

## **VIRGINIA HUD LINES**

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**E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development**

**800/842-2610, extension 3745**

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### ***VHDAGIVES \$55 MILLION “SPARC” TO HOMEOWNERSHIP***

The Virginia Housing Development Authority has begun accepting competitive applications – due December 10th - for some \$55 million in unblended mortgage revenue funding under Round 4 of its Supporting Partnerships and Revitalizing Communities (SPARC) program. The funds can be used by local governments, housing authorities, not-for-profit and for-profit organizations to expand the supply of affordable, single-family housing around the state by funding home purchase mortgages for VHDA-qualified homebuyers. Homes purchased must be within VHDA sales price limits. Proposals that significantly leverage VHDA resources will be allocated funds at interest rates 1 percent below VHDA’s 1st Time Homebuyer rate. All other proposals will be awarded allocations at a rate ½ percent below the 1st Time Homebuyer rate. More than 800 homes have been purchased under earlier SPARC rounds with an additional 470 expected to be bought in Round 4. More information about the SPARC program is available at [www.vhda.com](http://www.vhda.com) or by calling Toni Ostrowski or Gene Griffith at VHDA.

### ***GOVERNOR AWARDS \$2.6 MILLION IN HUD FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT***

Saving HUD Community Development Block Grant funds enable “the Commonwealth to respond to critical needs as they arise,” Governor Mark Warner has awarded a total of \$2.6 million to Accomack County to rehabilitate 20 homes, Lancaster and Sussex counties to restore homes damaged by Hurricane Isabel and the Town of Damascus to expand its medical center.

### ***BRIEF BRIEFS***

President Bush declares cities of Roanoke and Salem and Allegheny, Craig, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Patrick and Roanoke counties “major disaster” area to aid residents and business in recovering from damage done by Hurricane Jeanne . . . HUD Secretary Jackson announces \$13.9 million for 160 units of new housing for low-income elderly and persons with disabilities in Louisa, Martinsville, Newport News, Rocky Mount, Stafford, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg . . . Virginia Association of REALTORS installs Thomas G. Jewell of Carter Braxton Real Estate in Leesburg as its 2005 President, Kit Hale of MKB Realtors in Roanoke as President-elect, and John Wilson of Coldwell Banker Professional Realtors in Williamsburg as Treasurer. . . Newport News Office of Human Affairs, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc., Cooperative Extension of Prince William County and VHDA win 2004 HUD Housing Counseling grants. . . Governor Warner announces \$100,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission funds to be used to promote Virginia’s “unique artisan and crafts products”. . . Fannie Mae Foundation now accepting nominations for at [www.fanniemaefoundation.org](http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org) for six James A. Johnson Fellowships to recognize urban and rural housing and community development professionals for their work in the field . . . Five Homeownership Voucher holders in Danville, four in Richmond, two in Waynesboro and one in Charlottesville bought their first homes in fiscal year 2004. . . DHCD, Halifax County, Town of South Boston and Southside Outreach Group, Inc. break ground on 12 new homes in Sunny Brooke area to be built with funds from HUD and Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project. . . Piedmont Housing Alliance in Charlottesville and Office of Human Affairs in Newport News win 2004 HUD Fair Housing Initiatives program grants. . . Southwestern Virginia Second Harvest Food Bank opens doors on new, 79,000 square-foot home in Salem . . . Tom Taylor tells *Roanoke Times* he’ll retire from Mt. Rogers Planning District Commission after 25 as its director . . . Governor Warner appoints Nathaniel Brown of Independence Resource Center in Charlottesville, to Virginia Real Estate Board .

### ***SEE YOU IN NORFOLK***

It’s almost here. Come November 15th, some 800 housing, economic and community development experts from across the Commonwealth will gather at the Waterside Marriott in Norfolk for the 2004 Governor’s Housing Conference for three days of workshops on tax credits, factory-built housing, property management, accessibility, downtown revitalization, NIMBY and homeownership. From past experience, you can be sure it will be time well spent. For more visit

<http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/ADMIN/GHC.htm>.

### ***INDEPENDENCE DAY***

On October 21st, Virginia Supportive Housing and HIGH Hopes broke ground for Independence House the state’s first group home for people who have suffered traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries. Some 12,000 Virginians suffered severe brain injuries and 115 experienced spinal cord injuries reports the State’s Department of Rehabilitative Services. Funded with a Section 811 grant from HUD and funds from the Christopher Reeve Foundation, Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development, LISC and City of Richmond, the two-story, 2,000 square foot house in the Fulton Hill neighborhood of Richmond

will be expanded by 4,000 square feet and will provide apartments for six residents and a live-in mentor. "We're helping people," Alice Tousignant of Virginia Supportive Housing told The Richmond Times-Dispatch, "who otherwise would have to go to nursing homes or live with relatives who have no idea how to care for them."

### ***BRIEF BRIEFS TOO***

Philadelphia Homeownership Center's Customer Service Center based at HUD Richmond responds to its 300,000th telephone inquiry from callers in a 17 state region. . . More than 1,000 attend annual convention of Virginia Association of Mortgage Brokers in Virginia Beach. . . *Virginian-Pilot* reports that 1,000 supporters of Empower Hampton Roads rally in Portsmouth for more affordable housing . . . McGurk House in Lynchburg wins HUD Multifamily Service Coordinator grant. . . November 16th is deadline for comment on rule published in *Federal Register* concerning "removal by HUD, for good cause, of a real estate broker from HUD's qualified selling broker list and the deactivation of the broker's NAID" . . . The Association of Energy Conservation Professionals kick-off the 5th annual Green Living Energy Expo at the Roanoke Civic Center December 3rd & 4th . . . Harrington, Moran & Barksdale, Inc. take over management of HUD Homes inventory in Virginia effective November 13th . . . Alliance to Conserve Old Richmond Neighborhoods awards "Golden Hammers" to Jay Ipson of Virginia Holocaust Museum, J. William Daniels of Historic Shockoe Partnerships, J. Maurice Duke, Leigh Hulcher, Citizens Organized for Responsible Development, Savoy Properties, Laura and Paul Battaglia, Stanley Shield LLC., Black Swan Books, Nicholas Cooke III and Je Depew. . . Enterprise Foundation launches 5-year, \$550 million Green Communities Initiative at <http://www.enterprisefoundation.org/> to "provide financing to developers for more than 8,500 rental and for-sale homes that promote health, conserve energy and natural resources, and enhance access to jobs, schools and services". . . HUD Secretary Jackson says that Census Bureau report of a record 73.7 million homeowners shows "President's housing initiatives will break down the barriers and pave the way for more Americans, particularly minorities, to achieve that dream."

### ***DON'T FORGET***

Register with Alice Joyner at 804/524-6754 or [ajoyner@vsu.edu](mailto:ajoyner@vsu.edu) for Redemption Ministries' November 12th capacity building workshop "Beyond Bake Sales – Marketing Your Non-Profit or Faith-Based Organization" at Virginia State University