

# Economic Development Newsletter

Nassau County Office of Economic Development



## County Executive Suozzi Receives Rudin Center Award



On February 15, 2007, Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi received the Annual Leadership in Transportation Award from New York University Wagner Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management.

"We are thrilled to be presenting the Public Leader Award to County Executive Suozzi," said Rudin Center Director, Allison L. C. de Cerreño. "He very much deserves the recognition for all his good work and especially for his recent role with the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council. He helped them pull together the concept of shared regional goals in transportation."

"Transportation infrastructure affects our region's economy, environment and our quality of life. My administration is committed to working toward improving air quality, reducing congestion and supporting mass transit, including the Second Avenue subway, East Side access for the LIRR and connecting Nassau's HUB area to the region's transit system," stated County Executive Suozzi. "I am particularly honored to receive this award from the Rudin Center, which is a nationwide leader in developing innovative solutions to transportation issues."

The County Executive was recognized for his efforts in promoting an aggressive program to help address congestion and air quality issues in Nassau County; for supporting transit-oriented development as part of the County's Nassau Hub Major Investment Study development plan, as well as for his own visionary plan for *New Suburbia*. In 2005, while working with Long Island Transportation Management (LITM), the County introduced a series of programs targeted to County employees, in an effort to reduce single occupancy vehicles on Long Island's roadways.

These include: **TransitChek**, the Commuter Benefits Program to provide fiscal incentives to employees that commute to work using public transportation. **NuRide**, a private sector computer-based ridesharing program authorized for use by County employees. **GuaranteedRide Home**, as a complement to NuRide, assuring participants that they will always have a trans-



Sam Schwartz, President and CEO of Sam Schwartz PLLC, a consulting firm specializing in traffic and transportation engineering, and New York Daily News Columnist, presented County Executive Tom Suozzi with the Rudin Center Award.

portation option in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Nassau County has hosted Transit Fairs at various County sites to introduce these programs and to provide a general awareness of commute alternatives. LITM has named Nassau County a Commuter Choice Employer, and was given a 2006 Regional Commuter Choice Award by NYMTC.

The County Executive served as Co-Chairman of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council from April 2005 to March 2006. (story continues on pg 4)

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### Investing In Our Infrastructure

## From the desk of – Deputy County Executive Patrick G. Duggan

2007 has gotten off to a productive start and promises to be an exciting, challenging year. We have a multitude of projects and plans nearing completion and many others to begin.

County Executive Suozzi's economic development agenda remains unchanged; Investing in hi-tech/hi-skilled industry; sports, entertainment & tourism; and Next Generation Housing. We want to target our growth in Nassau's downtowns, minority communities, Brownfields, and the Nassau HUB. And we want to

improve transportation, preserve open space, & strengthen our schools. The stories in this newsletter represent accomplishments in several of these areas.

I am very proud of the work our staff is involved in; from assisting homeless families, to structuring housing initiatives, to assisting high-tech businesses to relocate in Nassau County. In just a few months, for example, our staff has helped five businesses secure Empire Zone certification, creating a potential 160 new jobs and \$35 million in invest-

ment in Nassau County.

With the appointment of the Nassau Committee to End Homelessness charged with developing a 10-year plan, we are one step closer to impacting chronic homelessness. For more in-depth information regarding housing in Nassau County **please join us at our Housing Breakfast on April 24th.**

Much has been done, but there is still much more. Let's continue to build a stronger Nassau County economy!

Patrick G. Duggan

Deputy County Executive  
for Economic Development

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**NASSAU COUNTY  
HOUSING BREAKFAST  
APRIL 24TH, 2007,  
8:30 AM**

**Nassau County Bar  
Association**

**Hear the County's 5 year  
report on Housing Initiatives  
and the recent  
housing study.**

## County Executive Appoints Committee to End Homelessness

On March 8, 2007, Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi introduced the members of the Nassau Committee to End Homelessness, which he appointed and charged with developing a 10-year plan to tackle chronic homelessness. The 30 member committee is made up of non-profit and faith-based service providers, government officials and three formerly homeless people.

The County has made great strides on this front. Since 2003, 617 homeless families formerly placed in shelters and motels, have moved into permanent housing, most with the assistance of federal housing vouchers, at no cost to the county. 1,605 individuals who called (866) WARMBED, the county's homeless hotline, were placed in shelters – 30% of those now receive services needed to lead healthy and productive lives.

