



# eNEWS

## Schenectady County Legislature Keeps Property Taxes Flat for 2012

The Schenectady County Legislature has voted 13-2 to approve the 2012 County budget that provides for no increase in the County tax levy.

“I am pleased to announce that this year’s zero percent increase is in addition to four tax cuts in the past six years,” said Judy Dagostino, Chairwoman of the Schenectady County Legislature.

A number of amendments were made to the County Manager’s Tentative Budget and approved unanimously including:

- Restoring \$50,000 for weekend delivery of home-delivered meals and nutrition education and counseling for seniors.
- Providing a \$60,000 grant in support of the Suicide Prevention and Case Monitoring Program created to respond to the past years’ suicides by Schenectady High School students.
- A resolution calling on the NYS Legislature to pass legislation currently being considered that would freeze any increase in Medicaid spending by Counties with a gradual takeover by the State over an eight year period.

“After a line-by-line review of the Manager’s budget and hearing directly from the public, the Majority Conference presented amendments that will keep property taxes flat for 2012,” said Gary Hughes, Schenectady County Legislature Majority Leader. “We are proud of the work we’ve done to find solutions to ease the property tax burden on our residents.”

2012  
County Budget  
**0% Increase**

### Seven Year Cost Containment Effort Produces Four Tax Cuts

For the past seven years the Schenectady County Legislature has focused on reducing costs and protecting the County property taxpayer. The results have been significant leading to \$20 million in annual cost savings and four tax cuts in the past six years with no increase for 2012. The Legislature has made numerous reforms leading to the County’s positive financial position including:

- Implementing groundbreaking employee health care cost cutting initiatives, including Medicare Advantage Plans and a Canadian Drug Purchasing Program. These reforms have led to a \$10 million annual savings. In 2007 Schenectady County spent \$18,750,610 on health insurance for all employees and retirees. In 2011 Schenectady County is expected to spend \$18,697,000 in healthcare expenditures for all employees and retirees – a reduction of \$53,610 over the five year period. Without these cost-containment strategies, Schenectady County would have seen a 56% increase in healthcare expenses over the past five years. This would have translated into a 15% tax increase (based upon 1% of property tax equals \$644,310.68).
- Instituting strict hiring and purchasing controls.
- Reducing the County work force by 15% through the elimination of more than 200 positions through attrition without layoffs.

## Legislator Robert Hoffman Introduces Legislation to Confront the Problems of Vicious Dogs throughout Schenectady County

Schenectady County Legislator Robert Hoffman has introduced legislation, “The Vicious Dog Control Act of 2012,” that will directly confront the problems of vicious dogs in the City and County of Schenectady. At the same time, this legislation will resolve a legal dispute with the Schenectady County SPCA.

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Legislator Robert Hoffman joins with Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy and SPCA Chief Matthew Tully to Announce “The Vicious Dog Control Act”.

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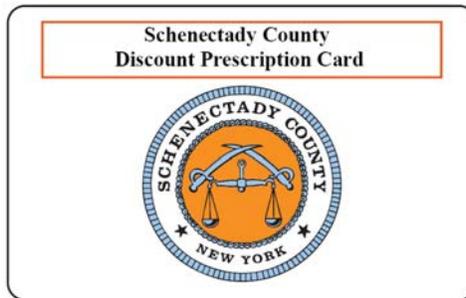
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# Schenectady County Residents Saves More Than \$2million Using County Prescription Drug Discount Card

Schenectady County residents continue to see huge savings using the Schenectady County Prescription Drug Discount Card. As of September 30th, County residents have saved more than \$2million using the discount card.

Co-Sponsored by Legislators Martin Finn and Dr. Brian Gordon, the Schenectady County Prescription Drug Discount Card initiative is a partnership with ProAct Inc., a Pharmacy Benefit Management Company based in Central NY and a division of Kinney Drug, and is provided at no cost to Schenectady County or county residents.



