

## NTRPDC FACILITATES FLOOD CLEAN UP PROJECT

NTRPDC has received \$200,000 in National Emergency Grant Funding from the U.S. Department of Labor to fund the clean up of debris along creeks and damaged public property in Bradford, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties due to recent flooding.

Initially, NTRPDC will hire two crews of ten people to clean debris along streambeds and other public property. Temporary full-time employees will be hired for up to six months, which will include a program manager, crew leaders, and laborers. Additional expenses include equipment and necessary training. NTRPDC is in the process of developing a detailed staffing, programmatic, and monitoring plan for this project.

County Commissioners, Conservation Districts, Emergency Management Officials, and Municipal Officials have been working collaboratively with our staff to identify and prioritize the clean-up sites.

In addition to this

initial \$200,000 for Bradford, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties, we also will receive \$850,000 to continue the clean up in these counties as well as Sullivan and Tioga Counties. Eight more crews of ten people will be hired for this work.

There is great potential for this project to leverage local dollars as well as supplementing the clean up efforts already underway or planned by the municipalities. Also, it will create temporary, full-time work for dislocated workers in the region who will also receive valuable training and experience to help with future employment.

Two crews have already begun clean up work. One is working in the Sugar Hollow area of Wyoming County, just south of Tunkhannock and the other is working in the Great Bend area of Susquehanna County. All workers must receive OSHA training, chainsaw training, general program orientation, and First Aid/CPR training.



Work crews funded by a National Emergency Grant work on cleaning up woody debris in Sugar Hollow near Tunkhannock, Wyoming County.

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## WAL-MART DONATES \$15,000 TO HELP FLOOD DAMAGED WATERWAYS IN THE NORTHERN TIER REGION

On Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. presented a \$15,000 check to the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC) to help fund a project to remove flood debris from area waterways in the Northern Tier Region.

Wal-Mart representative James Davis, Senior Manager, Public Affairs for Pennsylvania presented the check to the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission. "Wal-Mart believes strongly in being a store of the community and we are eager to financially support efforts like this to make our communities safer and better places to live," said Davis. "Natural disasters are inevitable, the way we prepare and respond to those unfortunate events make all the difference," he added.

The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC) received a \$200,000 federal grant to hire crews to remove woody debris from damaged waterways in Bradford, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties. The first crew started in Wyoming County along Sugar Hollow Creek. A second crew is starting clean up work in Susquehanna County on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

According to Frank Thompson, Deputy Director of the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission, the project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor through the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and the workers must meet eligibility requirements. "Our first priority is to provide work for the individuals who lost their jobs either temporarily or permanently as a result of the flooding, then to those unemployed for other reasons," said Thompson. Additional workers are being sought in Susquehanna and Bradford Counties. It is a temporary full-time position paying \$10 an hour, with no benefits; however, workers will receive various training. Job applications are available through local CareerLink centers.



**Representatives involved in a flood clean up project for the Northern Tier Region gather to receive a check presented to the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission from Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.**

"We're very grateful for Wal-Mart's generosity; this will help us to continue the program in the rest of our five counties," said Kevin Abrams. Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming Counties were all declared federal disaster areas after the June flooding. Up to two ten person crews will be hired to work in each county. "Along with Wal-Mart's donation, we expect to receive more federal grant money to continue the program in the rest of our region," added Abrams.

## NTRPDC GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES \$1,500 FOR RED CROSS

NTRPDC's Annual Golf Tournament was held at the Shadowbrook Resort in Tunkhannock on August 31st.

Sixty golfers participated to raise \$1,500 for the Wyoming County Red Cross. Proceeds from the tournament were donated along with donations from the players and NTRPDC staff which combined with a matching gift from First Liberty National Bank.



NTRPDC would like to thank everyone for their generosity.



Steve Zapotok,; Kevin Abrams, NTRPDC Executive Director; Jody Place, First Energy/Penelec; and Tim Neuffer, First Energy

## OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVE VISIT NORTHERN TIER BUSINESSES

Overseas representatives from fifteen different countries traveled to the Northern Tier to meet one-on-one with businesses interested in entering the international market. Representatives from Pennsylvania's Trade Offices met with the companies at the Best Western in Sayre on October 10th. Countries included Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Southeast Asia, South Africa, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom.

Services available from the Pennsylvania Trade Offices include potential customer and distributor searches, market research and viability reports, customized itinerary's for in-country visits, trade show assistance, technical assistance with regulation, marketing materials reviews, and market reports on competitors.

For more information about the Export Development Program, contact Chad Rimbey at [Rimbey@northerntier.org](mailto:Rimbey@northerntier.org) or call toll free at 888-868-8800.

## NTRPDC WELCOMES NEW GIS COORDINATOR



Gretchen Elwell, originally from Chautauqua County, New York, has been hired as the new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator.

She recently graduated from SUNY Binghamton with a Masters Degree in Geography with an emphasis on GIS and Public Health.

NTRPDC has the latest software to help municipalities with projects requiring GIS technology. Examples include maps and data for resource management, transportation planning, infrastructure analysis, emergency response planning and site selection. For more information, please contact Gretchen toll free at 888-868-8800 or e-mail at [elwell@northerntier.org](mailto:elwell@northerntier.org).

*Welcome Gretchen!*

## HEALTHCARE AWARENESS WEEK NOVEMBER 13-17

Health Careers Week is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers, established by Governor Rendell in 2004, as an initiative of the PA Workforce Investment Board.

This annual event develops initiatives to raise awareness of the demand and opportunities in health care, particularly occupations in demand such as nursing, direct care, pharmacy, medical imaging, clinical laboratory sciences, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, surgical technician, medical secretary, medical transcription, and occupational therapy.

