

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



MAY, 2008

Neighborhood Preservation Coalition
of New York State, Inc.

DHCR Announces Changes To Community Revitalization Programs

DHCR Commissioner Deborah VanAmerongen recently announced several changes in the mission and responsibilities of the Office for Small Cities (OFSC) that will help make the state's community development and revitalization efforts more effective.

OFSC, which has administered NYS's federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program since 2000, will now also manage the New York Main Street program. To reflect the additional duties, the name of the agency will be changed to the Office of Community Renewal, and it will be completely integrated into DHCR.

Commissioner VanAmerongen said, "By bringing Main Street under the same roof as the CDBG program, we are providing local municipalities with 'one stop shopping' to more fully and efficiently address their community development needs. This will help us to cut bureaucracy and streamline the program processes, reducing costs for the state, for local governments and for the business community."

VanAmerongen also said that Joe Rabito, who served as Director of the Office for Small Cities, will become the DHCR's deputy commission for the Office of Community Renewal.

The New York Main Street pro-

gram provides financial resources and technical assistance to revitalize the State's traditional Main Streets and neighborhoods. The program provides funds from the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corp. to business improvement districts and other not-for-profit organizations that are committed to revitalizing historic downtowns, mixed-use neighborhood commercial districts, and village centers.

CDBG funding is provided by the Federal government, but has been administered by New York State since 2000. It is targeted to cities, town, and villages with populations of less than 50,000 and certain counties with populations of less than 200,000. The grants help develop viable communities by providing decent, affordable housing and suitable living environments, as well as, creating jobs and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income.

**Annual Conference &
Membership Meeting**
October 5-6-7, 2008
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Albany

Review Process Now Moving To Implementation

The "Review and Reform" of the Neighborhood and Rural Preservation Programs, ordered last year by the NYS Division of the Budget, has evolved into an implementation phase which will include a new certification process for all NPCs and RPCs.

It also has a new name: the Preservation Program Initiative.

Two separate Task Forces representing both programs met throughout last summer to work on the "review" and make recommendations for improvements to the programs. A report was compiled and presented for public comment during both Coalition's conferences last fall. DHCR Commissioner Deborah VanAmerongen then presented the report to the Division of the Budget and to then-Gov. Eliot Spitzer.

Sub-committees to each Task Force were formed and charged with establishing a framework to implement the recommendations made in the Report. The sub-committees are:

- ?? Strategic Planning and Performance Evaluation;
- ?? Training and Technical Assis-

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Review Process Now Moving To Implementation

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tance;

?? Promotion;

?? Collaboration; and

?? Statewide Database.

Most of the sub-committees have been meeting the last few months and reporting to the general Task Force.

Representing the Neighborhood Preservation Program on the Task Force and sub-committees are:

?? **Karen Mallam**, Coalition Board president, from Newburgh Community Improvement Corp.;

?? **Gary Beasley**, Coalition Board member, from Neighbors of Watertown;

?? **Joe Barden**, Coalition Board Treasurer, from Margert Community Corp.;

?? **Dennis Hanratty**, Coalition Board Vice President, from Mt. Vernon United Tenants;

?? **Eduardo Laguerre**, Coalition Board Vice President, from NAICA;

?? **Janelle Greene**, Coalition member, from NHS of New York City; and,

?? **Joe Agostine, Jr.**, Coalition Executive Director.

Neighborhood and Rural Preservation Companies will have a chance to learn about the work of these sub-committees and the Task Force during a series of Regional Forums that will be held throughout the summer months around the state. In addition, training sessions are being planned for N/RPC staff, DHCR Field Reps, and Coalition staff on the new certification process, which will have as its major component a Needs Assessment/Strategic Plan.

All NPCs and RPCs will be encouraged to attend the Regional Forums. A schedule of Forum dates, places and times will be available soon. Anyone with questions, comments or concerns is encouraged to contact Coalition Executive Director Joe Agostine at 518-432-6757 for more information in the meantime.



Steven Preston Nominated As HUD Secretary

Steven C. Preston, head of the Small Business Administration, has been nominated by Pres. Bush to be the next secretary of the U.S. Dept. of HUD. Preston would succeed Alphonso R. Jackson, who resigned in the midst of a federal investigation into whether he steered lucrative housing contracts in New Orleans and the Virgin Islands to friends.

“He (Preston) has a strong financial background and understands the important role the housing market plays in our economy,” said a senior administration official, who discussed Mr. Preston’s nomination with the *New York Times* on condition of anonymity.