"The County has been very aggressive and very successful in helping to prevent at-risk families and individuals from becoming chronically homeless," Suozzi said. "The Nassau Committee to End Homelessness will build upon these successes, and take this important



County Executive Tom Suozzi with Sean Moss, HUD Regional Director, two formerly homeless residents, Leg. Robert Corbin, Committee Chair Marge Rogatz and Connie Lassandro, NC Director of Housing and Homeless Services.

work to the next level – combating chronic homelessness."

The federal Housing and Urban Development agency presented the County with two checks, totaling more than \$7 million, to fund many vital homeless services. The Nassau Continuum of Care Group, an umbrella group of homeless service providers, received \$6.5 million, and the county received more than \$600,000 to fund emergency shelter. "HUD is de-

lighted that Nassau County, under the able leadership of Tom Suozzi, has joined with other communities across this country to address their homeless population," said Sean Moss, HUD Regional Director for New York and New Jersey.

"The committee represents a model of how the public and private sectors can work together to seek solutions to serious community and regional problems," said Committee Chair Marge Rogatz, of Community Advocates. The committee is expected to present its plan within 6 months.

## Combating chronic homelessness ~

*"We are committed to ensuring they get the help and the services they need—in the most cost-efficient manner possible."*

- County Executive Tom Suozzi

## Envision a New Village of Hempstead Downtown

Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi and Village of Hempstead Mayor Wayne J. Hall, Sr. today announced a \$3 million investment initiative for the revitalization of Franklin Avenue in the Village of Hempstead's downtown.

"The Village of Hempstead has many assets: it is a major public transportation center with rail and bus terminals, it has a large downtown, and most importantly, it is centrally located. These improvements will reflect the pride of the residents of the Village of Hempstead and help spur economic activity," said Suozzi.

"Improving the image and overall quality of life in the Village of Hempstead is not only critical to economic growth in the Village and the Hub at large, it also helps create the kind of community that we want our children - and their children - to grow up in," said Mayor Hall.

The plan calls for a new Franklin Avenue streetscape, including brick paver sidewalks, decorative street lights, benches, and trash cans. The \$3 million cost will be covered by funding from Nassau County's Capital Project. Construction is to begin in Spring 2008, following a series of public meetings. Nassau County has selected the firm of Urbitran Associates, Inc. to provide design services. As part of the county's "Community Environment Improvement" project, a county-wide effort to beautify specific areas throughout Nassau County, the center median of Peninsula Boulevard from Franklin Avenue to



County Executive Tom Suozzi with Village of Hempstead Officials announcing the initiative for the revitalization of Franklin Avenue.

(story continues on page 4)

## Five Businesses Receive Empire Zone Certification ~ 160 New Jobs

Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi and Deputy County Executive Patrick Duggan announced in February that the Nassau County Empire Zone Certification Officer, jointly with the NY State Commissioner of Labor and the NY State Commissioner of Economic Development have certified that five businesses in Nassau County are eligible to access benefits within the boundaries of the Nassau County Empire Zone. The certification of these businesses will create almost 160 new jobs in Nassau County.

"These five businesses - all of which have agreed to create new jobs in the coming years - represent the promise of the new Empire Zones in Nassau County," said Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi. The [Empire Zone \(EZ\) Program](#) offers significant tax incentives and utility reduction benefits to certified businesses located in or investing in a designated Empire Zone to encourage economic and community development, business investment and job creation. The five busi-

nesses that have been certified and eligible thus far for Empire Zone benefits are:

**Cyrostar Industries, Inc.** (New Cassel), a maintenance and repair service provider to the bio-medical industry in the Metro NY area for the past 13 years, has two divisions and is establishing a third in the Empire Zone. Cryostar plans to invest \$1.65 million in the purchase and renovation of another building and plans to invest an additional \$150,000 in machinery and equipment for the new facility. The company plans to create 8 additional Service Technician jobs, each making between \$50,000-\$100,000 in total wages and benefits. **Cove Acquisition Corporation** (Freeport), is a wire forming products manufacturer for commercial industry. Eighty-seven new jobs are projected for the next 5 years in engineering, sales management and tool and dye maker jobs. Capital investment is estimated at \$3.8 million for the purchase of machinery and equipment and building renovations. **Mini Graphics, Inc.** (Freeport), a

manufacturer of quality package inserts servicing the pharmaceuticals industry. The company plans a capital investment of over \$2,000,000 to expand its current operations and will create 50 new jobs to add to its current employment of 129. **SJ Price, Inc.** (Freeport), wholesales paper goods and restaurant supplies in a Main Street/Urban Core area targeted for revitalization. This business plans an investment of \$100,000 to expand operations through building renovation and purchase of equipment. They will increase their employees by more than 20% (6 new jobs) over the next 5 years. **Topel Realty LLC** (Hempstead), is a sporting goods apparel retail establishment and real estate rental agency under one entity. According to Empire Zone law they are located in a "distressed" area, in a Main Street/Urban Core downtown area targeted for revitalization. The company plans to make a capital investment of \$910,000 to purchase and renovate a building for the 6 employees they will hire.

