

City of Newburgh

PRESS RELEASE

83 Broadway, Newburgh, N.Y. 12550
(845) 569-7354 – (845) 569-7370

for immediate release
July 7, 2008

City of Newburgh Publishes “Preserving Newburgh,” a Reference Guide for Homeowners in the East End Historic District

The City of Newburgh has the second largest historic district in New York State, which explains why local property owners often find themselves before the Architectural Review Commission (ARC) pondering why wood is better than vinyl siding; and just what constitutes a historic paint color. Now, thanks to a Quality Communities Grant from New York State, the ARC, and homeowners within the district have a user-friendly guide to assist in planning renovations with preservation of the City’s cultural resources in mind.

“Preserving Newburgh,” a public-education brochure that explains the East End Historic District guidelines and “do’s and don’ts” in the district, was recently released in English and Spanish. The City of Newburgh is believed to be the first community in New York State to provide this type of bilingual material.

Not only will it help homeowners, the brochure is a valuable tool for the ARC. The ARC, a certified agent of New York State’s Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), is charged with protecting and promoting the East End Historic District. In 2008, the City Council adopted design standards and guidelines for the District, to provide a clear basis for ARC decisions and to assist property owners as they plan alterations and improvements to their properties.

A number of Newburgh residents were involved in the process, from the formation of a Vision Plan for the Liberty Street-Grand Street corridor, which encompasses much of the historic district, to the development of the guidelines. Design guideline advisors included Brigidanne Flynn, Jim Hoekema, Joanne Lugo, Mary McTamaney, Giovanni “John” Palladino, Charles Passarotti, Lisa Silverstone, and Peter Smith.

Copies of these brochures will be available in the Code Compliance Office, the Heritage Center (123 Grand Street), Newburgh Free Library. They will also be mailed to every property owner within the District, and will be available on the City website, www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov.

“I would like to thank the members of the Heritage Corridor Committee and the ARC for their leadership and support in creating the guidelines and brochure,” said Lourdes Zapata-Perez, Community Development Director. “I would also like to recognize Jill Fisher of Larson Fisher Associates, Inc., for her work on the narrative, and Sue Young of Design by Sue for a fabulous job with the graphics and printing.”