

Does your site have excessive slopes? What to consider when developing land with steep slopes

ve Vincent Ettari



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Continued from the July Hudson Valley section.

Fortunately, you as a property owner do not have to concern yourself with the mathematical intricacies involved in the design of a retaining wall. Many site and structural engineers have been trained in the design of such walls. While a student at Manhattan College, I took two separate soil mechanics courses (aptly named Soil Mechan-

ics I and Soil Mechanics II). If retaining walls will be needed to implement your vision for the property you wish to develop, you need merely engage the services of an engineer who is knowledgeable in the design and construction of retaining walls. If you cannot find one locally, you may want to try a search on the Internet. The Google, MSN, and Yahoo search engines can help to guide you to an engineer who is proficient in the design and construction of retaining walls. If the search engines are not helpful, you can speak to the secretary of your local planning board. Finally, if all else fails, you should contact near-by engineering schools to see who they might be able to recommend. Certainly, you should not undertake the design and construction of a retaining wall without the involvement of a li-

censed professional engineer who is experienced in such matters. And, if your site is a commercial or in-

may involve a review of the proposed work by the municipal planning, environmental, and/or zon-

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dustrial site, the construction of any retaining walls on the property ing boards. You should, therefore, first check with the municipality in

which your site is located if you are contemplating, or require, the construction of a retaining wall (or, retaining walls) on your property.

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Lynch appointed as executive dir. of YIDA

YONKERS, NY According to Philip Amicone, mayor and chairman of the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency (YIDA), Ellen Lynch was formally appointed as executive director of YIDA.

Lynch most recently held the position of senior vice president with Albert Ashforth, Inc., of Stamford, Conn., and managing director of EastRidge Properties, for whom she served as owner's representative. She is also chair of the Board of Directors of the Business Council of Westchester.

Lynch will replace Edward Sheeran, who retired earlier this year after serving with distinction as executive director for the past eight years.

As executive director, Lynch will supervise a city agency that has directly or indirectly financed economic development in excess of \$500 million during the past three years. YIDA seeks to attract and retain businesses to Yonkers by offering low interest loans, tax benefits, technical assistance, utility discounts, access to city-owned property and many other business development services.

Cohen's 600,000 s/f office park is 90% occupied

WHITE PLAINS, NY Recent office leasing transactions comprising over 30,000 s/f of space has brought Charles Cohen's 39-acre corporate campus at 333 Westchester Ave. to over 90% occupancy. Cohen transformed the former General Foods headquarters complex into a 600,000 s/f multi-tenant development.

The latest firms to join are: Atlas Capital LLC, a hedge fund that leased 8,000 s/f; River Communications, a full service audio video production company which leased 2,880 s/f; New York Mortgage Co., a mortgage banker which also took 2,880 s/f; and the non-profit Westchester County Medical Society, which leased over 2,500 s/f. In two expansion moves the law firm of Fredman & Kosan, LLP, increased their footage in the complex from 2,700 to 8,000 s/f while MeritDirect expanded from 3,800 to 9,000 s/f.



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