## 300 NEW JOBS IN HIGH SKILL HIGH TECH INDUSTRY ~BOSTWICK INDUSTRIES

Nassau County's Office of Economic Development is pleased to announce that Bostwick Laboratories, headquartered in Richmond, VA, is opening its fifth location in the United States and the United Kingdom in Uniondale, NY. Bostwick is expanding its operations to Nassau County and creating over 300 new jobs. "I am pleased that Bostwick Laboratories has picked Nassau County to expand their business under the Empire Zones Program," said County Executive Tom Suozzi. "The Empire Zones Program furthers our goal

of attracting high-tech, high-skilled industries such as Bostwick Laboratories."

"The company has applied for Empire Zone consideration as a Regionally Significant Bio-Technology Project with the Nassau County Empire Zones Program," stated Deputy County Executive for Economic Development Patrick Duggan.

In addition to new job creation, Bostwick Laboratories plans to invest \$14.8 million in the acquisition of a 70,000 square

foot building on 5.5 acres at 100 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard in Uniondale. The types of positions created will include Executive, Pathologists, Administrative Staff and Laboratory Personnel, with salary ranges from \$26,000 to as high as \$500,000.

Bostwick Laboratories is a full service laboratory specializing in Urological Pathology and dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment and management of prostate cancer and all urologic conditions.

# Celebrating 35 Years of Community Development! April is Community Development Block Grant Month!

## Home Buyer's Education

*Nassau County Office of Economic Development*  
*Thomas R. Suozzi, County Executive*  
*Patrick G. Duggan, Deputy County Executive*

400 County Seat Drive  
Mineola, NY 11501

Phone: 516-571-3188  
Fax: 516-571-1388

## The Vision for New Suburbia

### *Investing In Our Future*

We're on the Web!

[www.nassaucountyny.gov](http://www.nassaucountyny.gov)

The students who participate in Nassau County's Homeownership Center's Home Buyer's Education Program represent a wide cross section of age and diversity with the common goal of purchasing their own home. The participants attend a six week course outlining the process of purchasing a home. The class educates and prepares them to become mortgage ready and to navigate the process. It is a great success because the majority of the students find out about the course through referrals of former students, as well as on the County's Website and through community outreach.

Participants first attend an orientation, where they meet

with housing educators to review their eligibility, including assets, credit, income, etc. They then receive a personalized action plan devised for them to move to the next step. If they need credit repair they are sent to a financial literacy class, Money 101, also coordinated by the Office of Housing and Homeless Services, Homeownership Center.

Students that are ready to apply for a mortgage take the six week course. Upon graduating, they are accompanied step by step through the process of buying a home, organizing their paper work, applying, closing etc.



**County Executive Tom Suozzi accepting NYU's Rudin Center Annual Award for Leadership in Transportation.**

*(Cont'd from pg 1)*

Under his leadership, the Council adopted the concept of shared regional goals, which include: Improving the regional economy; enhancing the regional environment; improving the regional quality of life; providing convenient, flexible transportation access within the region; advocating for increased regional transportation investment. Approximately \$5 million has also been earmarked in the Council's 2007-2008 Unified Planning Work Program.



**Program Coordinator Ron Moss and housing educator Rosemarie Miller are pictured here on the right with recent graduates.**

*(cont'd from pg 3)*

President Street will be upgraded. "Village of Hempstead gateway" signs welcoming visitors to downtown Hempstead from northern and southern approaches also will be incorporated into the project. The Village recently approved an estimated \$2 billion conceptual proposal from UrbanAmerica, which gives them the green light to begin the development process. Their proposal to revitalize a 3-square mile part of the village would include 2,800 units of housing, along with new retail space, and a performing arts center.

"The coordination between the County and the Village of Hempstead is an example of a partnership focused on achieving our goals for "New Suburbia" that includes revitalizing our downtowns," said Suozzi.