



County Executive
Thomas R. Suozzi

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



NEWSLETTER

“...we are being affected more and more every day by the economic crisis that the nation is experiencing.”

Thomas R. Suozzi
County Executive

Suozzi and Paterson Join Forces for NSP



Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi, NY State Governor David Paterson, and Nassau County Legislator Kevan Abraham, held a press conference in front of a foreclosed property on Searing Avenue, Hempstead to announce state funds for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

County Executive Suozzi joined Governor David A. Paterson to announce the award of \$59 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Program grants to assist communities affected by the foreclosure and subprime crises. The NSP funds, which will be overseen by the Office of Economic Development's Deputy County Executive Patrick G. Duggan, Rosemary A. Olsen, Director, Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs, and Connie Lassandro, Director, Office of Housing and Homeless Services. The focus is to identify the distressed areas throughout the County and then purchase and redevelop these foreclosed and abandoned properties.

Nassau County has been severely impacted by the foreclosure crisis and witnessed a 25.8 percent increase in foreclosure filings between 2007-08. The County purchased seven foreclosed properties from Fannie Mae and will use its \$3.1 million NSP grant to finance the costs of acquisition and renovation.

The projects to receive funds fall into five categories of uses: Acquisition and Rehabilitation, 79 percent of total awards allocated; Homebuyer Assistance, 5 percent of total awards allocated; Land Banking 1 percent of total awards allocated; Demolition of Blighted Properties, 3 percent of total awards

The Office of Economic Development

- Promote sustainable growth
- Expand the tax base
- Preserve and improve the overall quality of life

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Nassau County Summer Youth Program

Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi has announced the creation of the Nassau County Summer Youth Employment Corps, a new initiative with government and nonprofit partners that brings together all available youth employment resources, including federal stimulus dollars. This is the first time all of the Nassau County youth employers are working together as a team to extend opportunities to youth.

Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) in Nassau County received \$1.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for youth employment programs. The County, through its Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs, contributed \$200,000 of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money. With these and other

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Patrick G. Duggan
Deputy County Executive

“Once they are ready for sale, the homes will be marketed to qualified low and moderate income buyers...”

Patrick G. Duggan
Deputy County Executive



Lisa Griggs received her Associates of Science Degree in Criminal Justice in 2007, and is currently a senior at Adelphi University, expecting to receive her Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice in January 2010. She plans to attend law school to become a criminal attorney. She is working as a summer intern to help pay her way through school and to gain independence. “I believe that my experience at the Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs will teach me to be more responsible, independent, as well as add to my knowledge of local government and how it works for the benefit of all Nassau County residents”.

From the desk of Deputy County Executive - Patrick G. Duggan

Through the effective leadership of County Executive Tom Suozzi, federal economic stimulus funds are quickly reaching Nassau County and promising relief for residents of our hardest hit communities. Through the collaborative efforts of the Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs’ (OHIA) Director, Rosemary A. Olsen, and the Office of Housing and Homeless Services’ (OHHS) Director, Connie Lassandro, Nassau County has received \$3.1 million in funds from New York State for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. These funds are in addition to the \$7.7 million in federal funds awarded to Nassau County for this program. Through NSP, Nassau County provides targeted emergency assistance to acquire and rehabilitate fore-closed properties that are abandoned and becoming sources of blight in our communities. Once these abandoned homes have been rehabilitated through NSP, we provide high quality, affordable housing to low and moderate income families in Nassau County.

OHIA and OHHS staff members have been working together to identify neighborhoods with multiple fore-closed properties. The properties are then inspected to determine if they qualify for acquisition and rehabilitation. Once they are ready for sale, the homes will be marketed to qualified low and moderate income buyers, thus stabilizing the area and preventing further decline of property values.

Through the efforts of our dedicated and knowledgeable staff, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program will bring positive change for Nassau County’s residents.

Summer Youth Program

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existing programs the County has been able to provide summer opportunities for almost 1,000 youth, many of whom are from economically disadvantaged families. Nearly 400 new summer positions for youth have been created through stimulus funds this year.

“We are living through arguably the worst economic crisis since the 1930s, and as young people and families attempt to get through this period, summer employment has become both critical and difficult to find,” said County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi. “Through this one unified program, we hope to create a more efficient, interoperable system for matching our young people with opportunities.”

Senator Charles E. Schumer said, “This is yet another example of how the Recovery Act is going to quickly put people to work on Long Island.

YouthBuild programs are an important asset to young New Yorkers and I applaud the County Executive and Long Island Congregation, Associations and Neighborhoods

(LICAN) for developing this innovative approach.

