The Commissioner's Report

NJ Dept. of Community Affairs

James E. McGreevey
Governor

Summer/Fall 2003 Vol. 1 No. 1

Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

Greetings from Governor McGreevey & Commissioner Levin

We are pleased to welcome you to the first edition of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner's Report. This newsletter will keep you up to date on our People, Places and Progress - our people, the places we've been and places we are going, and the progress we are making for the citizens of New Jersey everyday.

Here at DCA, we offer a wide range of programs and services that respond to issues facing New Jersey's communities and neighborhoods. We address everything from fire and building safety to housing production; from local government management to issues facing New Jersey's women and Hispanic communities.

This edition will discuss current events at DCA, including the governor's Smart Growth Initiative, restoration of Hispanic funding, the Governor's Roundtable Series for Women and amusement ride safety. We do a lot for the people, places and progress of New Jersey, and this is just one way we'd like to share it with you.

James E. McGreevey
Governor

Susan Bass Levin
DCA Commissioner

NJ Counties Plan for a Smart Future

Governor McGreevey and Commissioner Levin, flanked by many New Jersey mayors, smile during one of their many Smart Growth announcements. They have been making announcements acr oss the state to ensure New Jersey's towns and counties help plan for our future through regional planning strategies and utilizing Smart Growth tools.

In a continued effort to promote regional planning in Governor McGreevey's Smart Growth agenda, DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin has awarded more than $1.7 million in Smart Future Planning Grants, part of the Smart Future Initiative, since February 2003. These grants have gone to Ocean County, Union County, Monmouth County, Southern Bergen County, Neptune Township and Asbury Park City, Franklin Borough and Hardyston Township, and Perth Amboy for their Smart Growth planning strategies.

"Governor McGreevey recognized, in his State of the State address, that regional planning is integral to solving the problems of sprawl and overdevelopment in our State," Commissioner Levin said. "If we are to preserve our quality of life in New Jersey, we must work together to cooperatively and comprehensively manage growth. Smart Future grants make that possible."

New Jersey's Smart Future Initiative is funded through DCA's Office of Smart Growth. It provides

Continued on Page 2

Hispanic Programs' Funding Restored

On Thursday, May 29 at DCA, Commissioner Levin, Assemblyman Wilfredo Caraballo (D-Essex), chairman of the Democratic Hispanic Caucus and members of the Democratic Hispanic Caucus announced the restoration of more than $2.1 million in state funding for Hispanic organizations and programs throughout New Jersey. This restoration was included in the budget that was passed on July 1.

"As the fastest growing population in New Jersey, the Latino community currently comprises 13 percent of the state's population," said Commissioner Levin. "Governor McGreevey and I recognize that the well being of the Latino community is critical to our state's future success" and that any budget cuts would have been devastating to the Hispanic community.

"This truly is a wonderful day for the Hispanic community of New Jersey," said Assemblyman Caraballo. "Governor McGreevey and Commissioner Levin understand the important role that these programs play in the lives of our Hispanic residents. Together, we have worked to find ways to restore every single cent proposed to be cut."

Continued on Page 3

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

inside

2 Ready to Ride
3 NJ Women's Roundtables
3 Historic Preservation

"Ready to Ride" – Ride Safety Brochure Unveiled in Time for Summer Season

Governor McGreevey agrees, "There is nothing like the feeling of a fun, fast moving amusement ride at a New Jersey park or carnival." Our responsibility at DCA is to help make sure riders are safe while enjoying these rides.

So, to further that mission, DCA and the New Jersey Amusement Association (NJAA) released the 2003 Ride Safety Brochure - "Ready to Ride" - on June 20 at Morey's Pier in Wildwood.

"Governor McGreevey and I are proud to be partners in safety with the NJAA," said Commissioner Levin. "By working together, we are making New Jersey's rides safer than ever before, and this allows adults and children alike to enjoy a safe and fun day at any of New Jersey's carnivals, fairs or amusement parks."

The brochure stresses the importance of safety as a component of every family outing and states that "we all must do our part" to ensure the safe and enjoyable use of amusement rides. The publication provides basic rider tips and safety precautions, which emphasize the importance of rider behavior.

"We are proud and excited to unveil this ride safety brochure as yet another step in our collaborative effort to educate New Jersey's amusement park goers and keep them safe," said Anthony Catanoso, NJAA president. "This new and innovative partnership between the private and regulatory sectors will serve to enhance the high level of safety awareness that we deem so important to the public."

This brochure will be distributed to consumers through ticket booths at amusement parks in New Jersey or you can get a copy by visiting http://www.state.nj.us/dca/readytoride.pdf.

So remember, this summer when you are out enjoying New Jersey amusement rides-make sure you are Ready to Ride!

Smart Growth Commitment...*continued from Page 1*

county and municipal planners access to state experts from DCA, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), and funds to work with outside consultants that have specialized expertise.

Across the State

■ Ocean County was the first in New Jersey to participate in the Smart Future Initiative. The County received a grant for more than a quarter of a million dollars for seven municipalities' coordinated plan to combat sprawl.

■ Union County received a $260,000 grant to study development and redevelopment opportunities along the New Jersey Turnpike and the Route 1 and 9 corridor from Rahway to Elizabeth, as well as individualized Smart Growth plans in both of these cities.

■ The $433,000 in grants to Monmouth County will support the county and 40 municipalities in their regional smart growth initiatives. "Monmouth County truly serves as a microcosm of New Jersey's regional Smart Growth efforts," said Commissioner Levin.

