

**TOWN OF CLARENCE
SUPERVISOR'S COLUMN FOR NOVEMBER 2011
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)**

We recently hosted the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Selection Committee to look at our application for improvements to the Senior Center and Clarence Center. Likewise, I will be touring with the Committee to review other applications. Please note that we cannot review the applications for our own Town. Also, special thanks to Paul D'Orlando, Senior Contract Monitor at Erie County's Department of Environment & Planning for his assistance in preparing this article.

The CDBG program provides resources to address a wide range of needs. The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. It helps local governments tackle serious challenges facing our communities. The CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the United States.

Beginning in 1974, the CDBG program is one of HUD's longest continuously run programs. HUD determines the grant amount by using a formula consisting of community need, including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing, and population growth lag in relationship to other metropolitan areas.

A grantee must develop and follow a detailed plan regarding citizen participation. Emphasis is placed on participation by persons of low or moderate income, particularly residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, slum or blighted areas, and areas in which the grantee proposes to use CDBG funds.

Over a 1, 2, or 3-year period, as selected by the grantee, not less than 70 percent of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons. In addition, each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.

The Town of Clarence has received the following CDBG funding:

- Since 2002, my first year on the Town Board, each year for the Rural Transit Program;
- 2005 -- \$ 45,000 for ADA doors for Town Hall and Library;
- 2006 -- \$180,000 for sewer line installation on Bodine and West Avenues; and
- 2010 -- \$39,900 for ADA improvements and façade at the American Legion Post.

On a different note, thank you to my supporters throughout the years. As of this writing, the final ballots have not yet been tabulated; however, it does not look like I was successful on election day. I hope the changes and leadership I brought made a positive difference. I wish you well.