A Schenectady County Prescription Drug Discount Card was distributed to all Schenectady County households in late February 2009. The cards provide users with savings between 10 to 50 percent, depending on the medication and the

brand. While the program is of most benefit to residents lacking prescription drug insurance and seniors paying out-of-pocket expenses for the Medicare Part D coverage gap, all county residents are eligible to participate. There are no enrollment forms to fill out, no membership fees, and no income requirements. The card can also be used for discounts on medication for your pets.

Schenectady County residents who have not received or have lost their Schenectady County Prescription Drug Discount Card can receive a new card by contacting the Schenectady County Legislature at 388-4280.

## Work Gets Underway at Former Kmart Site in Glenville

Schenectady County Officials announced that work has begun on a new \$20 million retail development at the corner of Route 50 and Glenridge Road in the Town of Glenville.

"The contracts are signed, property closings are complete and we are a few weeks away from demolition starting," said Judy Dagostino, Chair of the Schenectady County Legislature. "This is something that we all worked very hard to accomplish and we are so pleased to see this vacant site become a real asset for the residents of the Town of Glenville and Schenectady County."

The redevelopment effort has been a partnership between Schenectady County, Metroplex and the Town of Glenville. The County and Town both identified redevelopment of the vacant Kmart as their top priority for Glenville. Metroplex worked with RD Management and Target to start development at the site. Metroplex also acted as lead agent on the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process and assisted with State permits. The Town of Glenville coordinated all necessary local approvals.

"This is great news for Glenville and the entire County," said Cathy Gatta, Schenectady County Legislator

representing Glenville and member of the Schenectady County IDA. "This redevelopment effort will mean increased sales tax, property tax and new jobs for Schenectady County."

The first work to get underway at the site is removal and abatement of asbestos in the vacant Kmart and Albany Public Market Stores that now occupy the 14 acre site. In about three weeks, demolition will begin so that the site can be cleared. This will be followed by work on building foundations and construction of the new retail development.

The vacant structures on the site will be replaced by a new Target Store and a new retail building adjoining the new Target.

Metroplex provided an exemption from sales tax for construction materials and equipment used to outfit the two new retail buildings. The project will generate significant new sales and property tax for the Town, County and Scotia Glenville School District. Metroplex also is providing a \$180,000 grant toward infrastructure costs.

"Our thanks to the County Legislature, the Metroplex Board and the Town of Glenville for their outstanding cooperation on this project," said Ray Gillen, Metroplex Chair and Commissioner of Economic Development and Planning for Schenectady County.

Construction is expected to be completed in the fall of 2012.



Legislator Cathy Gatta announces work has begun on the construction of a new Target in Glenville.

# Legislators Hoffman, Hughes and McDonald Introduce Local Law Providing Property Tax Relief for Capital Improvements

Schenectady County Legislators Robert Hoffman, Jeff McDonald, and Gary Hughes have introduced a local law that will provide County property tax relief to homeowners throughout Schenectady County who make capital improvements on their homes. A Public Hearing on the local law will take place on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 and the local law will be voted on by the Legislature at their regular meeting on November 9, 2011.

“One of the County Legislature’s top priorities is to find ways to help improve our neighborhoods,” said Legislator Hoffman. “We’ve worked together to find creative solutions to the problems facing our neighborhoods.”

Hoffman said while researching current property tax law looking to find creative solutions to the problems facing our neighborhoods, he discovered that a previously adopted resolution to provide this exemption was invalidated by a subsequent State law. Hoffman’s proposal would correct this oversight and help

## Capital Improvement Exemption Eligibility

- The property for which exemption is sought must be a residential property.
- The greater portion of the residence (as measured by square footage) after the capital improvement must be at least five years old.
- The capital improvement must be commenced after the date the local law is enacted.
- The exemption applies to reconstruction, alterations or improvements; it does not apply to ordinary maintenance or repairs.
- The value of such reconstruction, alteration or improvement must exceed the sum of \$3,000.

County residents invest in their homes. Hoffman added that he would like to strongly promote the program to encourage residents to take advantage of this opportunity.

