inn with tax breaks and other incentives.

[Newburgh and its IDA still sparring](#)

Times Herald-Record (Doyle Murphy, June 30, 2009)

Never easy, the business of bringing new business to Newburgh is extra-complicated right now. City officials and the Newburgh Industrial Development Agency are on opposite sides of litigation. They're of different opinions on who gets to see which IDA records. And while each side agrees they've got to find common ground for the good of Newburgh, on Monday they had yet to agree on a path toward reconciliation.

[Resetting the 'jewel' of Troy](#)

Albany Times Union (Harry J. Tutunjian, June 29, 2009)

The process of assisting Dinosaur in coming to Troy takes an important step Tuesday with a public hearing by the Industrial Development Authority at 8:30 a.m. in City Hall. The IDA is offering Dinosaur no payment of a mortgage recording tax, sales-tax-free purchase of materials during renovation of the property and a PILOT or payment in lieu of taxes program. It also will pay the city back taxes owed on the property by the former owner. This way, Troy is made whole.

[Adding to IDA Park success](#)

Buffalo News (Thomas Prohaska, June 28, 2009)

The Yahoo! data center, expected to receive its local approvals this week, is the latest feather in the cap of what is arguably the most successful industrial park in Niagara County. The 400-acre Town of Lockport IDA Park currently boasts 13 tenants with a total of 382 employees, according to its 2008 report. The \$150 million Yahoo! project, a 191,000-square-foot grouping

of prefabricated metal pods packed with computer servers and other hardware, would add about 75 permanent jobs to that total.

[Yahoo! incentive, site plans going to hearings](#)

Niagara Gazette (June 28, 2009)

The IDA has offered to sell Yahoo! a 30-acre site in the industrial park, on which it would build a 191,000 square foot facility to house a data center; the site is bounded by Junction Road on the west, Enterprise Drive on the south and Crown Drive on the east. The sale price is \$450,000.

[Dinosaur Bar-B-Que application's spicy details](#)

Albany Times Union (Chris Churchill, June 27, 2009)

The city of Troy is offering tax breaks and grant money to a restaurant chain majority-owned by billionaire financier George Soros. Dinosaur is widely known as a small, Syracuse-based restaurant chain. But its application with the Troy IDA lists a deep-pocketed and powerful majority owner: Soros Strategic Partners II LP.

[Economic development agency presents summary, awards](#)

Fulton Valley News (June 27, 2009)

Big Orange Radiator, a new wholesaler and retailer of automotive radiators, condensers, and fan assemblies located in Rich Industrial Park in the Town of Hastings. The project was assisted by the County of Oswego IDA and will create five jobs. west, Enterprise Drive on the south and Crown Drive on the east. The sale price is \$450,000.

[Development firm protests fees](#)

Elmira Star-Gazette (G. Jeffrey Aaron, June 27, 2009)

The Buffalo development firm planning to build a state parole office on Elmira's Southside is protesting some of the legal fees it is being charged for the project. According to a letter mailed to the Davidson and O'Mara law firm in Elmira and the Chemung County Industrial Development Agency, Ellicott Development's CEO Carl Paladino asks why his firm was charged more than \$15,500 in legal fees.

[CRIDC announces new seed fund](#)

Evening Observer (June 27, 2009)

Area officials will be on hand Tuesday to announce the establishment of a new "Chautauqua Seed Fund" being established for early stage technology businesses that will be based in the SUNY Fredonia Technology Incubator. The announcement will take place at 4 p.m. at the site of the new SUNY Technology Incubator, currently under construction, at 214 Central Ave. in Dunkirk. The Chautauqua Seed Fund is a collaboration between County Executive Gregory J. Edwards, the Chautauqua Region Industrial Development Corporation (CRIDC), the SUNY Fredonia Technology Incubator and the City of Dunkirk.

[MEMORIAL PARK PROJECT FINANCES REVEALED](#)

Evening Observer (Gib Snyder, June 27, 2009)

According to Frey, the total cost of the project that took two seasons to complete was \$173,000. Of that \$173,000 total cost, Frey said \$120,300 went to wages and overtime with \$52,700 for materials Frey said city taxpayers have been left to pay \$23,000, with \$25,000 coming from Community Development Block Grant funds and the rest - \$125,000 - coming from a recent economic and tourism grant through Chautauqua County. "Just this week and last week, I finalized the final bricks that I need to put this project together working through (county executive) Greg Edwards' office and (IDA Director) Bill Daly through the IDA, secured \$125,000 grant for economic development for tourism which was went toward this project," Frey said when talking about the county's help.

[Court decision is body blow for village](#)

Albany Times Union (Eric Anderson, June 26, 2009)

Taxpayers face \$3.2 million in debt, undertaken to upgrade water and sewage treatment facilities to meet Beech-Nut's needs. He said the Montgomery County IDA has offered to assist the village next year, but he worries that it may be too late. And he hasn't been able to get relief from the state government.