### Health Career Fairs are being planned for students in grades 7-12:

November 15, 2006 at Elk Lake High School in Dimock

November 15, 2006 at Penn College North Campus in Wellsboro

November 17, 2006 at Towanda Junior/Senior High School in Towanda



Healthcare has continued to steadily increase employment as well as units since 2000. Overall, the healthcare industry is the largest employer in the region and among the top paying. Government and Educational Services are significant employing more than 9600 in the region and provide weekly wages above \$450. Hospitals, ambulatory health care services and residential care facilities round out the top five employers.

NAICS Code	Industry Title	Employment	Average Weekly Wage	Average Annual Payroll
611	Educational services	5,520	\$686	\$196,909,440
999	Government	4,122	\$452	\$96,883,488
622	Hospitals	3,380	\$576	\$101,237,760
621	Ambulatory health care services	2,530	\$813	\$106,958,280
623	Nursing and residential care facilities	2,340	\$380	\$46,238,400
331	Primary metal manufacturing	2,190	\$697	\$79,374,360
321	Wood product manufacturing	2,170	\$553	\$62,400,520
445	Food and beverage stores	1,730	\$260	\$23,389,600
441	Motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,120	\$517	\$30,110,080
5221	Depository Credit Intermediation	1,050	\$528	\$28,828,800
447	Gasoline stations	1,030	\$222	\$11,890,320
333	Machinery manufacturing	940	\$738	\$36,073,440
624	Social assistance	870	\$375	\$16,965,000
326	Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	830	\$464	\$20,026,240
485	Transit and ground passenger transportation	680	\$209	\$7,390,240
444	Building material and garden supply stores	640	\$398	\$13,245,440
561	Administrative and support services	540	\$339	\$9,519,120
212	Mining, except oil and gas	520	\$555	\$15,007,200

\*minimum 500 employees



## TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY AN ISSUE AT PUBLIC MEETING

**Mo-bi-li-ty:** n: *The art of moving freely.* If you live in the Northern Tier Region, you know how difficult “mobility” can be. It always seems like it is impossible to get somewhere. In most cases, it’s true or at least it can be very difficult.

Mobility effects every part of our economy from tourism to education. NTRPDC is spearheading an effort to study the fastest growing transportation corridor in the region—the U.S. 15 Corridor (future Interstate 99). This will be a way to manage the inevitable growth off the corridor by soliciting input from those most affected by it. Residents are being asked to provide input on what kind of development they would like to occur, roadway safety, traffic congestion, and other issues. “This will be a way to preserve the mobility that they have now and enhance it as development takes place in an orderly fashion”, said Rick Biery, Regional Planning Program Manager. He added that there will be more ways to get around, and the modes of transportation will all be integrated.



A study area resident asks a question during a recent public open house at the Mansfield Fire Hall.

On October 12, 2006, NTRPDC hosted a meeting to gather public input at the Mansfield Fire Hall for the *Greater Mansfield Area Community Revitalization Strategy and Mobility Study*. An unprecedented crowd of eighty people attended the event, which was geared toward identifying community preferences for future development in Mansfield Borough, as well as surrounding Covington and Richmond Townships.

Every property owner in the study area was invited to participate by direct mail survey as well as through an interactive project web site. Students and faculty members at Mansfield University have been engaged in the study as well. More public events are planned as part of this study effort, which is aimed at improving the role transportation plays in mobility and community revitalization.

The study will be completed early next year and will identify a range of policy and project recommendations for implementation. For more information, contact Rick Biery, Regional Planning Program Manager toll free at 888-868-8800 or e-mail [biery@northerntier.org](mailto:biery@northerntier.org).

If you live in the project area and would like to provide comment through the interactive website, please visit [www.wordsworthcommunications.com/mobility](http://www.wordsworthcommunications.com/mobility).

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## RICK BIERY APPOINTED TO STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Rick Biery, Regional Planning Program Manager, has been re-appointed by Governor Ed Rendell to the Pennsylvania Aviation Advisory Committee.

The advisory committee serves as an advocate for the aviation industry and provides advice on issues affecting aviation in the state such as the decline in general aviation in Pennsylvania, air services needs, safety concerns, environmental regulations, and funding issues.

## RECENT LOAN CLOSINGS

Five loans totaling \$825,000 were closed from July to September:

- A \$200,000 Small Business First loan to Suburban Ready Mix Concrete in Wellsboro for acquisition costs. Five jobs will be created and three retained
- A \$200,000 First Industries Fund agriculture loan to Hutchinson Farm Partnership in Rome for the expansion of their dairy farm operations. Eight jobs will be created and eight retained.
- A \$200,000 First Industries Fund tourism loan to Four Friends Development in Towanda for expansion of their existing business. Four jobs will be retained.
- A \$200,000 Small Business First loan to Grim Kow Veal Farm in Burlington for the acquisition of a veal operation. One job will be created and four retained.
- A \$25,000 micro-loan to Sherwood Retirement and Personal Care Home in Canton for the renovation and installation of their water system. One job will be created and sixteen retained as a result of this project.



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### About NTRPDC....

Since 1970, The Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC) has been dedicated to developing people, businesses, and communities for a globally competitive region. Our mission is to help businesses expand their markets, generate employment, improve the local economy, and plan for the future development of the Northern Tier Region. Supported by federal, state and local funding sources, we can assist businesses and communities through export development, government procurement assistance, entrepreneurial development, loan and grant assistance, regional transportation planning, information technology, community development, industrial site selection assistance, Keystone Opportunity Zone program, workforce development, and the business retention program.

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