



Sign Up For NY-Alert

By Assemblymember Michael DenDekker

I am encouraging residents to sign up for NY-Alert, a program that provides New Yorkers with vital information about threats and emergencies that may occur. Unexpected disasters can be devastating to families and communities. Whether it's a natural emergency like a dangerous storm, or a man-made threat, the more information we have the better we can respond to the situation.

Individuals signed up for NY-Alert, which is free, will receive warnings and information about emergencies, including road closures, inclement weather and terrorist alerts. This information, issued by New York State and local governments, can be sent via cell phones, home phones, or e-mail. As many as three phone numbers can be listed, as well as two e-mail addresses and three cell phones for receipt of text messages.

When signing up for NY-Alert, people can specify which locations, types of emergencies and threat levels they want to hear about. The information received will include instructions on how to respond accordingly. Since every emergency is different, alerts will provide information that is appropriate for the incident. To sign up for NY-Alert, go to www.nyalert.gov or call 888-697-6972.

New York City residents are also urged to sign up for Notify NYC, a free service that allows participants to receive a combination of email, text and telephone notifications about emergencies, significant events, and non-emergency advisories such as unscheduled suspensions of alternate side parking



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rules and public school closures and delays. To sign up for Notify NYC, go to www.nyc.gov/oem or call 311.

By participating in NY-Alert or Notify NYC, people will receive the information they need to protect their families and communities when there is an emergency. Individuals being aware and informed can mean the difference between life and death.

Michael DenDekker represents the 34th Assembly District in Queens.

Help With Managing Your Money And Protecting Savings

By Thomas DiNapoli

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli recently launched the Your Money New York web site to help New York's taxpayers and consumers better manage and protect their money and hard-earned savings. The new web site offers the latest helpful information on topics such as managing credit and debt, building positive banking relationships, investing for education and retirement, and avoiding common pitfalls and financial scams.

New Yorkers need access to useful and reliable financial information, especially in these difficult economic times. We created Your Money New York to help provide our citizens with the programs and resources that can help them meet their financial challenges. Working together, we can help all New Yorkers attain their investment goals, protect their savings and strengthen their financial futures.

DiNapoli created Your Money New York to provide New Yorkers with unbiased, factual information they can trust about personal finance, banking relationships, financial services and other fiscal matters. The web site is a portal to an abundance of state and federal programs, resources and information.

The easy-to-use, multilingual site includes topics that cover credit cards and consumer debt, home mortgages, savings and investments, insurance and information about protection against identity theft and financial scams. It also provides access to interactive calculators and DiNapoli's Open Book New



Thomas DiNapoli New York State Comptroller

York web site, which brings detailed information on state and local government finances to taxpayers through a centralized, user-friendly platform.

DiNapoli said the broad goals of the Your Money New York web site include:

Providing centralized, coordinated access to government resources available to the public;

Facilitating public use of government services through user-friendly web access;

Supporting and promoting effective government programs; and

Capturing opportunities associated with improved access to available government services.

Visit www.yourmoneynewyork.com to find out more information.

Thomas DiNapoli is the New York State Comptroller.

Main Street Development Program Becomes Law

By State Senator Shirley Huntley

I am proud to announce that a significant State Senate economic development initiative to revitalize cities, towns and villages across the state has been signed into law by Governor David Paterson.

The New York Main Street Program (S.6017-Valesky) was passed by the Senate last month, and will provide communities with access to grants to rehabilitate and develop downtown, commercial and residential areas, as well as affordable housing communities. The expanded program increases the maximum award to \$500,000, which can help redevelop many local buildings and streets.

Specifically, municipalities will benefit from the use of "Main Street" awards through building exterior renovation and infrastructure improvements. These awards are funded with money that the state earns from administering a number of federal development programs. Going forward, the funding will attract an additional \$48 million in investment and resources to benefit local communities.

Parts of the 10th district that I represent would benefit from this program as the funds can also be used to renovate affordable housing units. Some of these units are outdated and this much needed funding would help my constituents who live in these buildings save money from repair costs and ensures the

building foundation is stable.

Since 2004, the program has funded 239 awards for a total amount of \$48,742,540 in more than 149 communities in 60 counties.

With this legislation, New York will be able to preserve the beauty and history of our communities through rehabilitating downtown centers, as well as affordable housing communities here in Jamaica, Queens. As we work together to improve our neighborhood, new jobs and business opportunities will be created. Maintaining and revitalizing our community will ensure future success for the residents of the 10th Senatorial District.

State Senator Shirley Huntley represents the 10th Senate District in Queens.



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