[Dinosaur Bar-B-Que looking for help](#)

Troy Record (Tom Caprood, June 26, 2009)

The highly popular Dinosaur Bar-B-Que restaurant is requesting \$460,000 in tax exemptions and grants and to not pay any property taxes for five years as part of a Payment In-Lieu of Taxes agreement. The restaurant is requesting a \$350,000 building renovation grant from the Troy Local Development Corporation. The money will be used to facilitate the restaurant's proposed \$2.9 million project to open a location at the former Fresno's Restaurant, located at 377 River St., and creating an estimated 80 full-time equivalent jobs in the city. Dinosaur Bar-B-Que, with branches in Syracuse, Rochester and New York City, is also seeking a \$60,000 exemption from state sales and compensating use taxes and \$53,000 in exemptions from real property taxes from the Troy Industrial Development Authority.

[YAHOO: Public invited to address particulars of proposed PILOT data center design](#)

Lockport Union-Sun & Journal (June 25, 2009)

The IDA has offered to sell Yahoo! a 30-acre site in the industrial park, on which it would build a 191,000-square-foot facility to house a data center; the site is bounded by Junction Road on the west, Enterprise Drive on the south and Crown Drive on the east. The sale price is \$450,000.

[Paladino buys Adam's Nursery on Sheridan Drive in Town of Tonawanda](#)

Buffalo News (Jonathan D. Epstein, June 24, 2009)

Buffalo developer Carl Paladino bought the Adam's Nursery property on Sheridan Drive today, putting him in position to complete plans for a new Rite Aid drug store and an expanded medical office building on a trio of adjoining parcels. The nursery will remain in business. He said he may seek tax or other benefits from the Erie County Industrial Development Agency for the office complex portion, but "we haven't finalized anything on that yet."

[2 might mean 27 for GMI in Hornell](#)

Hornell Evening Tribune (Bob Clark, June 24, 2009)

Gray Manufacturing Industries officials are still unsure if they will land a contract rehabilitating all of the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority's MetroRail cars, but the two cars in the shop right now may be a good sign. The IDA provides to GMI for the office and 15000-square-foot workshop, Griffin said, and the company has a purchase option on the property.

[Pulaski company plans to build research facility that would add 50 jobs](#)

The Post-Standard - Syracuse.com, NY (John Doherty, June 23, 2009)

A Pulaski company wants to build a \$12 million expansion that will create 50 jobs. The project will be backed with up to \$10 million in bonds issued by the Oswego County Industrial Development Agency. The county Legislature approved authorized the bonds Thursday.

[Upstate NY Store Closes](#)

Home Furnishings Business (June 23, 2009)

A 70,000-square-foot furniture store in Amsterdam, N.Y., owned by Northeast Home Inds. closed last week, according to a *Schenectady Daily Gazette* report. Northeast Home Industries received a \$125000 loan from the Montgomery County Industrial Development Agency to build its inventory. Rose told the paper Northeast hasn't missed a payment, but still owes more than \$100000.

[Housing Visions breaks ground on 28-unit, \\$7.6 million Loguen homes development](#)

New York Real Estate Journal Online (June 23, 2009)

The construction of new housing on the near east side has officially begun, as Housing Visions broke ground on its 28-unit, \$7.6 million housing development. This project is moving forward through cooperative efforts of the NYS Housing Finance Agency, the NYS DHCR, NYS Housing Trust Fund Corp., the Syracuse Industrial Development Agency, ARISE, the city of Syracuse and the support of mayor Driscoll, state senator David Valesky, assemblywoman Joan Christensen, Key Community and Development Corp. (KCDC), and KeyBank National Association.

[PARC expects to obtain last deeds next month](#)

Plattsburgh Press Republican (Dan Heath, June 22, 2009)

PARC President and CEO Bruce Steadman said that would enable the Air Force to draft the deed and close the deal with the with the County of Clinton Industrial Development Agency, which is the process through which the Air Force property is acquired from the government. Duken thanked the people at all of the involved agencies who have helped move the process along.

[Broadway Show Scenic & Production Co. To Expand In Yonkers](#)

Broadway World (June 22, 2009)

The Board of Yonkers Industrial Development Agency (IDA) unanimously passed a resolution to move forward with a public hearing and to negotiate an economic development package for Hudson Scenic Studio, an award-winning national production and scenic fabrication firm that has served Broadway and the professional entertainment industry for nearly three decades. Currently located at 130 Fernbrook Street in Yonkers, Scenic Hudson has proposed a major renovation of 78 Fernbrook to accommodate a new manufacturing and warehouse facility.

[Lots at stake for Syracuse, Onondaga County if Destiny USA mall project fails](#)

The Post-Standard - Syracuse.com (Ricky Moriarty, June 21, 2009)

Four years ago, the city of Syracuse and Onondaga County gave the mall a controversial 30-year property tax exemption as an incentive for Congel to expand it into a tourist destination called Destiny USA. "Basically, we agreed to invest property taxes to build the expansion," said Vito Sciscioli, vice chairman of the Syracuse Industrial Development Agency and former economic development director for the city.