Capital improvements to a property will often increase the assessed value of that property. This exemption, which is permitted by New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 421-f entitled “Exemption of Capital Improvements to Residential Buildings,” gradually phases in the increase in county property tax due to the increase in assessment over eight years. The first year, homeowners will receive a 100% County property tax exemption on the increased assessed value. Each year for the next seven years, the exemption amount will decrease by 12.5 percent.

“We are pleased to have found this seemingly forgotten exemption,” said Legislator McDonald. “The County wants to reward good behavior, specifically home improvements, and we are confident that knowing this exemption exists will help spur those individuals considering home improvements to go forward.”

## Legislation Introduced to Confront the Problems of Vicious Dogs throughout Schenectady County *(Continued from page 1)*

“We were all disturbed by the brutal dog attack that occurred in the City of Schenectady last month,” said Legislator Hoffman. “As the details of the attack became known, I knew that something had to be done to control vicious animals in our City. I began speaking with Acting Mayor McCarthy and Sheriff Dagostino to discuss what could be done by the County and City to address this issue. Recently I was advised by the County Attorney of a legal dispute between the SPCA and the County. I began to work with all parties creating a mutually beneficial agreement that will directly confront the issue of vicious dogs for our residents at no additional costs to the taxpayer.”

Schenectady County will retain the SPCA as Dog Control Officer for the County of Schenectady and the SPCA agrees to

release all claims against the Sheriff and the County. The agreement allows the SPCA to issue violations including failure to license and failure to confine dangerous dogs. SPCA will retain fifty percent of the fines they collect, with the remaining fifty percent used to reimburse the SPCA for shelter services and for maintaining SPCA vehicles.

Legislator Hoffman continued, “This is a win-win for all of us - Schenectady County, the City of Schenectady, the SPCA, and most importantly our residents. I especially thank the SPCA and their Chief Matthew Tully and our Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy for their leadership. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Legislature and the City to work towards solving this and other issues facing our communities.”

“Increased costs can be a barrier for many homeowners when making improvements on their home,” said Legislator Hughes. “It is our hope that this County property tax relief will help residents seriously consider taking on that home project that has been on the backburner because they were just not sure if they could afford it.”

The exemption is limited to \$80,000 in increased market and any additional value attributable to the new construction is not eligible for the exemption and may not be less than \$5,000.

“The County tax only constitutes 16% of the total tax bill in the City of Schenectady and 23% in the Towns,” continued Legislator Hoffman. “We urge the City and all of the Towns, Villages, and School Districts throughout the County to work with us to educate our residents about this exemption so they will benefit from savings on all of their taxes.”

# Schenectady County Central Library Branch Expansion Continues with Delivery of 34 Foot Tall Columns

Schenectady County Legislator Gary Hughes, Chair of the Libraries and Education Committee, joined with members of the Schenectady County Public Library Building Committee to watch the delivery and installation of seven 34 foot tall precast arched concrete columns. Each column weighs approximately 38,000 lbs, provide the structural support along the east side of the new addition, and are one of the main architectural features of the project.

The expansion will include a 6,700 square foot library addition and the creation of a new children's area. The new children's space will allow the library to bring more creative programming to Schenectady County and expand our toddler and summer reading groups. This expansion will make additional space available for technology services including computer terminals. The first floor and lobby areas will undergo renovation including upgrades to the library's restrooms.



Architects rendering of the 6,700 square foot Central Library Branch Expansion



Legislator Hughes with Library Director Andrew Kulmatiski watch the installation of Library Columns

## Discover Schenectady County!



Do you know someone who is interested in moving to Schenectady County?

If yes, make sure they visit [discoverschenectady.com](http://discoverschenectady.com), the companion website to Schenectady County, Life in

Upstate New York - A Guide to Living and Working in Schenectady County.

Schenectady County is a great place to work, live and raise a family. Born in the spirit of discovery, Schenectady County blazed new trails in electricity, transportation and technology. Here, the Erie Canal provided a way west, Thomas Edison founded the General Electric Company, and Schenectady's American

Locomotive Works moved our nation forward. And it is here that Schenectady County is creating new opportunities in research, technology and innovation for future trailblazers.