“We are very excited that County Executive Suozzi has made creating job opportunities for youth a priority in Nassau County. We believe that the Nassau County Youth Employment Corps is a great first step to encourage young people in civic engagement and foster partnerships on both the County and local neighborhood level, that helps ensure avenues of success for young people,” says Alex Ticas, a leader of LICAN.

The Summer Youth Employment Corps is designed to make it easier for youth and young adults to access job opportunities in government and the nonprofit and private sectors. Summer employment opportunities are especially critical this year, with the national youth unemployment rate at 22%.

In addition to providing a job bank with positions ranging

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Jana C. Hampton is entering her junior year in the fall of 2009 at the State University of New York at Oneonta, where she majors in Math Education. Jana is a residential advisor of her hall and serves as vice president of a multi-cultural organization S.C.C., formerly known as the Students of Color Coalition. “I strongly believe that working at the Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs will benefit me in my future endeavors and prepare me for the business world. In addition to meeting new people, I am expanding my knowledge on the everyday issues of government. I have experienced excellent training in a professional environment from the wonderful staff and my fellow interns. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and would encourage anyone to consider a career working for the government”.



County Executive Thomas Suozzi and Governor David Paterson Press Conference

April 14, 2009. The homeowners on Searing Avenue, a quiet street with manicured lawns, had front row seats for the announcement of funds for Nassau County's Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi and New York State Governor David Paterson held a press conference announcing the Neighborhood Stabilization Program's efforts to acquire foreclosed properties, renovate and sell them at market value to qualified purchasers. The program's purpose is to target streets that have seen a rise in foreclosed properties and stabilize the area. The press conference was held in front of a foreclosed property on Searing Ave.



Summer Youth

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from the trades to the professions, the Employment Corps will offer workshops and seminars covering the spectrum of work-related issues.

The Summer Youth Employment Corps Program is part of County Executive Suozzi's "Opportunity Nassau", which reflects Nassau's commitment to broadening opportunities for residents, whether through the most efficient delivery of human services, creating more opportunities for housing for seniors, young people and others, or facilitating employment opportunities through programs such as Warriors to Work or the Summer Youth Employment Corps program. The future of Nassau County depends on the success of all of our residents.

NSP Program

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allocated; and Redevelopment of Vacant Properties, 12 percent of total awards allocated.

"Nassau County has had more than 6,000 foreclosure filings, and we are being affected more and more every day by the economic crisis that the nation is experiencing. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program funding will enable us to provide some relief to communities that were hardest hit by the foreclosures," said County Executive Suozzi. "I am pleased to announce we are the first in the nation to work with Fannie Mae in purchasing foreclosed homes. We are going to do what we can to not only help residents avoid the loss of a home, but to also stop the decline in the value of neighboring properties."



Sheldon L. Wallace is a Graduate Intern at the Nassau County Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs. Sheldon received an A.A.S. in Business Administration from SUNY Morrisville, a B.A. in Economics with a minor in Business Management from SUNY Stony Brook, and he recently completed an M.A. in Political Science with a focus on Public Policy at SUNY Stony Brook.

He enrolled at Stony Brook as a Public Policy graduate student and secured an internship position at OHIA for his last semester. "OHIA has helped me gain a strong foundation from which to build, where serving the needs of the people is concerned. This experience has definitely been an enhancement to my professional and personal growth, and has equipped me with the necessary tools to succeed in the public sector."



Jason Davis is a 22 year old Freeport resident who will be attending Florida International University for a Master's degree in Hospitality Management. Jason is also an active member in many organizations including Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated since 2006, American Hotel & Lodging Association, NAACP, as well as the Aircraft Owner and Pilot Association (AOPA). "This summer's internship with the Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs will provide me with a deeper understanding of the public sector and the community development process."



Lorreann Webley is in her 4th year of a 5-year MBA program at Hampton University, where she serves as a student ambassador in the Greer Dawson Student Leadership Program, President of the Caribbean Pre-Alumni Council, as well as many other organizations. Post graduation Lorreann plans to attend law school at the University of Chicago. "Working in Nassau County's Office of Housing and Intergovernmental Affairs, I have learned a plethora of concepts and skills including a better understanding of how local and federal governments work, how business is applicable to government, and how the economic crisis affects government agencies. This internship will enhance my future endeavors toward effectively improving my leadership skills."



Rachel Imhof is returning to a third internship at the Office of Economic Development this summer. A resident of Port Washington, Rachel attends Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. As a rising senior at Smith, Rachel majors in Sociology and her minor is Economics.

"By interning with Economic Development and OHIA, I learn how government is run on a local level and how county offices work. I plan to go into either law or business, so the knowledge I gain here will help me in both fields."



If you would like more information about the **Neighborhood Stabilization Program** please call **Nassau County's Homeownership Center** at **516-571-HOME**