

Palm Beach County Projects Featured at National Planning Conference

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Palm Beach County has earned bragging rights for its success in completing numerous community redevelopment projects with federal funding. At a national conference set for April 18-21 in Seattle, the American Planning Association (APA) will feature examples of Palm Beach County construction projects completed through U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs.

The Palm Beach County Department of Economic Sustainability (DES) was requested by APA communication and outreach staff to provide project photographs and descriptions of rehabilitated dilapidated structures and new construction that served to create reinvestment in urban areas, improve neighborhoods and related infrastructure, support economic development, or create quality affordable housing.

Use of before and after photographs of these projects will help conference organizers illustrate a stark contrast, showing how the federal CDBG funds help communities go from blight to beautiful. Projects to be featured include:

- Oxygen Development – a manufacturing facility in the village of Palm Springs;
- Colonial Lakes and Davis Landings – affordable housing communities in Lake Worth;
- Westgate Plaza – a senior affordable housing complex in West Palm Beach;
- McClure Village in Pahokee, In the Pines North in Delray Beach, and Neighborhood Renaissance homes in West Palm Beach – projects in communities where replacement housing was constructed following Hurricane Wilma;
- Belle Glade Civic Center reconstruction – another project required due to extensive hurricane damage; and,
- Road improvements on 9th Ave. North and 10th Ave. North in the city of Lake Worth including installation of curb and gutter, pedestrian crossings, signage, water and sewer, and a new greenway.

The APA is an independent, nonprofit educational organization that is committed to providing leadership in the development of vital communities. Its professional institute is the American Institute of Certified Planners. The conference, which is expected to draw more than 5,000 participants, is slated to include more than 300 sessions focusing on topics such as comprehensive planning, climate change, oil and gas development, water resources, and pedestrian planning.