The guide is through a unique partnership between The Chamber of Schenectady County, Schenectady County, and GE. In its pages you will be welcomed to discover our county, its neighborhoods and schools, and its qualities of life.

# Schenectady County Unveils Return the F.A.V.O.R. Veterans Discount Program

Schenectady County, in partnership with The Chamber of Schenectady County, unveiled the Schenectady County *Return the F.A.V.O.R.* (Find & Assist Veterans of Record) discount program. The *Return the F.A.V.O.R.* program provides veterans and active duty military with a discount on purchases or services at participating merchants.

“We are proud to offer this program for our veterans,” said Holly Vellano, Chair of the Legislature’s Veterans Committee. “This is the very least we can do for these brave men and women who have served in the military protecting our democracy.”



Legislators Vellano, Santabarbara, and Hughes are joined by County Clerk John Woodward, small business owner Rory Fluman and Chamber VP Robin Grange at the Return the FAVOR Kick-Off.

Any honorably discharged military veteran residing in Schenectady County can participate by bringing his or her Military Discharge Papers or DD-214 to the Schenectady County Clerk’s Office. A *Return the F.A.V.O.R.* identification card will be issued at no charge to the veteran who can then use the card for discounts at local businesses.

“Too often my office receives calls from veterans or their spouses looking for a copy of their DD-214 but we have nothing on file,” said John Woodward, Schenectady County Clerk. “A DD-214 is needed to receive services including burial in a National Cemetery or to be considered for certain federal jobs. This program is a great way to encourage our veterans to file their discharge papers while also thanking them for bravely and honorably serving our County.”

Participating businesses will display an attractive window sign identifying them as a participant of the program. Additionally, the business’s name, address and

discount will be listed on the Schenectady County *Return the F.A.V.O.R.* website. Currently there are more than fifty businesses participating.

“Having served in our Nation’s military, I’m pleased to support this program as a small way to say “thanks” to our veterans,” said Legislator Angelo Santabarbara. “I encourage all businesses in Schenectady County to join us in supporting our veterans.”

For more information about the Return the FAVOR program or to sign-up as a participating business, please visit [www.schenectadycounty.com/veterans](http://www.schenectadycounty.com/veterans). For more information about Veteran Services available in Schenectady County, please contact Bill Frank, Director of the Schenectady County Veteran Service Agency at 377-2423.



## Schenectady County Announces Senior Morning Club

Schenectady County has created the Schenectady County Morning Club, a new series of programs focused on learning and fun for Schenectady County residents 60 years and older to be held at the Downtown Schenectady YMCA and Rotterdam Square Mall.

“The Schenectady County Breakfast Club is a new and innovative program for our senior residents,” said Judy Dagostino, Chairwoman of the Legislature. “This is a great way for active seniors to meet friends, share a meal, and learn about the many programs and services available to them here in Schenectady County.”

Each program will focus on a different topic including health lifestyles, choosing

the right health insurance, and legal issues for older adults. Participants will also be treated to a healthy snack, receive important information about services provided by the Schenectady County Department of Senior and Long Term Care Services, and have a short wellness program.

The Department of Senior and Long Term Care promotes the long term health and well being of Schenectady County residents and assure that they receive the necessary community based services that they are entitled to in order to remain safely in the community. Some of the many services offered include caregiver support, casework, community nursing,

long term care, nutrition services, and protective services for adults. For more information, visit the Schenectady County website at [www.schenectadycounty.com](http://www.schenectadycounty.com).



Cornell Cooperative Extension whipped up healthy smoothies for participants at the first Morning Club

# Schenectady County Completes Sale of Former DSS Building on Nott Street

Schenectady County has closed on the sale of the former Department of Social Services (DSS) building located at 487 Nott Street in the City of Schenectady. The County sold the building to the Schenectady County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) for \$200,000.

“This is another great win for Schenectady County and a win for the taxpayers,” said Judy Dagostino, Chairwoman of the Schenectady County Legislature. “We thank our unified economic development team and the Galesi Group for finding a great new use for this building.”

