



Grants Help Fix Up Fort Edward Homes

The Post Star, Friday October 17, 2003- By Konrad Marshall

FORT EDWARD - Village homes and apartments in dire need of repairs are eligible to receive face-lifts through next year thanks to two new grants.

Mayor Edward Ryan announced last week that the village has been awarded a \$400,000 HOME grant from the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corp. and a \$350,000 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant from the governor's Office for Small Cities. The new grants will provide funding for the rehabilitation of nearly 45 owner-occupied homes and rental apartments throughout the village.

"These new funds will help expand our Housing Improvement Program to a much larger part of the village, including areas that have not been served recently by past repair programs," Ryan said.

Assistance will be provided to eligible lower income households for the repair of structural and mechanical problems that threaten health and safety.

Repairs will focus on roofs, electrical wiring, windows, doors, heating and plumbing systems, as well as any other items that will bring buildings up to code while improving living conditions for residents," Ryan said.

"These grants help us reach even more households who badly need help to make their homes safe, livable and secure for years to come," Ryan said.

Housing rehabilitation is currently under way along McCrea and Seminary streets and adjacent side streets to the north and west of Broadway, though that area is relatively small compared with what the new grants will be able to cover throughout the village.

Ryan also conveyed his gratitude to U.S. Rep. John Sweeney, R-Clifton Park, State Sen. Elizabeth Little, R-Queensbury, and Assemblyman Roy McDonald, R-Wilton, who provided support.

With the grants now in hand, the village will turn to Avalon Associates - a community development consultant based in Glens Falls that prepared the original grant applications - to complete several administrative tasks to set up the new programs and access the funding.

"We expect to get our new Housing Improvement and Home Ownership programs under way very soon, with work on homes continuing through next year," Ryan predicted.

Ryan encouraged residents needing to contact the village office at 747-4023 to fill out an application to see if they are eligible for assistance.

Visit us online! www.AvalonAssociatesInc.com