[**NYPA, towns closer to deal**](#)

WatertownDailyTimes.com (Elizabeth Graham, June 21, 2009)

NYPA spokesman Michael A. Saltzman said Power Authority officials are pleased with the progress made so far, particularly with cooperation between the towns and the county's Industrial Development Agency. The two groups had been at odds over which of them should control the money and power, but agreed to a partnership in May.

[**Our view: Adirondack Bank deal should stand**](#)

Utica Observer Dispatch (June 20, 2009)

Last week, two local developers expressed interest in buying the six-story building, also known as the City Center, and owned by the Utica Industrial Development Agency. It was redeveloped 20 years ago with public money for the benefit of Stetson-Harza Corp., an engineering company that later defaulted on its loan. The building is now mostly vacant, and office space there is considered among the best available downtown.

[**Dinosaur wants incentives for move to waterfront**](#)

Albany Times Union (Eric Anderson, June 20, 2009)

Jeff Pirro, spokesman for Troy Mayor Harry Tutunjian, said the IDA will hold a public hearing on June 30 at 8:30 am to consider the Syracuse-based restaurant chain's proposal. The IDA would take ownership of the property and then lease it to Dinosaur, giving the company sales tax breaks on renovations, The Record of Troy reported Friday.

[**LiDestri thanks workers with extra week's pay**](#)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, NY (Jim Stinson, June 19, 2009)

The County of Monroe Industrial Development Agency approved incentives for the deal on Tuesday, but LiDestri said it needs additional help from the state before proceeding. "This (incentive application) to me is a solid request," Sandy Parker, CEO of the Rochester Business Alliance, said Thursday.

[**YMCA has first backer for planned day-care facility**](#)

WatertownDailyTimes.com (Nancy Madsen, June 19, 2009)

In 2000, the YMCA borrowed \$400,000 from the Trust, as well as the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency and the Development Authority of the North Country. The money was repaid after a capital fundraising project. In that \$2.2 million project, the Y tore down the buildings at 115-119 and 125 Washington St. to make room for a 10,000-square-foot, two-story addition.

[**Newfane gets its market after more than a year**](#)

Lockport Union-Sun & Journal (Bill Wolcott, June 19, 2009)

Budwey, who is in partnership with Paul and Peter Lamparelli of Buffalo, recognized the cooperation of the town fathers, the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency and the Northwest Savings Bank. "Without this help, we would not be able to have a store in Newfane," he said.

[**70000-square-foot Amsterdam furniture store shuts down**](#)

Schenectady Gazette (Jessica Harding, June 19, 2009)

Company officials offered to settle the loan for about \$75,000, but county IDA board members, who met this week, rejected the offer. "They must have talked later that night because they called right away in the morning and said they would pay us in full," Rose said.

[**New grocery in town**](#)

Buffalo News (Teresa Sharp, June 19, 2009)

The Niagara County Industrial Development Agency granted a 10-year property tax break for the store. In addition, Budwey will receive 250 kilowatts of cut-rate electricity for three years from the county's allotment, which it received from the New York Power Authority under terms of the relicensing of the Niagara Power Project.

[**Economic development group considered**](#)

Press & Sun-Bulletin,(Nancy Dooling, June 18, 2009)

Creating a new non-profit entity, the Southern Tier Economic Partnership, which would partner with the IDA for development efforts at the county level, is how Fiala wants to go. The proposed agency would incorporate business development done by the IDA with other retention and expansion efforts, tourism and technology development, including opportunities with Binghamton University.

[**Yahoo! Data Center in Lockport, NY?**](#)

Examiner.com (Heather Grimmer, June 18, 2009)

The Town Industrial Development Agency, will also hold a hearing June 30 or July 1 on Yahoo!'s application for a property tax break. As reported by Thomas J. Prohaska of The Buffalo News, The Town of Lockport is optimistic at the opportunity of bringing Yahoo! To the Lockport area. "The receipt of the application from Yahoo! and scheduling the public hearing is just

one more step in the process of reaching an agreement with Yahoo!," Lockport Supervisor Marc R. Smith said. "We are hopeful at the conclusion of this process that Yahoo! will be bringing its investment and jobs to Western New York.

[Loan may help keep Hoosier in business](#)

WatertownDailyTimes.com (Max R. Mitchell, June 18, 2009)

Officials from Hoosier Magnetics Inc. hope a loan from the Ogdensburg Growth Fund Development Corp. will help them meet state emissions standards and allow them to stay in business. It also has an outstanding loan application for \$200,000 from the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency. In late March, the company announced it needed to put all employees on a furlough to clear out inventory.

