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Lashway, Lisa

From: egg@dca.state.nj.us
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2008 9:36 AM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: GovConnect Update: July 30, 2008

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

It's been a little quiet for the last few weeks. We hope your summer is going well. We've got some updates for you. For all the details login to GovConnect now at: <http://Portal.NJ.Gov>.

New Items:

1. CY 2008 Statements of State Aid for municipalities that applied for Extraordinary Aid are now posted on the Division of Local Government Services' web site at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/muniaid/08_aid/08sosa/menu_ssa_2008.shtml. Local Finance Notice 2008-12 that provides important background and instructions on the use of the Notice is available online at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/08lfns/2008-12.doc.
2. Governor Corzine has signed into law the "Statewide Non-Residential Development Fee Act," which imposes a 2.5 percent development fee on all non-residential new construction and additions. The fee took effect on certificates of occupancy issued on and after July 18. Pursuant to the Act a certificate of occupancy cannot be issued without the fee being paid. Additional information may be found at: www.nj.gov/dca/coah/legislation.shtml.
3. Join the Department of Community Affairs and the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency on September 23-24, 2008 for the New Jersey Governor's Conference on Housing and Community Development at the Atlantic City Convention Center. Create your own custom learning experience with a variety of exciting workshops while earning AICP credits, NAHMA continuing education credits for NAHP renewal, education credits toward RAM designation and .5 bonus points toward 2008 Managing Agent Evaluation and credits for housing authority members. For further information, please visit us at www.njhousingconference.com.

Reminders

1. Local Finance Notice 2008-11 (www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/08lfns/2008-11.doc) has been released with information for State Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Appropriation Cap COLA rate. The rate for SFY 2009 is 6 percent, which under the law limits increases to 3.5 percent when a cap ordinance is adopted. Contact the Division at dlgs@dca.state.nj.us with any questions.
2. The Division of Pensions and Benefits has become aware of efforts by local government units to offer incentives to their employees which in many cases encourage early retirement. The Division is required to review these proposed Separation of Employment Agreements to determine whether they are early retirement incentives, and if so, are authorized by law. The Division's Fact Sheet #52 discusses legislation that authorizes Early Retirement Incentive Programs for municipalities, counties, local authorities, and fire districts. The fact sheet is online at www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/fact52.htm.

3. The Government Records Council (GRC) has prepared a newsletter to inform the public and records custodians about hot OPRA topics, as well as GRC and court decisions concerning access to government records. The OPRA Alert is located on the GRC website at www.nj.gov/grc/news/alerts. Anyone interested in receiving future issues of this newsletter directly from the GRC may subscribe to GRC News. There is no fee and only an e-mail address is required to join. You may subscribe on the GRC website at www.nj.gov/grc/news/news.
4. State Fiscal Year municipalities that receive a Supplemental Energy Tax Receipts had their payment deposited in their State ACH bank accounts on June 23. Calendar Year municipalities receiving a Supplemental payment had their aid deposited on July 18th.
5. The deadline for senior and disabled HOMEOWNERS to file their 2007 Homestead Rebate Applications has been extended from June 2, 2008, to August 15, 2008. The deadline for filing 2007 Senior Freeze (property tax reimbursement) applications has also been extended to August 15 from the original June 2 due date.
6. The Homestead Rebate Application deadline has also been extended for all eligible TENANTS, whether they're seniors or disabled or not. The tenant rebate application (Form TR-1040) that was due on April 15, 2008 has a new filing deadline of August 15. Agents are available during normal business hours from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Homestead Rebate Questions:
(Homeowners) 1-888-238-1233 (Tenants) 1-888-213-8623 Senior Freeze Questions: 1-800-882-6597
7. 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 July 23, 2008. This issue can be viewed online at:
http://www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2008_0723.pdf
8. NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) and DCA have announced a new homeownership program for municipalities! Live Where You Work (LWYW) is a new homebuyer incentive program. For information, please visit www.livewhereyouwork.nj.gov or contact Michael Gumpert at 609-278-7411.

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