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CC: Sherry, Bill, Christie
Jack via e-mail.

Lashway, Lisa

From: egg@dca.state.nj.us
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2009 10:44 AM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: GovConnect Update, June 8, 2009

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Dear GovConnect Colleague:

Take a few minutes to catch up on and review what's been going on in local government. Remember to check all three sections: News Items, Training and Conferences, and Reminders.

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New Items:

1. The Division of Taxation has extended the filing deadlines for 2008 homestead rebate and property tax reimbursement (Senior Freeze) applications from June 21, 2009 to August 17, 2009. Tax Collectors (only) may direct their questions to an EXCLUSIVE phone number 609-633-8433 or EXCLUSIVE mail to nj.propertytaxrelief@treas.state.nj.us.
2. The State Division of Purchase and Property regularly updates a "vehicle cutoff sheet" (www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/mnmaster.pdf) that shows summary information and the last date orders can be placed for each type of vehicle on a State contract. Purchasing agents may want to bookmark the site so they can link to it directly. A list of all vehicles, parts, and services State contracts is at www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/contract_types.shtml#15.
3. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) invites municipalities with traditional downtowns or commercial corridors to apply to its Main Street New Jersey Program, which provides participating communities with proven technical assistance and training in revitalizing downtown business districts. The 2009 application process will begin with a free application workshop from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on June 30 at Thomas Edison State College in Trenton. Letters of Intent to Apply are due by July 30 and communities must submit their applications by September 9. Register at www.mainstreetnewjersey.com/regform_appwshp.html or contact Jef Buehler (609) 633-9769.
4. The Governmental Audit Quality Center (www.aicpa.org/GAQC) is a CPA firm-based voluntary membership Center, with approximately 1,200 member firms, designed to help CPAs meet the challenges of performing quality governmental audits, including single audits. Member firms are required to adhere to membership requirements that go beyond what they would otherwise have to do to perform these audits for the purpose of enhancing the quality of their audit practices. In return, member firms receive additional quality-related resources.
5. New Jersey will be celebrating its 345th birthday beginning 2:00 pm on Wednesday June 24 at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton. Two priceless historical documents will be on display: The actual June 24, 1664 royal grant that established New Jersey and a rare, original copy of the Declaration of Independence printed July 4, 1776. Special tours will be offered of the State Museum, the State House, the State Archives, and the World War II memorial. The fife and drum corps of the Old Barracks will perform and guests will be treated to a 345th birthday cake! For more information, call 609-984-0902.

6. COBRA Update: Group Coverage Continuation Premium Reduction: New federal law provides COBRA subsidies for employees who are involuntarily terminated between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009. This COBRA subsidy applies to all employers that maintain a group health plan. There are also special provisions for New Jersey employers with less than 20 employees. Local employers may also want to review this issue with their human resources or labor relation advisors. Information is available on the NJ Recovery Website (<http://recovery.nj.gov/recovery/programs/cobra.html>) and US Department of Labor site at (<http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/COBRA.html>).

Training and Conferences:

1. Special Main Street New Jersey Seminar for Business Owners: The Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Main Street New Jersey Program is offering three regional training seminars in June tailored to assist local small businesses succeed in today's volatile economy. Jon Schallert, a respected business consultant, will present at each of the seminars his proprietary 14-step strategy to turn a business into a consumer destination. Business owners will leave the workshops with concrete to-do's that they can immediately implement in their business to drive more customer traffic and increase their sales. The seminars will take place in South Orange, Mount Holly and Boonton on June 16, 17, and 18 respectively. To attend, you must register (http://mainstreetnewjersey.com/regform_june09.html) by June 10. For general information about the Main Street New Jersey program and the seminars, please contact Jef Buehler, Director of Main Street New Jersey, at (609) 633-9769 or jefb@dca.state.nj.us. For specific information regarding each seminar, please contact Main Street South Orange (973-763-6899), Main Street Mount Holly (609-914-0811) or Boonton Main Street (973-257-9107).

2. NJDARM Computer Training: NJ State League of Municipalities and NJDARM have scheduled three hands-on computer-training workshops on the ARTEMIS Records Retention and Disposition Management system in June. They are Thursday, June 11, 2009 at The Enterprise Center at Burlington County College in Mt. Laurel, Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at The Conference Center at Mercer County Community College in West Windsor, and Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at the Bergen Community College, Moses Training Center in Paramus. The times are 8:30 a.m. to noon. The \$55.00 fee includes a continental breakfast and training. Continuing education units are approved for RMC licensees - 1.5 Records and 1.5 Information Technology. Details and registration are available at www.njslom.org. Seating is limited at each location.

Reminders:

1. Certification of Imaging Systems: Does your government agency scan public records? Did you know your imaging systems are required to be certified by the State Division of Archives and Records Management? Certification is required in State law that allows the replacement of public records with digital images, so long as the images are produced by a system that has been reviewed by DARM and certified by the State Records Committee. Compliance with certification regulations will help insure that the public records you are imaging today will be accurate and accessible for you and your constituents for the duration of their records retention lifespan. You can start the certification process at www.njarchives.org/links/imgcertification.html.

2. The following information concerns actions local officials can take to help homeowners that are facing foreclosure or other housing related problems facing residents:

- Foreclosure Fast Facts: A 2-page listing of assistance, numbers to call, and general assistance, including counseling agencies experienced in foreclosure:

http://www.nj.gov/dca/hmfa/foreclosureprevention_resources.pdf

- The Mayor's Combat Kit: Materials and sources of information on buying a home, mortgage assistance and foreclosure, designed especially for Mayors:

<http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/mayorkit.html>

- The NJ HOPE (Home Ownership Preservation Effort) website provides information about resources that are available for homeowners who are delinquent in their mortgage payments, need counseling or have questions: <http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/njhope/>

3. The DEP Bulletin contains a list of construction permit applications recently filed or acted upon by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The latest issue was released May 27, 2009. This issue can be viewed online at: www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2009_027.pdf.

THIS E-MAIL HAS BEEN SENT TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS: MUNICIPAL CLERK, Chief Financial Officer, Tax Collector / County Clerk to Board of Freeholders, Chief Financial Officer / Authority Officials / Fire District Officials / Procurement Officials.

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