The County IDA has approved a lease purchase agreement on the building with The Galesi Group, who plans to redevelop the building into corporate style apartments to attract employees of area businesses. The Galesi Group will pay the IDA \$200,000 to lease the facility



with an option to purchase. The developer has also applied to the federal government to list the property on the National Register of Historic Places as the building was once the Nott School dating back to 1875.

“This agreement will breathe new life into a deteriorating building and add to the continued redevelopment of this neighborhood,” Gary Hughes, Schenectady County Legislator and

member of the County IDA.

The Galesi Group developed the nearby Golub Corporate Headquarters and is currently redeveloping the former Alco site in Schenectady. The company is headquartered in Rotterdam.

The building previously housed offices for the Department of Social Services. In 2009, Schenectady County opened a new Human Services Building at 797 Broadway in Schenectady.

The new facility was the former Schenectady International Building and was redeveloped to allow Schenectady County to consolidate all the operations of the Department of Social Services under one roof resulting in increased efficiencies and enhanced services.

Work on the Nott Street property will begin next year after the process of getting the building listed on the historic register is completed.

# Local Business to Expand in Schenectady County: Purchases 414 Union Street for Corporate Headquarters

DHA Holdings, Inc., a fast growing local manufacturing business, has purchased 414 Union Street with plans to develop the building as office space for its own company as well as other growing tech firms, especially green energy companies, in the Capital Region.

“We are very proud that DHA continues to grow right here in Schenectady County,” said Gary Hughes, Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Committee of the County Legislature. “This is another example of how by working together we can help companies expand their business, add new jobs, and help to expand the commercial tax base in Schenectady County.”

“The purchase of 414 Union Street allows our business to further its economic stake in downtown Schenectady,” said David W. Dussault, CEO of DHA Holdings.

“We are committed to expanding and launching new manufacturing operations in the city and surrounding county and are excited to rehab a building located in a vibrant section of the city. DHA was founded in Schenectady five years ago and we are excited to continue investing in the city for the future.”

DHA will use 414 Union Street as its corporate headquarters. The company operates a high speed CNC manufacturing company on Mohawk Avenue in Schenectady as well as a large machining/fabrication plant at the Glenville Business and Technology Park. Both facilities support large scale power generation and green energy manufacturing projects.

DHA currently employs 61 with plans to add 35-40 employees locally in the next five years.

414 Union Street has been vacant for several years. The building once housed an office for National Cash Register (NCR) and later Planned Parenthood. DHA’s purchase of 414 Union Street puts the property back on the tax rolls. The building totals 10,930 square feet. Metroplex will provide a \$30,000 grant toward the cost of façade renovations.

In addition, Metroplex plans to lease 25 parking spaces from the new owners to expand its downtown parking system. The parking spaces are located on Yates Street adjacent to an existing Metroplex parking lot. Metroplex operates 10 lots and a parking garage in downtown Schenectady.

Metroplex Chair Ray Gillen said, “DHA is growing and we are excited about their plans for 414 Union Street.”

# Agreement Reached with GSA to Clean-Up Former Scotia Navy Depot Site

Schenectady County officials declared victory in their seven year battle to get the federal government to clean up the former Scotia Navy Depot in Glenville, NY.

“The TCE plume must be stopped and the federal government has finally owned up to its responsibility to fix the environmental damage caused by the former Navy operation,” said Cathy Gatta, a member of the County Legislature representing Glenville and Niskayuna and a member of the Schenectady County IDA. “This is a great day for residents of Glenville who want to see this property cleaned up and put back on the tax rolls.”

The federal government’s landlord, the General Services Administration (GSA), has signed a Federal Facility Site Remediation agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The agreement commits GSA to moving ahead with clean-up plans at the former Navy Depot. Under terms of the agreement, the federal government is responsible for cleaning up the environmental issues caused when the Depot was in operation. Most Navy functions at the site ended after the Vietnam War.