■ Southern Bergen County's Regional Strategic Plan received $415,000 that will support Bergen County and the 20 municipalities included in their regional smart growth initiatives.

■ Neptune Township and Asbury Park City became the first inter-municipal Smart Future Planning Grant awardees. They received an $87,000 grant for their collaborative proposal to redevelop West Lake and Springwood Avenues.

■ Franklin Borough and Hardyston Township are using their $40,000 grant for the Main Street Revitalization Strategy, which will recreate a downtown business district that serves both communities.

■ Perth Amboy received $125,000 to study smart growth opportunities for 72 acres of land in the city's northeast area, which is in need of redevelopment.

Governor McGreevey addresses a small group of women during a meeting in Asbury Park. Facilitated through DCA, the governor is hosting small meetings around the state to speak with women business owners, advocates and others active in the community to hear their concerns and discuss what New Jersey is doing to support women.

Governor McGreevey Hosts Interactive Women's Roundtables Throughout the State

DCA's Division on Women had the honor of hosting Governor James E. McGreevey's Roundtable Series for Women over the course of 2003. The series provided six sessions that were forums for discussion and identified critical issues facing New Jersey's women. All now complete, will culminate with the Governor's Conference on Women, planned for early 2004.

"As a woman and as a mother of two grown daughters, I understand how critical it is to provide equal opportunities for all women," remarked Commissioner Levin at the first roundtable session in March. "This series of roundtables is designed to give us that strength and provide women with a voice that will be heard throughout New Jersey."

The Governor's Roundtable Series were presented in areas across the state to serve residents in all counties.

- March 21 at Douglass College in New Brunswick for residents of Middlesex, Monmouth, Union, Somerset and Mercer Counties.
- May 12, presented in partnership with WISE (Women in Support of Essex) Women's Center at Essex County College in Newark for Essex, Hudson and Union Counties.
- June 9, presented in partnership with the Northwest New Jersey Regional Women's Center, at Centenary College in Hackettstown for residents of Warren, Sussex, Hunterdon and Morris Counties.
- June 18 at Bergen Community College in Paramus for residents of Bergen, Passaic and Morris Counties.
- July 25 at Camden County College in Blackwood for residents of Camden, Burlington, Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties.
- July 28, presented in partnership with the Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Administration and Finance, at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey in Pomona for the residents of Atlantic, Ocean and Cape May Counties.

Led by leading women in related fields, a variety of topics were discussed in break out sessions, including Economic Realities of Being a Woman; Women in the Workplace: From the Sticky Floor to the Glass Ceiling; The Next Generation: Creating Opportunities, Mentoring Leaders; Emerging Trends and Issues in Violence Against Women; New Jersey's Aging Population: What Does it Mean for Women; Education in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Barriers; and Women's Health Care: Evaluating Access, Information and Services.

Hundreds of advocates from women's groups, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, corporations, municipalities and universities participated in these roundtable events to discuss significant issues for the women of New Jersey under this year's theme of "Prioritizing for the Future."

Governor Restores Funding to Historic Sites

Commissioner Levin joins Governor McGreevey in Rutherford, where he signed legislation, S2620 and S2638, which provides $11.3 million to the New Jersey Historic Trust to fund 60 historic preservation sites all over the state.

Governor McGreevey said that each community in our state has a story to tell, and we at DCA know that very well. With the addition of the New Jersey Historic Trust to our team, we're working even more closely to save New Jersey's historical treasures so that generations to come can enjoy them. We certainly are excited to have them here with us so we can all support the governor in his efforts to preserve our history while planning for our future.

Take a Virtual Tour of New Jersey – DCA Style

During Commissioner Levin's budget testimonies, she took us on a virtual tour of New Jersey, highlighting DCA's events, accomplishments and activities in towns and cities across the state.

To enjoy the virtual tour, visit www.nj.gov/dca/tour.

Hispanic Programs' Funding Restored

continued from Page 1

From all of their hard work, full funding will now be restored to DCA's Hispanic programs and services, as well as the Department of Health's Office of Minority and Multicultural Health. With the restoration of funds to the budget, these important programs will continue to assist families and their children who otherwise would have nowhere to turn for assistance.

in the next edition

Last year, we announced our commitment to help 20,000 working families find homes over the next four years. We are proud to say that in only 18 months, DCA and HMFA have provided more than 12,000 of that 20,000-unit commitment!

Read more about Governor McGreevey's Conference on Housing and Community Development in the next edition.

To learn more about DCA's programs, download the People. Places. Progress. program book at www.nj.gov/dca.

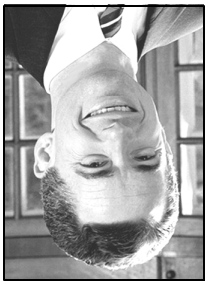
Past and Present DCA Commissioner's Honored in Camden County

The Boys and Girls Club of Camden County (BGCCC) honored former DCA Commissioner Melvin R. Primas, Jr. (l.), and current DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin (r.) as Man and Woman of the Year for their dedication and commitment to the organization. They pose here with Milford Liss (center), president and CEO of BGCCC, at the "Clubhouse" in Camden City, the building that Levin helped establish as a safe place for children to learn and grow. The Clubhouse serves as a youth center where up to 400 young men and women gather each day.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

people. places. progress.

Office of the Commissioner
101 South Broad St.
PO Box 800
Trenton, NJ 08625-0800
(609) 292-6420
www.nj.gov/dca



James E. McGreevey
Governor

Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

US MAIL
PAID
Trenton, NJ
Permit No. 21