

# NEIGHBORHOOD

# NEWS



Neighborhood Preservation Coalition  
of New York State, Inc.

[www.npcnys.org](http://www.npcnys.org)

SEPTEMBER, 2009

## Coalition Seeks Board Nominations

The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State, Inc., is actively soliciting members to join the Board of Directors.

The board consists of representatives of NPCs and CHDOs throughout the state. Nominations will be presented and an election will be held during the membership meeting portion of the Coalition's Annual Affordable Housing Conference and Membership Meeting October 18-19-20, 2009 at The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany, NY. A brief biographical sketch of each board candidate will be presented at the conference.

The board meets bi-monthly in Albany and is responsible for the oversight of the corporation and determines Coalition policy. Most importantly, the board reviews state housing policies and programs and actively works with DHCR staff to provide feedback and input to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the state's housing programs.

There are position openings in all ten (10) of the Coalition's regions. Anyone interested in receiving more information about the board openings should contact Coalition Executive Director Joe Agostine, Jr. at (518) 432-6757.

## *Annual Conference Speakers Include Assem. Lopez; Commissioner VanAmerongen*

The 20th Annual Affordable Housing Conference and Membership Meeting of the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of NYS, Inc. will be held October 18-20, 2009 at The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center, Albany. ***Featured speakers will be NYS Assemblyman Vito J. Lopez, longtime chair of the Housing Committee, and NYS DHCR Commissioner Deborah VanAmerongen.***

A brochure with specific details about the conference was mailed to Coalition members and friends and is also available on the Coalition's website, [www.npcnys.org](http://www.npcnys.org).

An all-inclusive package price of \$388.00 for single occupancy, 2-night stay has been secured by the Coalition. Other package prices have been arranged and are detailed in the conference brochure. The Coalition has made every effort to accommodate any and all possible requests.

The Desmond Hotel Registration Form is included with the conference brochure and is also available on the website. Simply download the form, fill it out, and mail it directly to The Desmond. **Please furnish the hotel with your tax exempt paperwork, or you will be charged tax.**

Conference registration fees and any additional hotel charges are

detailed in the brochure. The registration fee does not include the hotel charges and a separate registration form is provided.

A wide variety of workshop topics has been selected for this conference, based on membership surveys and suggestions throughout the past year on what topics you want to learn about more. In addition, there is plenty of time built into the schedule of activities to help facilitate those all-important networking opportunities.

The ***Luis Arce Success Award*** will be announced on Monday, Oct. 19.

Contact Debbie Clayton-Trudeau at 518-432-6757 with any questions concerning your conference participation.

## **Agostine Resigns As Executive Director**

Joe Agostine Jr. has submitted his resignation as Executive Director of the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of NYS, effective December 31, 2009.

In announcing his resignation to the board of directors, Agostine said, "It has been my extreme pleasure and honor to have worked for the Coalition since Dec. 9, 1991, first as Pro-

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## Coalition Offers Lead Certification As PDTI Course During Conference

New Environmental Protection Agency rules require renovators to lead-certify before renovating old housing.

Environmental Education Associates (EEA) is among the first to be accredited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to train and certify workers to meet new, strict guidelines for recognizing and dealing with lead hazards.

The Coalition has secured **Andrew J. McLellan**, founder of Environmental Education Associates, to conduct an initial certification on these new rules at the Coalition's 2009 Annual Affordable Housing Conference and Membership Meeting at The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center in Albany on Monday, Oct. 19. The all-day certification process is part of the Coalition's Professional Development Training Institute (PDTI).

Under the strict new EPA rules that take effect April 22, 2010, certification is required for all home improvement activity in housing built before 1978 and in any child-occupied facility. The new rules focus on activity that disturbs more than 6 square feet of interior or 20 square feet of exterior lead paint.

According to the EPA website, "...contractors who perform renovation, repairs, and painting jobs should...take training to learn how to perform lead-safe work practices." The training and the certification/licensing process must be completed by April 22.

McLellan is no stranger to lead-safety issues. He earned a BA from St. Lawrence University in '86 and founded Environmental Education Associates in '92. His background includes extensive safety and health management, environmental consulting, project management and contaminants investigation activities over a ten year period as industrial hygiene manager in both public and private sector and currently with EEA. McLellan has developed and delivered numerous accredited training programs, including asbestos project monitor and designer, lead and hazardous materials instructor as well as Grant Director for EEA.