The primary concern is a groundwater plume containing trichloroethylene (TCE) that has been identified at a depth of 70 feet below the surface of the Depot property. The plume, according to tests done by NYSDEC, is within a portion of the Great Flats Aquifer protection zone and is headed toward the Mohawk River. The aquifer is the multi-billion gallon underground water supply providing high

quality drinking water to almost all Schenectady County residents. TCE is a chemical often used in solvents for industrial purposes as a degreaser. It was likely used during repair and assembly of trucks and other vehicles at the former Navy Depot. TCE has been linked with cancer and other health hazards.

Schenectady County officials were pleased when in March of 2010, GSA agreed to a NYSDEC Record of Decision (ROD) outlining the environmental problem and a plan to fix it. Since then County officials kept pressing both federal and state officials to get an agreement signed. The County identified clean up of the Depot as a priority for its unified economic development team back in 2004 and worked with State and federal officials including the NYTS Congressional Delegation to forge an agreement on the cleanup plan.

The solution involves installing a “zero valent iron permeable reactive barrier” beneath the surface of the Depot at a cost of approximately \$3 million to \$4 million. This type of barrier has proven to be effective in stopping TCE plumes and breaking down the TCE so that it is no



Legislator Cathy Gatta discusses the Navy Depot Clean-up with members of the local media.

longer a health threat.

GSA has agreed to install such a barrier and implement a long-term monitoring program to confirm that the barrier is effectively addressing the groundwater contamination.

With the clean up issue finally resolved, County officials are hoping that GSA will proceed with the transfer of 65 acres it still owns at the former Navy Depot setting up the potential to redevelop the site and place it back on the tax rolls. The site is located just off Exit 26 of the NYS Thruway.

Schenectady County officials thanked Congressman Tonko, Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, Governor Cuomo and DEC Commissioner Martens for their help in getting a final agreement signed.

# Schenectady County Goes Solar: Solar PV Systems to be Installed on County Buildings to Provide Savings

Schenectady County Legislator Jeff McDonald, Chair of the Legislature’s Public Facilities Committee, has introduced legislation that will authorize an agreement with Monolith Solar, LLC and NYSERDA to install and maintain a Solar Photovoltaic (Solar PV) System on County Buildings. In return, Schenectady County will purchase the

electricity generated at a 30 percent discount to our regular electric rate.

“Schenectady County can go solar at no expense to taxpayers,” said Mr. McDonald. “This continues our efforts to provide a more efficient government to taxpayers while increasing our use of renewable energy.”

Schenectady County is partnering with Monolith Solar, LLC which will install up to 50 kW systems on ten County owned or operated buildings including the County Jail, Highway Department, Recreation Center, SCCC Science Building, Human Services Building, and the Schenectady County Library Central, (Continued on page 9)

# Schenectady County and City Join with SCCC to Break Ground on \$11 million Student Housing Complex



Schenectady County and City Officials joined with representatives from the Schenectady County Community College (SCCC), Schenectady County IDA and The United Group of Companies to break ground on *College Suites at Washington Square*, a new 264 bed student housing complex in downtown Schenectady. The new \$11 million, 112,000 square foot building is located directly across from SCCC on Washington Avenue. The project will help SCCC continue to boost its enrollment while it also helps to continue the rapid pace of redevelopment in downtown Schenectady.

Gary Hughes, Chair of the County Legislature's Committee on Education and Libraries and a Trustee at SCCC said, "We are so pleased to be working with a proven developer of student housing, the United Group of Companies, to bring this new student housing to downtown Schenectady. United's new project in downtown Troy is a major success and we look forward to similar results here in Schenectady. This project will help us enroll more students at SCCC continuing the college's rapid growth. More students attending SCCC means more jobs, as education is the key to obtaining employment in the new economy."

Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy said, "This is another major investment in our downtown and helps bring new development to lower State Street. This project is yet another example of how we are moving Schenectady forward by working together with our partners at the County."

Denise Murphy McGraw, Chairwoman of SCCC's Board of Trustees said, "This project has been the top priority for the Trustees. It is a great step forward for SCCC to have housing available to the students who want to enroll in our fast

growing, job creating, career training institution. For many years, we looked for the right model that was in the best interest of our institution. We are very grateful to United Group of Companies and our partners at the County and City for their support of this critically important project."