[Orange County IDA to invest in Ondamed](#)

Times Herald-Record (Michael Levensohn, June 18, 2009)

Ondamed didn't get everything it wanted, but it didn't leave empty-handed, either. The Orange County Industrial Development Agency on Wednesday approved an investment of up to \$50,000 in the company, which produces a biofeedback device. Several conditions must be met before the investment is finalized. First, one or more members of the Hudson Valley Angel Investors group must agree to invest in the company. Two members are believed to be interested. Then, the board of the Orange County Capital Development Corp. must sign off on the IDA's investment.

[Yonkers gets its first new hotel in 46 years](#)

Lower Hudson Journal news (Ernie Garcia, June 17, 2009)

Mayor Phil Amicone called Yonkers a business-friendly city whose Industrial Development Agency helped make the project possible, despite a national recession and credit crisis. "At a time when it's tough to get money - those projects can get funded," Amicone said of the city's incentives and tax breaks.

[Empire Zones and Other News](#)

[Malta gets \\$1.1M from tech park](#)

Schenectady Gazette (Stephen Williams, July 28, 2009)

The power line payment follows the town's acceptance on Friday of a \$1 million check from GlobalFoundries to build youth ballfields at the technology campus. At the same time, the town received \$100,000 from GlobalFoundries for future municipal planning studies. The GlobalFoundries check was presented after Friday's groundbreaking ceremony for the \$4.2 billion computer chip plant that will be built at the technology campus. For now, all the payments will remain in the town's banks, in accounts on which the town expects to earn about 3 percent interest.

[Empire Zone Action Waiting on NYS Assembly](#)

WAMC (Dave Lucas, July 28, 2009)

Businesses abusing the Empire Zone development program could get a break if the Assembly passes a bill delaying their removal by a year. The bill, approved by the Senate on July 16th in a unanimous vote, would block some of the measures taken to kick 544 underperforming businesses identified by the Empire State Development Corporation as "underperforming" out of the program. The Assembly legislation was initially drafted to help businesses, such as large manufacturing companies, who were abiding by the rules to keep their tax credits for another year.

[Albany may block tough action on Empire Zone firms](#)

Utica Observer Dispatch (Jenny Fusco, July 27, 2009)

Businesses abusing the Empire Zone development program could catch a break if the state Assembly passes a bill delaying their removal by a year. The bill, already approved by the state Senate, would block some of the measures the Empire State Development Corp. has taken to weed out 544 underperforming businesses in the program - 15 of which are local.

[NY state Assembly may allow crackdown on Empire Zone abuses](#)

The Post-Standard (Mike Mc Andrew, July 27, 2009)

The Assembly bill to delay the decertifications was introduced by Robin Schimminger, D-Kenmore, chairman of the Assembly economic development committee, who views the Empire Zone program as one of Upstate's best hopes for spurring investment and job growth. Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, who was supportive of ESD's recent efforts to administratively eliminate abuses in the Empire Zone program, has not decided if the Assembly will vote on Schimminger's bill, said Sisa Moyo, his spokeswoman.

[Construction Feud Building in Erie Co.](#)

WKBW-TV (Ginger Geoffery, July 23, 2009)

A battle over construction jobs is building in Erie County with lawmakers being pulled in opposite directions by union leaders and the county executive. The battle is over a proposal that would help get some not-for-profit construction projects going by providing tax exempt bond financing. These construction projects would create jobs and while everyone is in favor of more jobs for the region, not everyone is on board with the resolution as it is currently written.

[Apartment upgrades made for Appleridge](#)

Elmira Star-Gazette (G. Jeffrey Aron, July 22, 2009)

Valstone is the only secured creditor listed. The unsecured creditors include the village of Horseheads; Chemung County Industrial Development Authority; David Christa Construction Inc. of Victor, N.Y.; and a list of service providers and miscellaneous vendors.

[Clinton County Welcomes New Manufacturer, Jobs](#)

WCAX (July 22, 2009)

Local business leaders and development officials got a tour Wednesday of the 42,000-foot factory that is home to SpencerARL. The company pre-assembles 2,200 parts for the Nova Bus factory just two miles away. "They're in Plattsburgh's Empire Zone and those are state incentives," said Adoré Kurtz, president of The Development Corp. and executive director of the Clinton County Industrial Development Agency. "When they hire people who work for them for six months at a certain pay scale and with health insurance, they're able to get investment tax credits and employee tax credits."

[New East River Science Park Signs First Tenant](#)

The Epoch Times (Julia Kantor, July 22, 2009)

The new complex, which is under construction next to Bellevue Hospital, will offer 1.1 million square feet of research and development space and is projected to create 2,000 science-related jobs. Its designation in the Empire Zone will offer tenants tax incentives based on their investment and generation of employment opportunities. Expansion of the biopharmaceutical sector supports the City's Five Borough Economic Opportunity Plan, which aims to boost long-term economic growth and create jobs.

