



-----Original Message-----

From: egg@dca.state.nj.us [mailto:egg@dca.state.nj.us]

Sent: Monday, August 24, 2009 11:19 AM

To: Lashway, Lisa

Subject: GovConnect Update: August 24, 2009

Dear GovConnect Colleague:

The summer of 2009 has been busy. With new laws and policies, there's been little time to enjoy the hot and wet weather. Here's your update from the last few weeks of local government activity.

Login to GovConnect now at: <http://Portal.NJ.Gov>

New Items:

1. SFY and CY 2010 Budget Information: The Division has released Local Finance Notice 2009-17, "SFY 2010 Extraordinary Municipal Aid" <http://www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-17.doc> along with the Extraordinary Aid application worksheet [www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/ea\\_application-sfy2010.doc](http://www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/ea_application-sfy2010.doc). The Notice also reminds officials planning both SFY 2010 and CY 2010 budgets that took advantage of the pension deferral program about budget cap guidance contained in Local Finance Notice 2009-16 <http://www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/lfns/09lfns/2009-16.doc>
2. The New Jersey Departments of Agriculture and Community Affairs are advising that federal economic stimulus funding is now available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The US Department of Agriculture's USDA Rural Development program provides funding to eligible municipalities, counties, utilities authorities, nonprofit groups and individuals (eligibility varies, but limited to municipalities under 20,000 in population). These are funds that would not come to state departments as a primary recipient to then be disbursed to others. For details on the twenty-five ARRA programs that the USDA administers, visit their website at [www.usda.gov/wps/portal/arrapie?navid=USDA\\_ARRA\\_OVEW](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/arrapie?navid=USDA_ARRA_OVEW). For questions regarding these funding opportunities please contact Jeff Beach at 609-292-5531 or [jeffrey.beach@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:jeffrey.beach@ag.state.nj.us).
3. Rollover from 2009 Model Year to 2010 Model Year: The State Division of Purchase and Property fleet buyers are working to roll-over as many of vehicle contracts as possible to extend the ability of the state and cooperative purchasing partners to buy at existing pricing for longer periods of time. Local officials planning vehicle purchases should regularly review the website list showing the status of all vehicles (updated weekly) at: [www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/mnmaster.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/mnmaster.pdf).
4. On July 27, 2009 Governor Corzine signed the NJ Economic Stimulus Act of 2009 into law. Part of this law temporarily suspends the Non-Residential Development Fee Act, the details of this section are online at [www.nj.gov/dca/affiliates/coah/regulations/nrdf/notice.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dca/affiliates/coah/regulations/nrdf/notice.pdf).
5. Mailing Schedule of 2008 Homestead Rebate APPLICATIONS: The Division of Taxation is now in the process of mailing 2008 homestead rebate APPLICATIONS to homeowners who were UNDER AGE 65 and NOT DISABLED on December 31, 2008. The deadline for filing these applications is November 2, 2009. Tax Collectors received information on contact information for questions.
6. Mailing of Senior/Disabled 2008 Homestead Rebate CHECKS: The Division of Taxation began mailing homestead rebate checks on July 31, 2009 to eligible homeowners who were age 65 or older or disabled on December 31, 2008, and who filed their applications by

June 1. Rebates for eligible senior and disabled homeowners who filed applications after June 1 will be processed and issued as quickly as possible. Rebate checks for nonsenior and nondisabled homeowners (who are currently receiving their applications) are scheduled to be issued in October.

7. The NJ Government Records Council will host its Third (3rd) Annual "OPRA Seminar for the Public." At this seminar, GRC staff will present an overview of OPRA, the GRC process, and discuss prior GRC decisions and Court decisions. This seminar will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at the New Jersey State Museum (Auditorium) in Trenton, New Jersey. There is no charge or pre-registration for this event. Department of Community Affairs CEU credits for certified local government officials are available upon request. For further information please call (609) 291-6830.

#### Reminders:

1. OPRA Newsletter: The courts have recently rendered decisions that greatly impact the manner in which records custodians must respond to requests for government records under the New Jersey Open Public Records Act. The Government Records Council ("GRC") has included a discussion of these recent decisions in its latest issue of "OPRA Alert" (Volume 2/July 2009) which can be found in the Clerk's Document Library. You can contact the GRC at 609-292-6830 regarding OPRA issues and you can also subscribe to the GRC List-Serve at [www.nj.gov/grc/news/news](http://www.nj.gov/grc/news/news).

2. Online Filing of UCC Annual Report: The UCC Annual Report, which has been filed by CFO's and Construction Officials since 1994, will now be completed on-line. This will become effective August 2009 for "State Fiscal Year" municipalities and February 2010 for "Calendar Year" municipalities. For questions or assistance, please e-mail the Office of Regulatory Affairs at [ora@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:ora@dca.state.nj.us). SFY CFO's are asked to share this information with their municipal Construction Official. SFY Officials can login to the form site at [http://fs2.formsite.com/njdca/uccrptfiscal/form\\_login.html](http://fs2.formsite.com/njdca/uccrptfiscal/form_login.html).

3. The NJ Division of Codes and Standards has issued a notice regarding recently-adopted changes to the Residential Site Improvement Standards, N.J.A.C. 5:21. The notice can be found at [www.nj.gov/dca/codes/misc/pdf/notice\\_muni\\_clerks\\_7\\_13\\_09.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dca/codes/misc/pdf/notice_muni_clerks_7_13_09.pdf). Municipal Clerk's have been asked to kindly forward this notice to their municipal engineer and to professionals working with the planning board and the zoning board of adjustment. Questions may be directed to the Division of Codes and Standards at e-mail address [codeassist@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:codeassist@dca.state.nj.us) and phone number 609-984-7609.

4. 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](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/>

5. 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 August 19, 2009. This issue can be viewed online at: [www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2009\\_0819.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/bulletin/bu2009_0819.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.

PLEASE REMEMBER: If your e-mail address changes please make the change to your GovConnect User Profile. If you change employers please send us the details by replying to this e-mail. Helpdesk 609.943.4724