Michael Ucellini, President and CEO of United Group of Companies said, "We are thrilled to be embarking on this tremendous opportunity in downtown Schenectady. From the top on down, the leadership at SCCC, the County, City and Metroplex have been encouraging and have worked diligently with us to create what we believe will be a tremendous benefit to the College and its surrounding community."

The new College Suites at Washington Square will be available for the 2012-2013 school year. Each suite will feature four private bedrooms, two baths, a

kitchen and living space. The ground four of the new four story building will feature a fitness area, student recreation area, game room, business center, study area and rehearsal space for music students.

SCCC is one of the fastest growing community colleges in NYS with transfer and career programs in music, culinary arts, hotel/restaurant management, storage battery technology, alternative energy technology, air traffic control, nanoscale materials, criminal justice, early childhood education and many others. The college has conducted several market studies that show a strong demand for student housing.

United Group will be locating staff at SCCC in the next few weeks to help students sign up for the new housing. Applications and more information can be found at [www.mycollegesuites.com/washingtonsquare](http://www.mycollegesuites.com/washingtonsquare).

United Group is leasing the site for the new housing project from the Schenectady County IDA for \$250,000. The County IDA will pay this full amount to the County. The County IDA is administered by Metroplex as part of the County's unified economic development team.



County Legislators Gary Hughes and Holly Vellano joined with Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy, SCCC Board Chairwoman Denise Murphy-McGraw, and representatives from The United Group of Companies and BBL Construction to break ground on the new \$11 million student housing complex.

# Transfinder Announces \$4.2 Million Investment in State Street Building

Transfinder Corporation announced at a press conference held at Proctors GE Theater that they are investing \$4.2 million to renovate 440 State Street for the company's new headquarters. Located near Proctors and purchased from Proctors, the building will undergo a major transformation to enable the company to accommodate up to 125 high-tech employees. At the same time, the renovation will preserve some of the building's original architectural features in keeping with the classic look of the Proctors Block in downtown Schenectady.

"This is another milestone for Transfinder as we continue our growth toward market leadership in our field," said Antonio Civitella, President and CEO of Transfinder. "The past three years have been remarkable for us as we experienced double-digit revenue growth, and expanded our organization from 32 employees to our current level of 54, with continuous growth expected in the next few years. We grew at this rate to serve an expanding client base that now numbers more than 1,300 school districts in North America. While we looked far and wide for a new headquarters that could accommodate us, we did want to remain in the city and be a major contributor to the revitalization that is taking place here. So we are delighted to make this announcement today."

"Thanks Transfinder and Mr. Civitella for your commitment to our community and choosing to invest in the growth of your tech business here in Schenectady County," said Gary Hughes, Ranking Member of the County Legislature's Committee on Economic Development. "This is further evidence that our effort to attract new jobs and investment to our community is paying off. I want to congratulate our economic development team for this win and thank them for their efforts."

"Transfinder is a national company that could have located its corporate headquarters anywhere," said Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy. "By working closely with the County's economic development team at Metroplex, we were able to bring this major new investment to downtown Schenectady. This project will help us continue the forward progress we are making every day to make Schenectady a leader in technology and new jobs."

Metroplex is providing a \$60,000 grant to help restore

the façade at 440 State Street as well as a \$150,000 grant toward building renovation costs.

The project architect is James T. Pollard, principal of RE4ORM Architecture, which is located in downtown Schenectady. RE4ORM is responsible for some of the latest renovations in the city, including the Bow Tie theater complex, the new Center City and the expansion of the Schenectady Library, which is in the works. The contractor is Sonny Bonacio, owner of Bonacio Construction of Saratoga Springs. Bonacio Construction is responsible for building the Market Center at Railroad Place in the heart of downtown Saratoga Springs. Mr. Bonacio's firm recently completed renovations to the Foster Building in downtown Schenectady.