[Little Valley Part 2: Village has lots of pride](#)

Olean Times Herald (Rick Miller, July 22, 2009)

"When Bush closed, we lost 110 jobs," said Mayor Marsh, who has headed the village for 14 years. "I consider us fortunate the plant only sat vacant for a year. Now we've got about half those jobs back" with Innovative Wood Solutions. "We worked hard with the state and the county to get the grant from Empire State Development Corp. and we got them added to the Empire Zone."

[Healthy risk](#)

Lower Hudson Journal news (July 22, 2009)

Local governments have taken steps to ensure that work continues at Pearl River. Orangetown Supervisor Thom Kleiner pointed out that town and county officials worked together to encourage the state to include the Wyeth site as an Empire Zone business-development district, creating certain tax credits and incentives for growth. "That will hopefully reap benefits in the future," Kleiner told the Editorial Board. "That can make it attractive for expansion."

[Commerce Chenango reports economic development activity](#)

Evening Sun (Melisa deCordova, July 22, 2009)

The rail line, the natural gas industry and creating jobs to fill the many empty manufacturing plants and downtown storefronts have kept Chenango County's economic developers busy during the first half of the year. In a requested report to the Planning & Economic Development Committee last week, Commerce Chenango President Maureen Carpenter outlined those activities and more, including recent loans made to businesses and start-ups, Empire Zone activities, and marketing and business recruitment projects.

[Farm, site of Woodstock '94, is tapped for industrial zone](#)

Poughkeepsie Journal (Craig Wolf, July 21, 2009)

A decision has been made to go forward with the next phase of study that could lead to a high-tech business park here. It's the Winston Farm, famous as the site of the Woodstock '94 re-creation of the 1969 concert, the 741-acre site lies west of the Village of Saugerties and the state Thruway, north of Route 312 and east of Route 32.

[GlobalFoundries breaks ground on \\$4.2B chip plant](#)

Bizjournals.com (Pam Allen and Richard A D'Errico, July 20, 2009)

GlobalFoundries officially broke ground on its \$4.2 billion chip plant, a project that's been in the works now for more than three years. This groundbreaking is the culmination of an agreement reached between the state and AMD in June 2006. New York is providing a \$665 million capital grant to offset the construction and research and development activities for the Luther Forest project. The project is also eligible for benefits through the Empire Zone program currently estimated at \$700 million over a 15-year period.

[Schoharie County poised to take over factory](#)

Schenectady Gazette (Edward Munger Jr. July 20, 2009)

News of the impending property seizure comes at a time when the county is facing a loss in state revenue that helps pay for efforts like getting companies to move into used buildings, said County Empire Zone Administrator Julie Pacatte Rohan. Rohan said changes to the state's Empire Zone program will mean the loss of about \$24,000 the state has reimbursed the

county for administrative work related to the zone and promotion. The county budgeted \$60,000 toward the Empire Zone for this year.

[State Senate passes reform bills as session ends](#)

RocNow (Joseph Spector, July 19, 2009)

Senators also approved legislation that would help businesses receive tax breaks under the state's Empire Zone program and create a task force to improve the much-maligned economic-development initiative. The measures have not passed in the Assembly. The reform measures were passed about 3:30 a.m. Thursday.

[Our view: Give Empire Zones the boot](#)

Utica Observer Dispatch (July 17, 2009 Opinion)

New York state is correct to work toward revoking Empire Zone certification for 544 firms statewide, many of them property-management companies that are not in the business of creating jobs directly. But the larger, and more important, step is to eliminate Empire Zone benefits completely. Given the state of New York's economy, virtually all of the state west of the Hudson River could be in an Empire Zone. Close to two decades' worth of Empire Zone efforts have done nothing to make New York communities more competitive with those elsewhere in the nation or world.

[Some real work](#)

Elmira Star-Gazette (July 15, 2009)

But there's more work ahead. Among bills awaiting Senate action: A proposal to cap annual increases in school property taxes - a plan that has been pushed by Paterson. Renewing authority for industrial development agencies to back financing of not-for-profits' building projects. Revising formulas for Empire Zone benefits that give job-creating businesses tax breaks when they establish or expand a company.

[Upzoning in Williamsburg](#)

WNYC (July 15, 2009)

The city is helping 25 other industrial companies move elsewhere. But surveys by the East Williamsburg Valley Industrial Development Corporation show that at least twice that number of companies have closed up or moved.

[Power for Jobs bill passes Senate, assists Corning Inc.](#)

Hornell Evening Tribune (Bob Clark, July 14, 2009)

At least one important economic development tool made its way through the state Legislature and into law Monday following a month of no work by the state Senate, but local leaders still don't believe more will be coming forward any time soon. The Power for Jobs program, signed into law Monday, is useful for energy-intensive companies, according to Hornell Mayor Shawn Hogan, who also chairs the Hornell-Corning Steuben County Empire Zone.

