

STEUBEN COUNTY IDA E-Newsletter

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

MAKING CONNECTIONS. CREATING SOLUTIONS.

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Jenkin's Farm Market To Open Under New Ownership

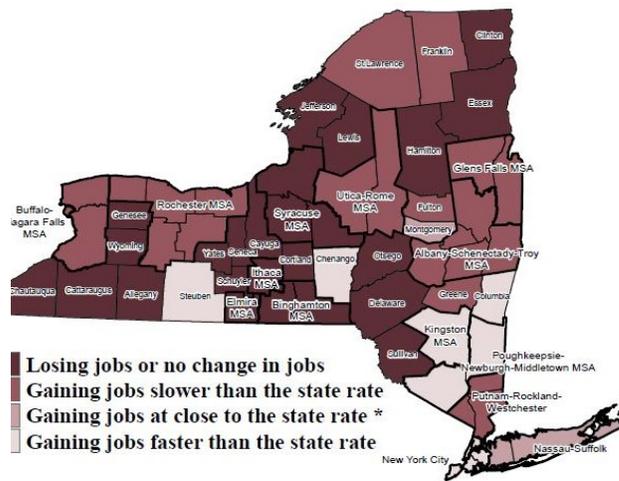
The Steuben County Industrial Development Agency helped secure funding to re-open the Jenkins Farm Market in Arkport. Local businessmen Shane and Charles Fitzpatrick were approved for financing through the Southern Tier Regional Economical Development Corporation's (STREDC) Rural Initiative Fund to purchase the popular market and hire back the 20 employees who were laid off last fall when the business closed.

The Rural Initiatives Program was established through the Southern Tier Regional Economical Development Council to assist projects which will increase agricultural production in the region.

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Steuben Is a State Leader In Employment Rates



For the third month in a row Steuben County's year to year employment gains have matched or exceeded the State rate of growth. Steuben is only one of three counties in upstate to accomplish this and is leading the Southern Tier in job growth. March job numbers released by the New York State Department of Labor showed employment gains from March 2013 to March 2014 of 1.9% adding 700 jobs during this period. This topped both the State growth rate of 1.2% and the US rate of 1.6%.

This growth was preceded by January yearly employment gains of 2.1% ranking the County 7th in the State for job growth and a February rate of 1.6% which led the Southern Tier.

IDA assist County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan

The Steuben County IDA in Partnership with Steuben County and Cornell Cooperative Extension, is undertaking an initiative to better understand the agricultural economy in the County and identify new opportunities for ag based development.

The project is partially funded through the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets and will be undertaken as part of a new Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan being developed for the County. In addition to the traditional ap-

proach to farm preservation plans the work will include detailed information on local markets and identify implementable, readily-fundable, economic development projects to improve our agricultural economy.

Steuben County is a leader in the State in agricultural production but provides few value added opportunities for producers and growers. The overall purpose of this project is to identify and prioritize actions that will increase the economic viability of all types of agri-business enterprises in the County. The new Plan will address emerging agricultural opportunities in Steuben County including accessing markets for existing products and developing new agricultural products and value-added agricultural.



IDA Offers Benefits To Construct a New Hotel In Urbana

In March, the Steuben County IDA approved assistance to support the redevelopment of the former Clark Specialty facility in the Town of Urbana. Locally owned development group East Lake Holdings, LLC will be constructing the \$3.8 million 60 room branded hotel on the former manufacturing site and adding a new overnight stay product to the local tourism market.

The IDA is providing sales and mortgage tax exemptions as well as a 10 year property tax abatement which decreases 10% a year on the increased value of the property. The construction of the new hotel will benefit the surrounding communities with the addition of approximately 15-20 new jobs and help to expand the growing tourism business in Steuben County. East Lake Holdings, LLC also worked with the Steuben County IDA to obtain funding through the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council to further support the project. East Lake Holdings, LLC is currently working with the Town of Urbana to secure site plan approval and plans on beginning construction in July.

In addition to this project, the IDA has been working with local tourism officials and Urbana and Hammondsport to plan for future development. One such effort underway is the extension of public water to the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum.



Demolition began in April on the former Clark Specialty facility making way for a new branded hotel in the Urbana.

Fiber Broadband Available Soon In Steuben County

This year work will be complete on the Southern Tier Network, an optical fiber broadband ring throughout Steuben, Schuyler, and Chemung Counties. When complete, the network will enable access to the highest speed broadband connectivity available in the region. So far over 220 miles of fiber have been installed with construction of the entire network (235 miles) slated to be completed later this year. The new open access network ultimately will connect to other regional open access networks, serving as a catalyst for future economic development in the region

Southern Tier Network is not providing direct service but rather allows access for telecommunication carriers, govern-

ments, educational institutions and healthcare organizations, as well as other commercial and industrial businesses. The initiative will focus on partnerships with service providers and encourage the use of the optical fiber backbone to expand competitive services throughout the region.

One such example is in central Steuben County where Empire Access is connecting to the network and installing fiber to serve homes and businesses. The investments currently being made in the Bath and Hammondsport will offer fiber to the home and provide the ability for customers to have increased network capacity. This type of technology is crucial for today's businesses needs and is not typically offered in small rural communities anywhere in the Country. Empire Access will be fully connected in the Hammondsport and Bath areas this summer.