## Schenectady County Goes Solar *(continued from pg. 7)*

Rotterdam, Woodlawn, Duanesburg and Niskayuna Branches. Other Solar businesses are currently only installing 25 kW systems as part of their public initiatives, so Monolith Solar is providing double the solar capacity of its competitors which can double the County's savings.

With no capital investment, Schenectady County will conservatively save \$20,000 per year on its electricity costs. Schenectady County's electric rates are based on the highest one hour peak demand, so the County will also work to lower its peak demand which will lower

its rates and significantly increase its savings.

Mr. McDonald continued, "Schenectady County will not only save on our electric bill, but we'll continue our efforts to be environmentally responsible and continue to make Schenectady County a better place for the future."

This initiative is another effort by the County Legislature to position Schenectady County as a leader in renewable energy. These efforts helped to attract GE's Renewable Energy

Headquarters and new Battery Plant to Schenectady County, which will create more than a thousand new jobs in the years ahead, while developing the next generation of renewable energy products in Schenectady County.

Schenectady County also uses "smart growth" strategies in the County's unified economic development efforts that have led to the successful clean-up of several brownfield sites including the Burgess Tank Farm, the Big N Plaza and Campbell Plastics.

## Schenectady County Calendar — Fall 2011



**Judith A. Dagostino**  
Chairperson

**Kathleen Rooney**  
County Manager

**Schenectady County**  
Office Building  
620 State Street  
6th Floor  
Schenectady, NY 12305

[www.schenectadycounty.com](http://www.schenectadycounty.com)

**November - April**  
**10am - 2pm**

**Greenmarket, Downtown Schenectady**  
Sundays - Inside Proctors

**November 15**  
**8:30am - 11:30am**

**Senior Morning Club**  
Rotterdam Square Mall  
"Be Energy Smart: Get Ready for Winter"

**November 16**  
**9:00am - 11:30am**

**Senior Morning Club**  
Schenectady YMCA  
"Your 2012 Health Insurance Options"

**November 19**  
**5:00pm**

**42nd Annual Gazette Holiday Parade\***  
Downtown Schenectady

**November 28**  
**4:00pm**

**Schenectady County National Adoption Month Tree Lighting**  
Schenectady County Office Building

**November 29**  
**6:00pm**

**Upper Union Street Tree Lighting**  
Upper Union Street

**December 3**  
**12:00 - 5:00pm**

**Downtown Schenectady Holiday Open House**  
Downtown Schenectady  
City of Schenectady Tree Lighting at 5:00pm.

\* Sponsored in part by the Schenectady County Initiative Program.

*FOR THE LATEST UPDATES AND INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE  
NEW SPECIAL EVENTS HOTLINE AT 388-4379*

*Or visit [www.schenectadycounty.com](http://www.schenectadycounty.com).*

## Madison Handbags to Open Office/Production Facility in Schenectady County

Schenectady County officials have announced that Madison Handbags will open an office and production facility at 131 State Street in downtown Schenectady (formerly the district offices for the Girl Scouts). The building purchase will allow Madison Handbags to continue the rapid growth of its line of custom made handbags and accessories thereby creating 40 new jobs through 2013.

"Madison Handbags is a hot brand that has a national customer base," said Gary Hughes, Chair of the County Legislature's Committee on Economic Development and Planning. "This is a fantastic use for a key building on lower State Street."

"We welcome Madison Handbags and its great success story to Schenectady.," said Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy. "This company will make new products here and ship them around the country from

their Schenectady address. We are grateful for their decision to open a facility in our community."

"Now, more than ever American made products and manufacturing are the key to economic growth," said Trish Rost, President and Founder of Madison Handbags. "Our company mission has always been to provide opportunities for women, professionally, financially, and socially, and we are honored to be working toward that vision here in Schenectady."

Founded in 2005, Madison Handbags has operated its current eco-friendly production facility on Monroe Street in Troy, NY, for the past three years. The Troy facility will continue in operation,

producing over 75,000 handbags each year. The company sells its products through a network of more than 500 independent design consultants in 40+ states. A socially responsible company, Madison Handbags has been active in their community through generous donations of products and a commitment to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Madison  
Handbags