[Money, and jobs](#)

Albany Times Union (July 12, 2009)

Here's the Luther Forest/GlobalFoundries deal, New York -- literally. The state's \$650 million in grants come with the guarantee of 1,024 jobs, and for at least seven years. In the high-stakes business of landing large corporations and the potentially lucrative employment they can bring to the regions that sorely need them, that's a fair bargain.

[Our view: Develop city space without big giveaways](#)

Utica Observer Dispatch (July 12, 2009. Opinion)

The Adirondack Bank building deal has generated success, but at a price. And numerous real-estate holding companies in Utica and elsewhere in the region have benefitted from enormous Empire Zone tax breaks even though they've barely ever created a job. That's hardly in the interest of taxpayers. Government should be in the business of giving companies and developers the opportunity to succeed, but it must stop short of subsidizing their operations. Mayor David Roefaro must heed this and avoid giving away the store as these and other city buildings become the object of desire by development companies.

[Empire Zone certification revoked for 35 companies in Orange, Ulster and Sullivan counties](#)

Times Herald-Record (Christian Livermore, July 10, 2009)

Holiday Mountain Ski and Fun Park in Sullivan County and Mariner's Harbor restaurant in Kingston were among 35 local businesses that, failing successful appeals, will lose tax benefits through the state's Empire Zone program because they didn't meet job creation and investment requirements. The Empire State Development Corp., which uses tax breaks and other mechanisms to create and retain jobs in the state, reviewed more than 7,000 companies. This week the state agency sent notices to 544 companies telling them their certification is being revoked because they either did not meet a 1:1 cost-benefit ratio or were identified as "shirtchangers" — companies that use accounting tricks to make themselves look like new businesses.

Forty-eight firms may lose Empire Zone tax benefits

Albany Times Union (Larry Rulison, July 9, 2009)

Forty-eight companies in the Capital Region have been told they may lose their Empire Zone tax benefits. As part of the state budget, the Empire Zone program, which provides tax breaks to companies that expand in depressed areas, became more stringent. The latest notices went out to companies on June 29. They have until July 21 to submit a notice of appeal and Aug. 28 to file an official appeal.

State may cut Yonkers, Mount Vernon businesses' tax breaks

Lower Hudson Journal news (Jerry Gleeson, July 9, 2009)

New York state this week stepped up its crackdown on businesses that are availing themselves of the lucrative Empire Zone tax-break program. The state notified 544 businesses, including 73 in Yonkers and Mount Vernon, that they face decertification if they can't justify the benefits they received. Two local businessmen said the program provides much-needed help with the state's burdensome tax levels, and they complained that the state changed the qualifications for the program after they joined.

Businesses across NY risk losing Empire Zone tax breaks

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (Joseph Spector, July 9, 2009)

The state has notified 544 businesses — including 26 in the Rochester region — that they face removal from the Empire Zone tax-break program for failing to meet standards for job creation and investment. Empire State Development Corp. said it reviewed the certification of more than 7,000 businesses in the program, which provides tax credits to businesses that are expanding or hiring. Of those, about 6,600 had their benefits retained, while the 544 are set to be removed from the program unless they win an appeal.

New York state lets 96 businesses back into Empire Zone program

The Post-Standard (Mike McAndrew, July 8, 2009)

Local manufacturers including Anaren Microwave, Anoplate Corp. and PPC landed on the list of lucky companies. New York state is letting them stay in the Empire Zone program and continue to collect hundreds of thousands of dollars per year in tax credits. But the state told other businesses -- including NRG Energy, which owns the Oswego steam station, and the Bond Schoeneck & King law firm -- it is kicking them out of the tax break program. New York's top economic development agency announced Tuesday it was decertifying 544 businesses in the most aggressive effort to reform the flawed Empire Zone program.

Five local companies will remain Empire Zones

Auburn Citizen (Christopher Caskey and Jessica Soule, July 7, 2009)

Welch Allyn, Inc., along with four Auburn companies, escaped the chopping block and will keep its tax incentives while hundreds across the state will lose them. The state reviewed the Empire Zone status of hundreds of companies in New York and officials planned to decertify those that were not meeting the standards of the program to create jobs and invest in their businesses in exchange for tax breaks

Town, village of Potsdam will split economic fund

WatertownDailyTimes.com (Alex Jacobs, July 7, 2009)

The two municipalities have decided to divvy up the remaining money in their shared economic development fund to use as each sees fit, instead of using it to create a jointly administered program as was originally proposed. The Empire Zone Administrative Board — which is composed of two members of both the village and town boards as well as other Potsdam officials from the colleges, school and hospital — unanimously approved the split at a meeting last week.

State reinstates Empire Zone tax breaks for 96 companies

The Post-Standard (Mike McAndrew, July 6, 2009)

Nearly 100 businesses in danger of being kicked out of the Empire Zone tax break program -- including Welch Allyn -- are being rescued by the state economic development commissioner. The 96 businesses were among 640 companies that the state's top economic development agency in April recommended be booted.

