

December 5, 2008

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Back to the Future; Historic District Homes Return to Dubois Street

On Friday, Dec. 5 two more of the Grand Ladies of Dubois Street debuted their once hidden beauty in full form. An appropriate time indeed; these Ladies-in-waiting take their rightful place at the Dubois Street Gateway, a street lined with history, tradition and an abundance of opportunities for the keen eye. Rarely found are streets that boast a premier hospital, an historic park, and a university.

The ribbon cutting for 41-43 Dubois Street was held at 2 p.m.; the new owner of 41 Dubois Street was welcomed by City officials, including Mayor Nicholas Valentine, Deputy Mayor Regina Angelo, Councilwoman Christine Bello, and City Manager Jean-Ann McGrane, and other dignitaries including Chris White, District Rep. for Congressman Maurice Hinchey and James J. Hanson, Governor Paterson's Regional Representative, to her restored home.



James J. Hanson, Regional Representative to Governor Paterson, speaks at HOGAR ribbon-cutting of two newly restored houses on Dubois St. Also present: Councilwoman Chris Bello, Mayor Nicholas Valentine, and Deputy Mayor Regina Angelo; Fr. Kevin Mackin, President of Mount St. Marys College (right); and the new owners of 41 Dubois with family and friends.

Some of Newburgh's leading citizens once lived here – Thomas Shaw's sons, George W. and Elkanah K., who along with their brother, Charles, carried on their father's business, the Newburgh Moulding and Planing Mill, recognized in the 1891 Nutt's *Newburgh* as the "largest and oldest establishment in this branch of business in the city." From ferry boats and naval vessels and West Shore Railroad buildings, to schools and firehouses, and private residences, the handiwork of the Shaw family could be found throughout the city.

These houses have been unoccupied and in disrepair for many years. One of them nearly succumbed to a fire. Today their restoration returns a celebration of fine architecture in a manner worthy of Newburgh's hidden splendor.

Following a house blessing by Bishop Jeffrey Woody, and presentation of a welcome gift by Councilwoman Bello, guests toured the restored Grand Ladies.

The Dubois Street Gateway Partnership is comprised of St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital, City of Newburgh, Mt. St. Mary College, Orange County Office of Community Development, and HOGAR, Inc.