Before being named Small Business Administration director in 2006, Preston served as executive vice president of the Service-Master Company, a multibillion-dollar corporation whose businesses include TruGreen Chem-Lawn, a lawn care company, and Terminix, a pest control company. As Small Business Administration director he was responsible for revamping the government’s Disaster Assistance Program. He was also an investment banker at Lehman Brothers. His nomination awaits Senate confirmation.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2009

**The “Well”
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY**

***Save the date and come to Albany to support the
Coalition’s Legislative Agenda!!***

Correction!

The April edition of *Neighborhood News* listed an incorrect web address for contact purposes for the NYS Coalition for Excellence in Homeownership Education (CXHE). The correct address is <http://cxhe.wordpress.com>. We apologize for any inconvenience.

***CXHE, Justice Ctr.
To Co-Sponsor
Rochester Forum***

The NYS Coalition for Excellence in Homeownership Education (CXHE) and the Empire Justice Center are co-sponsoring a forum, *New Approaches to Stabilizing Homeowners and Communities in Western NY*, Monday, May 19 from 10:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Red Cross, 75 College Avenue, Rochester.

The event is geared towards housing counselors, legal services organizations, lenders, public officials, community-based organizations, and anyone who is concerned with the impacts of the foreclosure crisis on homeowners and neighborhoods in the western part of the State. Discussion topics include information about housing counseling standards, specialized foreclosure trainings, State programs addressing the foreclosure issue, and successful approaches to reducing foreclosures, among other topics.

Advance registration is requested by emailing Jean Marie Lipani at jlipani@ruralinc.org.

Job Mart

Program Manager - needed for Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of NYS. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing all existing contracts of the organization and providing technical assistance and training on a variety of organizational development issues. Excellent oral and written communication skills, excellent computer skills including experience designing and producing materials and reports, and the ability to manage multiple projects & meet deadlines are necessary. Familiarity with community development/housing data and its application, in addition to familiarity with Federal and State affordable housing programs a plus. Bachelor's Degree in related field required. Competitive salary, commensurate with experience, health insurance and other benefits available. Position available immediately. Send letter and resume to Joe Agostine, Jr., Executive Director, NPC of NYS, Inc., 40 Colvin Ave., Suite 102, Albany, NY, 12206, or email to agostine@npcnys.org. EOE.

**Board Position In
Manhattan Remains Open**

The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition continues to seek a representative from Manhattan to serve on the board of directors.

The board meets bi-monthly and is charged with establishing policy, legislative advocacy, and fundraising to support the Coalition's varied technical assistance activities.

NPC executives and/or executives of CHDO's are eligible.

For any questions, more details, or to express your interest in serving contact Executive Director Joe Agostine, Jr. at (518)-432-6757.

A Gentle Reminder . . .

**The Coalition's 2008
Annual Membership Drive
Has Begun!**

Please pay your dues
ASAP . . . Your financial
support helps to keep our
Legislative Advocacy on
target, strong and united!

Thank You!

Coming Soon!

The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition website is undergoing major re-vamping and updating and is expected to be available to the public in a few short weeks. We hope you like our "new look" and will find our website to be much more user-friendly and timely. Stay tuned for the unveiling announcement!



Save These Dates!!

October 5-6-7, 2008

**ANNUAL AFFORDABLE
HOUSING CONFERENCE & MEMBERSHIP MTG.**

@

**The Crowne Plaza Hotel
Albany, New York**

***Watch this space for
More information!***

OUR MISSION

The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition will unify, educate, empower, and strengthen community organizations in their provision of affordable housing and community revitalization activities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

☛Karen Mallam, *President*

☛Joseph G. Barden ☛Francisco Rivera
☛Delaine Cook-Greene ☛John Denelsbeck
☛Jeanne DiLascio * Helen Hogan
☛Linda S. Goodman ☛Miriam M.E. Garcia
☛Dennis Hanratty ☛Gary Beasley
☛Eduardo LaGuerre ☛Beth Farr
☛Judi Orlando ☛Cathy Mickens
☛Joseph Sluszka

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Neighborhood News
Legislative Action
State-wide Annual Conference
Regional Workshops and Roundtables
Training and Technical Assistance
Strategic Planning
Board and Staff Development
Housing Design and Development
Community Assessments and GIS Mapping
Fundraising and Organizational Development

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8th Annual NYS Supportive Housing Conference

*Sponsored By The
Supportive Housing Network
Of New York*

Thursday, June 5

**NY Marriott Marquis
1535 Broadway
New York City**

**For More Info
And To Register
Go To
www.shnny.org**

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Coalition Joins SEFA Campaign

The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition is now a part of the State Employees Federal Appeal (SEFA), allowing people to donate funds to the Coalition through work-place giving. The Coalition requests that members and friends with connections to state employees encourage those workers to designate the Coalition for their planned work-place giving.