Cornell says county must lead large-scale economic development initiatives

Evening Observer (July 5, 2009)

Cornell has served as the Chair of the County Legislature's Planning and Economic Development Committee. He is a past board member of the Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency, the Manufacturing Technology Institute, and the Greater Jamestown Empire Zone.

Kolmar to leave Port Jervis unless governor acts, says Bonacic

Mid-Hudson News (July 2, 2009)

State Senator John Bonacic Wednesday called on Governor David Paterson to come to Port Jervis and intervene to keep Kolmar Laboratories in that city. In a letter from Kolmar officials to Bonacic, they said that New York has done "a miserable

job" trying to keep them in the state. Kolmar's leadership pointed in particular to the issues surrounding the state's Empire Zone program, and the changes made to the program this year under the Democrats who controlled State government during the budget process.

[New Cap Region stimulus projects announced](#)

Capitol confidential (Casey Seiler, July 1, 2009)

Lost in yesterday's Senate excitement was the latest round of certifications for stimulus projects in the Capital Region and elsewhere. Here's the local list; the dollar amounts are American Recovery and Reinvestment Act bucks, which will be augmented by state contributions: \$7.3 million for a project to reconstruct Ferry Street and a portion of Congress Street.

[Assemblyman: 2009 legislative session was 'business as usual'](#)

Fulton Valley News (Andrew Henderson, June 27, 2009)

Assemblyman Kolb added that the legislature needs to enact a comprehensive economic-development plan that leads to the creation of more private-sector jobs, reform Empire Zone laws by honoring qualified Empire Zone enterprises for 2008 and 2009, strengthen industrial-development agencies, and enact a statewide energy plan that lowers costs for residents and businesses.

[What's next for Empire Zone program?](#)

Westfair Online (Jim Gordon, June 26, 2009)

What's next for economic development programs in New York state is anyone's guess, but the clock is ticking with one year before the state's current and beleaguered Empire Zone program expires. Replacing it effectively requires action starting now, say economic development officials. They say New York cannot afford to go without another program to attract and retain businesses, especially in a global economy where neighboring states have ongoing and effective programs.

[Failed Strategy](#)

The Post-Standard (June 26, 2009)

It's been about seven years since Albany first tried to fix a gaping hole in the Empire Zone law that allowed companies to grab millions of dollars in tax breaks without actually creating jobs. The law allowed companies -- dubbed shirt-changers -- to simply reincorporate, claim their old employees as new workers and pocket millions of dollars.

[Atlantic Yards Project Enters a Crucial Period](#)

NY Times (Charles V. Bagli, June 24, 2009)

Armed with a set of concessions wrung from state officials this week for his Atlantic Yards development in Brooklyn, the developer Bruce C. Ratner faces what may be his most daunting challenge. He is trying to raise more than \$500 million over the next four months to build the \$4.9 billion project's centerpiece: the most expensive basketball arena in the country.

[More money for GlobalFoundries](#)

WRGB (June 24, 2009)

Another \$15 million has been secured for the chip fab plant coming to the Capital Region. The additional money for GlobalFoundries is on top of the \$1.2 billion that has already secured for them. The Empire State Development grant is tied to the addition of 260 jobs announced by GlobalFoundries, but is not required for the additional money. The announcement on Tuesday said that the additional \$15 million was to assist in the financing of machinery and equipment for the project.

[Mo money, mo jobs](#)

Glens Falls Post-Star (Drew Kerr, June 24, 2009)

GlobalFoundries is getting a few more bucks from New York State. Fifteen-million of them to be exact. This week, the Empire State Development Corporation's board of directors approved a \$15 million grant that will be tacked on to the already approved \$1.2 billion incentive package offered to the computer chip maker for building in Saratoga County. ESDC spokeswoman Katie Krawczyk said Wednesday that the additional money is being provided because GlobalFoundries' job creation numbers have climbed since state leaders originally offered them money for building in the state.

[Even sweeter deals for Atlantic Yards developer](#)

NY Daily News (Jotham Sederstrom and Erin Durkin, June 24, 2009)

It's been a sweet week for Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner. State officials Tuesday rubber-stamped a plan for the controversial Brooklyn project, giving Ratner an extra three years to complete the job. Earlier in the week, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority unveiled an agreement giving Ratner 21 years to pay for the Vanderbilt Railyards, where he plans to build an arena for the New Jersey Nets and 16 office and residential towers.

[More state funding for GlobalFoundries](#)

Albany Times Union, NY (Larry Rulison, June 24, 2009)

\$15M grant to chipmaker apparently part of promise related to labor union deal. Earlier this month, Gov. David Paterson helped negotiate a so-called project labor agreement between unions and the project's general contractor, M+W Zander, to

ensure that most of the laborers working on the \$800 million building "shell" will receive union wages and benefits. The state has already promised GlobalFoundries \$1.2 billion in cash and tax breaks for the Malta project.

