

Economic Development Newsletter

Nassau County Office of Economic Development



County Executive Suozzi's Economic Development Plan for a New Suburbia

EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE BREAKFAST—SEPTEMBER 7TH

- LI Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, Uniondale
- Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi joined by LIA President Matt Crosson and panelists from business and higher education to discuss economic development strategies for the future.
- 8 am—10am
- Hosted by Nassau County Office of Economic Development

Upon taking office in January, 2002, Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi faced many challenges. The County's finances were in disarray and the government was rampant with waste, fraud and abuse. The nation's oldest suburb was in crisis. County Executive Suozzi met these challenges head on and turned the "worst county government" around, a feat heralded nationwide.

Part of turning Nassau County around is the County Executive's ten-point Economic Development Plan for New Suburbia:

Support and Promote 3 Industries: High Tech/High Skilled, Sports Entertainment/Tourism, and the creation of Next Generation Housing

Target Development in 4 Locations: Downtowns, Brownfields, Emerging Minority Communities, and The Nassau "Hub"

Invest in 3 types of Infrastructure: Transportation, Open Space and Schools.

The County Executive started implementing his vision by integrating County Departments with community and economic development functions together into the Economic Development Vertical under the leadership of Patrick Duggan, Deputy County Executive. The Planning Department, the Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Housing & Homeless Services programs work together to pursue this vision.

These departments are joined by three new initiatives created by the County Executive: the Nassau County Planning Federation, the Business Development Unit, and the Brownfields Redevelopment program. The Nassau County Planning Federation, lead by former North Hempstead



County Executive
Thomas R. Suozzi

Supervisor May Newburger, is a community planning initiative which includes members from all Cities, Towns and Villages in Nassau County.

Suozzi's housing accomplishments include the Nassau County Housing Plan developed with the Next Generation Housing Panel and the County's Fair Housing Legislation. In August 2006, County Executive Suozzi signed the Fair Housing Legislation.

Inside this issue:

From the Desk of DCE Duggan	2
Biopartners	2
Empire Zone (continued)	2
New Cassel	3
Freeport/Roosevelt Health Clinic	3
The Nassau HUB	3
Brownfields/Open Space	4

Support & Promote Industries: The Empire Zones Program

New York State's 86 Empire Zones are designated areas throughout the State that offer special incentives to encourage economic and community development, business investment and job creation. In March 2006, for the first time in the history of the program, the New York State Empire State Development

corporation awarded Empire Zone status to Nassau County. Businesses within the Zones will receive tax and other benefits that will enable them to do business in Nassau County, despite the lure of out of State locations. Applications for Empire Zone certification may be sent to the Executive

Director Evette Beckett -Tuggle at the Office of Business Development, 400 County Seat Drive, Mineola, NY 11501.

The Nassau County Business and Community Information Series on the Empire Zones Program is underway. Nearly a dozen existing Nassau County businesses (*next page please*)



Patrick G. Duggan, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development

Deputy County Executive Patrick G. Duggan

In February 2004, Rev Patrick G. Duggan was appointed by Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi to the position of Deputy County Executive for Economic Development, overseeing an office of nearly 100 employees and a \$75 million budget. The Office of Economic Development includes the County's Planning Department; the HUD-funded Community Development Block Grant program; the Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs; the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8)

Program and the Office of Housing & Homeless Services.

Rev. Duggan is responsible for advancing County Executive Suozzi's plan for a New Suburbia.

Prior to working with the County, Rev. Duggan held the position of Executive Director of Sustainable Long Island. He was formerly the Director of External Relations at York College/The City University of New York and was an Associate Director with the United Negro

College Fund. As a member of Group XIII of the prestigious Kellogg National Fellowship Program, he conducted a study of community development in the United States and regional development internationally.

Rev. Duggan is a graduate of Harvard University and holds a Master of Divinity degree from the New York Theological Seminary. He serves as pastor of a growing United Church of Christ congregation in South Hempstead, where he lives with his wife and three children.

High Tech/High Skilled Industry

BioPartners Emergent Worker Training Program

With the help of a \$253,000 grant from Congressman Gary Ackerman, the BioPartners Emergent Worker Training Program (BEWTP) will begin its first classes on September 18th at the campus of Nassau Community College.

BEWTP is a six week program that offers individuals an opportunity to learn the skills necessary to have a career in Long Island's fastest growing industries: Biotechnology, Life Sciences and Health Care. The program will combine classroom and laboratory instruction with job readiness training.