**Space is Limited—Register Now!**

## Gov Announces Fed Tax Credit To Homebuyers

Governor Paterson recently announced that New York will offer a federal income tax credit to first-time homebuyers to encourage home sales in the State.

The New York State Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) will enable first-time homebuyers to claim a tax credit equal to 20% of their annual mortgage interest costs, potentially saving the average homebuyer about \$1,500 each year. The program will effectively extend, and in some cases improve upon the federal government's \$8,000 First-Time Homebuyer Credit enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which expires on **N o v e m b e r 3 0<sup>t h</sup>**.

"The best way to jump-start the housing market is to encourage home purchases by first-time homebuyers," Governor Paterson said. "The New York State Mortgage Credit Certifi-

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## Agostine Resigns As Executive Director

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gram Coordinator and as Executive Director since Jan. 25, 1999. I have especially enjoyed working with the Coalition's membership," he said, adding, "and I am happy to have made so many friends over these past 18 years."

The Coalition board of directors will be meeting soon, in part, to discuss the next steps in naming a replacement.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY

# Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010

Meeting At 11 A.M.  
Hearing Room A  
L.O.B., Albany, NY

*Save the date! Come to Albany  
To Support the Coalition's  
Legislative Agenda!!*

# Draft 2010 Annual Action Plan Available For Public Comment

Each year, in order to maintain its eligibility to administer certain federal funds for affordable housing and community development, New York State must prepare an Annual Action Plan and submit it to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Annual Action Plan describes for one specific Program Year the State's proposed use of available federal and other resources to address the priority needs and specific objectives in the Consolidated Plan; the State's method for distributing funds to local governments and not-for-profit organizations; and the geographic areas of the State to which it will direct assistance.

The Plan also describes New York State's planned use of approximately \$86 million in federal fiscal year 2010 funds for: the NYS Community Development Block Grant Program (\$47 million); the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (approximately \$34 million); the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (\$1.9 million); and the Emergency Shelter Grants Program (\$3.2 million).

New York State encourages public participation in the development of its Annual Action Plan. To provide an opportunity for that participation, New York State invites interested persons to review and comment on the draft Annual Action Plan for 2010 during an upcoming public comment period.

This 30-day public comment period has begun and extends through close of business on Friday, October 9, 2009. New York State's draft Annual Action Plan for 2010 may be viewed on and downloaded from the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal

(DHCR) website at [www.nysdhcr.gov](http://www.nysdhcr.gov). In addition, copies can be requested by e-mail ([DHCRConPln@nysdhcr.gov](mailto:DHCRConPln@nysdhcr.gov)) or by calling 1-866-275-3427.

Comments should be mailed to: NYS DHCR, Attention: Brian McCarthy, 38-40 State Street, Albany, New York 12207, or e-mailed to [DHCRConPln@nysdhcr.gov](mailto:DHCRConPln@nysdhcr.gov). Comments must be received by the close of business Friday, October 9th.



## Gov Announces Fed Tax Credit To Homebuyers

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cate will make it easier for first-time homebuyers to buy their first home and will help stimulate the State's economy.

The New York State Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) can be used to reduce a homebuyer's tax burden for every year the mortgage loan remains outstanding. With an MCC, 20% of the amount paid in mortgage interest becomes a tax credit that can be deducted, dollar for dollar, from a homeowner's federal income tax liability. The remaining 80% of the mortgage interest continues to qualify as an itemized tax deduction, as long as there is sufficient federal tax liability. The MCC will be administered by the State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA).



Mark Your Calendars  
Thursday, December 10, 2009

**New York Housing Conference  
&  
National Housing Conference  
36th ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON**

Location: Hilton New York

For more information visit

[www.nhc.org](http://www.nhc.org)

## OUR MISSION

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

• Gary Beasley, *President*

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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

### Neighborhood Preservation Coalition of New York State, Inc.

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## STAFF

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**Come To The**  
**ANNUAL AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING CONFERENCE  
& MEMBERSHIP MTG.  
OF THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
PRESERVATION  
COALITION OF NYS**  
*at*  
**The Desmond Hotel/  
Conference Center  
Albany, New York**

**October 18-  
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**Register Now!!**

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*Celebrating Our  
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## Coalition Joins SEFA Campaign

The Neighborhood Preservation Coalition is 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.