[State awards \\$15M more to GlobalFoundries](#)

Albany Times Union (Larry Rulison, June 23, 2009)

New York state today agreed to give GlobalFoundries Inc. another \$15 million. Empire State Development Corp. announced this afternoon that its board approved the grant as part of the JOBS Now program. GlobalFoundries is building a \$4.2 billion computer chip factory in Malta.

[NYCEDC Seeks Industrial Development for Zerega Site in the Bronx](#)

New York RealEstateRama, Washington (June 23, 2009)

New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking development for an approximately 100,000-square-foot site in the Castle Hill section of the Bronx. NYCEDC is looking for a developer to acquire and redevelop the site for industrial uses. The site is comprised of two adjacent City-owned lots at 535-537 Zerega Avenue. The site is part of the James J. Lyons Urban Renewal Plan, the Zerega Industrial Business Zone and the Hunts Point Empire Zone. Currently, there is a GreenThumb Community Garden on the site which will be relocated.

[The Bronx Is Kvetching](#)

New York Observer, NY (Eliot Brown, June 23, 2009)

It's probably safe to assume that the faculty dining room at the Bronx's Lehman College will be packed the evening of June 24 with a lot of people wanting a lot of things from the Related Companies. The prolific developer is coming before Community Board 7 to discuss its planned development of the behemoth Kingsbridge Armory, a whale of a 92-year-old, 588,000-square-foot building just beyond Manhattan. The city has been trying to develop the building for years, and now Related, led by Stephen Ross, is preparing to convert it into a \$323 million shopping center, complete with cinemas, a fitness center and to-be-determined retailers.

[Not what we meant by reform of Empire Zones](#)

MPNnow.com, NY (June 23, 2009)

When Gov. David Paterson targeted the Empire Zone program in his budget message late last year, we thought Albany might finally be heading in the right direction on economic policy. The business incentive program had been notoriously wasteful and unaccountable for years when the governor and Democrat-controlled Legislature decided to fix it in the 2009-10 state budget.

[Hotel project to seek break on sales tax](#)

Ithaca Journal (Krisy Gashler, June 22, 2009)

Developers of the proposed Hotel Ithaca on The Commons will seek tax abatements after all. The hotel will be the first project to seek tax breaks under the city's newly revised density policy, which takes into account a variety of community incentives beyond just downtown density. The project will not, however, seek any property tax abatement, architect Scott Whitham said. They're seeking a break on sales tax for construction materials, he said. Downtown Ithaca Alliance Executive Director Gary Ferguson said the national economic downturn, plus problems with the state Empire Zone program, contributed to the need to seek abatements.

[Empire Zone program allows Carousel, other businesses to police themselves](#)

The Post-Standard (June 19, 2009)

Empire State Development Corp. did nothing to try to independently verify whether Carousel Center Co. -- or 8,000 other Empire Zone businesses -- took advantage of legal loopholes to grab tax breaks intended for new businesses, a state spokeswoman said last week. Instead, the agency asked businesses whether they were "shirt-changers" that should be kicked out of the Empire Zone program. The owner of Carousel Center said no, so the state's top economic development agency agreed last month the company could continue to claim \$10 million a year in tax breaks.

[NY officials knock Senate gridlock](#)

Press & Sun-Bulletin, NY (George Basler, June 19, 2009)

Action is also needed on industrial development agency reform and a fix for the state's Empire Zone program, which gives tax breaks to companies, the county executives said. The stalemate will hurt upstate counties' competitiveness in attracting businesses, Fiala said.

[Yahoo deal tied to Verizon line](#)

Bizjournals.com (James Fink, June 18, 2009)

Yahoo, through its site selection team, has also been working with local economic development agencies, including Empire State Development Corp. and the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise. The Verizon deal is considered one of the key linchpins in the pitch.

Empire Zones: Who made the cut?

The Post-Standard (June 17, 2009)

The state is moving to kick at least 150 Central New York companies from its Empire Zone job-creation program. The list includes some of the biggest real estate, manufacturing and professional firms in the area. Some large power producers, who collected some of the biggest tax breaks, were also given the bad news. The state sent letters to 8,000 firms in the program. More than 6,400 were told they had been recertified, that they could collect their tax breaks for the 2008 tax year. Another 640 received bad news. Others were asked to provide more information.

Our Towns In Suburbia, a Megaproject Offers Hope

New York Times (Peter Applebome, June 17, 2009)

It sounds like a lot of significance to put on one development, however big — and, even taken with a few shakers of salt, the projected \$4 billion in investment, the 5.5 million square feet of mixed-use development, the 75,000 construction and secondary jobs and 19,000 permanent jobs claimed for the project, the Lighthouse at Long Island, qualify as suitably big. The project, as proposed for 150 acres in the heart of Nassau County, includes a renovated Nassau Coliseum, 2,300 residences including two hotel and residential towers nearly 40 stories tall, canal and pedestrian plaza, sports complex and sports technology center, convention center, office buildings — in effect, the first ambitious urban space in a county that developed as a rejection of exactly that.

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