Industry partners stand ready to hire participants that successfully complete the program. Placement in these entry level positions with on the job training will lead to career advancement.

Investing In Our Future

Empire Zone *(continued)*



New Cassel mixed-use development. Suozzi has developed or preserved 1500 homes.

have begun the application process since the program officially opened in August.

The County Executive's Plan for New Suburbia includes both attracting new businesses and the retention of existing businesses. The Empire Zone designation is a major step in that direction. Business retention and attraction boosts the economy and expands the tax base, easing the property tax burden for all Nassau County residents.

Targeted Development

New Cassel Revitalization

New Cassel has seen many thwarted revitalization efforts over the last 20 years. Under Suozzi's leadership, New Cassel has seven mixed-income, mixed-use developments in progress. An investment of Nassau County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Act funds, has leveraged over \$60 million in new investment in the community. With a million dollar investment of Federal funds from Senator Hillary Clinton and Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, New Cassel is well on its way to a genuine economic rebirth.

The redevelopment project began with a community visioning process that included the entire New Cassel community. Two dozen quality developers requested the Request For Proposal for development of the sites, with five selected to build on the eight sites. In addition to streetscape improvements and traffic calming enhancements, the Prospect Avenue developments will include over 238 units of housing and commercial space that includes a bank, a pharmacy, a supermarket and other important community amenities.



New Cassel Groundbreaking

Roosevelt/Freeport Health Clinic

After a decade-long vision of a new health care facility, the Roosevelt/Freeport Community will build a new 12,000 square foot facility housing a health center, a Woman Infant and Children (WIC) program and an office for the Memorial Economic Development Corporation. Final design of the clinic on North Main Street in Freeport is in progress and construction is slated to begin in Spring 2007.

"Health care disparity is a major concern for families in Freeport and Roosevelt. The working partnership formed between Nassau County, the Memorial Economic Development Corporation and Nassau Health Care Corporation

is taking this problem head-on.", said County Executive Suozzi at the groundbreaking.

"It is my hope that this facility will not only address the health care needs of the community, but also serve as an anchor for future economic development," said Suozzi.

Nassau County applied funds from an US EPA Brownfields Assessment grant to perform environmental assessments of the property and borrowed **\$3.5 million** in Section 108 HUD funds to finance the construction of the center. Congresswoman McCarthy secured a Health and Services Administration grant in the amount of \$366,000 for project costs.

"It is my hope that this facility will not only address the health care needs of the community, but also serve as an anchor for future economic development."

County Executive Suozzi



Nassau County/MEDC Closing June 2006

\$1.1 Million from Feds for HUB Study

Central to the strategic vision for economic development in Nassau County is the Nassau HUB.

As its name suggests, the "HUB" is the geographic center of Nassau County, as well as the heart of its economy. It includes the EAB Plaza, Nassau Coliseum and Eisenhower Park on the Southeast, and the Source Mall to the North. It encompasses Nassau Community College, Hofstra University and Roosevelt Field, and travels as far west as the Nassau County Government offices in Mineola. Hempstead Village and Mineola, with their Long Island Railroad lines, are also important parts of the Nassau Hub.

The Nassau Hub contains retail, office, manufacturing, warehousing, a regional active park, a preserve, two colleges, museums and a sports arena. A range of alternatives, including light rail transit, a fixed guide way loop, and shuttle buses that would connect existing facilities and new infill development into a pedestrian/transit-friendly environment are in consideration.

Congress has allocated **\$20 million dollars** to be used for the Nassau HUB., of which \$1.1 million has recently been awarded.

Investing In Our Infrastructure

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

We're on the Web!

www.nassaucountyny.gov

Brownfields Redevelopment

The Brownfields Revitalization Unit received a \$200,000 grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Phase I & Phase II Site Assessments on properties in underserved communities. To date, two properties have been identified for redevelopment through this program.

Additionally, Phase I & II Site Assessments have been completed on the 35 acre Nassau County- owned Coes Neck property in Baldwin. A series of community meetings are planned to build consensus around the future use of the site.

Open Space

County Executive Suozzi has identified the first properties to be preserved through Nassau's first \$50 million Open Space bond. Legislation for a second \$100 million Open Space bond will be submitted to the legislature in September 2006.



Tom Suozzi congratulates a first time homebuyer at one of the 1500 homes created or preserved in his administration.
