President’s Message by Ellen Parker, AICP
As I near the end of my first year as President, I can say it has been a very interesting year. We have been busy planning for the Chapter Conference, which will be in Utica this year, from September 28-30. This conference is being held jointly with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), so there will be an interestingly mix of sessions. All sessions are being submitted for CM credits, so if you need your continuing education credits, the conference will be an excellent opportunity. The Thursday night reception at Saranac Brewery will include a tour, refreshments and an open bar. The luncheon keynote speaker on Friday is Peter Fleischer, the Executive Director of the Empire State Future Coalition. The conference is very accessible to the train station, so you can even arrive by train. We look forward to seeing you there! Our Chapter Board continues to work on rethinking the Chapter’s role, and how we can be more useful and relevant to our members. We applied for and received a grant from national APA to look at our membership trends and try to improve what we do. To continue reading this article, click here.

Smart growth group says fiscal problems may aid smart growth Interview by George Homsy, AICP
The many and diverse cities, towns, villages, and hamlets of New York state share one major problem, says Peter Fleischer. That problem is sprawl – and Fleischer leads an organization to fight it. Empire State Future is a coalition of 48 member non-profit groups, environmental organizations, and private companies (including the APA New York Upstate chapter) dedicated to economic revitalization through smart growth. Fleischer has been at the helm of the Albany-based group since February 2008. The organization has had a hand in passing the historic preservation tax credit and the infrastructure bill in New York State. This past year, they were a major force behind the complete streets bill and the land bank act. To read the full article, click here.

Our Historic Green Suburbs by Jayme Breschard, Senior Planner, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council
The draining of swamps and standing water was one of the first public works initiatives in the United States. As the population increased and urbanized society expanded, natural areas were eliminated and impervious areas were created. Flooding from stormwater runoff emerged as a growing problem. To continue reading this article, click here.

Ride the Rails to the 2011 Upstate APA/ASLA Conference, by Tanya Mooza Zwahlen, AICP
The 2011 annual conference will be hosted by APA and ASLA this year. The event will take place Wednesday, September 28th through Friday, September 30th at the Radisson Hotel and Hotel Utica in Utica, New York. This year, we are co-hosting the conference with the New York Upstate Chapter of Landscape Architects. The conference theme is Connecting Communities and sessions will include a full complement of technical sessions beginning Wednesday afternoon and running through Friday, all of which will be approved for Certification Maintenance (CM) through the American Planning Association. Some upstate planners are planning to ride the rails to the conference. For more information about Amtrak discounts for this event, click here.