

STAFF BRIEFS



Aimee Milks joined Thoma Development in September as a Program Assistant. Aimee originally moved to Cortland to pursue a journalism career after graduating from SUNY Fredonia in May 2007. Prior to joining us, Aimee worked as a reporter for the Press & Sun Bulletin in Binghamton and Cortland's local newspaper, the Cortland Standard. As a member of our Grant Writing and Planning Team, Aimee assists in the preparation of grant applications, strategic plans, and various other studies. She incorporates her knowledge of writing and editing, research, and interviewing into our work.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

- Local Government Efficiency Grants – January 14, 2009
- Restore NY – Winter 2009
- State Archives – February 2, 2009
- HOME Program – March 2009
- CDBG – April 2009



Bernie and the staff at Thoma Development Consultants would like to wish all our customers and readers a joyous holiday season and much health and happiness in the New Year!



"Partnering with Communities For a Better Tomorrow"



A newsletter of Thoma Development Consultants

December 2008

WELCOME LIVINGSTON COUNTY

We welcome Livingston County and its municipalities into the Thoma family! Thoma has recently been hired to provide grant writing services for the County and its 25 municipalities. Nestled in the heart of the beautiful Genesee Valley in the western Finger Lakes region of New York State, Livingston County is located just south of Rochester. Primarily rural in nature, it is home to SUNY Geneseo, Letchworth State Park, and a number of small villages with charming downtowns. Livingston County is one of the fastest growing counties in New York, drawing new residents and business to its historic communities.

Thoma was hired following a competitive proposal and interview process. Our experience with similar communities throughout Central New York, personalized service, and ability to coordinate multiple funding sources were noted as reasons for our selection. As part of our initial two-year retainer contract, Thoma will provide grant writing services to all County departments. The County is also generous in

offering this service free of charge to all villages and towns in the County. Livingston County is a leader in coordinating and delivering community development services at the County level, as evidenced by this County-wide grant writing service, and a highly successful and innovative County microenterprise program. We are proud to play a role in the County's community development efforts.

During our short time working in Livingston County we have assisted in the preparation of a variety of grants. These include the Justice Court Assistance Program, New York Main Street Program, Institute of Museum and Library Services' Conservation Assessment Program, and the Recreational Trails Program. The Town of Groveland was the recipient of \$19,775 under the Justice Court Assistance Program.

Since beginning our work in the County, we have had the opportunity to work with a number of experienced and committed Livingston County employees, as well dedicated municipal staff, elected officials, and volunteers. We look forward to continuing to build on these relationships and develop new ones as we partner with the County to create a better future.



The Village of Mount Morris Downtown was the focus of a recent NY Main Street Grant in addition to Downtown Lima



South Conesus Lake was the subject of a Recreational Trails Program Grant

- Community Visioning
- Community Surveys
- Comprehensive Planning
- Downtown Revitalization
- Economic Development
- Feasibility Studies
- Grant Accounting
- Grant Administration
- Grant Writing
- Historic Preservation
- Housing Rehabilitation
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Lead Clearance Testing
- Lead Risk Assessment
- Loan Portfolio Management
- Market Studies
- Microenterprise Assistance
- Parks & Trail Development
- Records Consulting
- Recreation Planning
- Strategic Planning
- Zoning/Code Revisions

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Bernard Thoma,
Senior Consultant

RECENT GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

2008 Community Development Block Grants

We are happy to announce that we assisted the following communities in securing Community Development Block Grant funds for 2008:

- * Village of Bainbridge - \$400,000 for community-wide housing rehabilitation
- * City of Cortland - \$400,000 for City-wide income property rehabilitation
- * Village of Groton - \$600,000 for upgrades to its wastewater treatment plant
- * Village of Marathon - \$400,000 for Village-wide housing rehabilitation
- * Town of Sterling - \$400,000 for Town-wide housing rehabilitation
- * Town of Verona - \$400,000 for target area housing rehabilitation
- * Town of Waterloo - \$405,000 for a water extension project along Brewer Road

The Cortland and Waterloo applications were rated the highest in the State in their respective categories.

Following a public procurement process, we have been hired by all these communities to administer these grants and have started the intake process for the housing rehabilitation applicants. Thank you to our customers for placing your trust in us!



"The Village of Groton has been a Thoma customer for 26 years. During this time, we have completed numerous projects that were funded by grants that we worked cooperatively with Thoma on submitting. This recent CDBG award for funding to upgrade our wastewater treatment plant will result in a significant savings for the ratepayers in the Village. We realize many of our residents cannot afford rate increases. We are grateful to Thoma for staying on top of these funding opportunities and for assisting us in developing competitive applications." - Chuck Rankin, Village Clerk

HOME Awards Announced

Three of Thoma's customers received HOME Program awards for community-wide housing rehabilitation. The HOME Program is a federally funded housing program administered by the states. In New York State, HOME Program funds are provided through the NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation and are administered through the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal. Eligible projects include housing rehabilitation, income property rehabilitation, new construction of low income housing, and first-time homeownership. Awards include:

- * Village of DeRuyter - \$390,880
- * Town of Cortlandville (Housing owned by senior citizens) - \$384,480
- * Town of Dryden - \$315,160

These programs assist low-to-moderate income homeowners with code and other housing maintenance issues. The municipality benefits from having a stabilized housing stock. HOME Program applications are typically due in March. We are currently working with our customers regarding possible 2009 applications. We encourage anyone who wants to hear more about the program to give us a call.

River Trail Receives Funds

Cortland County sponsored an application that was submitted to the NYS Department of State for a river trail along the County's Tioughnioga River. With Thoma's assistance, the County secured \$750,000.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The City of Cortland and the Village of Sherburne were recent recipients of Safe Routes to Schools funding which is administered by the NYS Department of Transportation. Eligible projects include those that are located within a 2-mile radius of a school that serves a student population in grades K-8. One of the primary goals of the program is to encourage more children to walk or bike to school by creating the necessary infrastructure.

The Village of Sherburne requested and received \$138,000, and is providing a \$20,000 match, to enable the Village to construct sidewalks, storm drains, curbing, and crosswalks on Classic Street, the primary route to the Sherburne/Earlville Central School.

The City of Cortland requested \$193,600 for a project on South Pendleton Street. This will facilitate students

walking to both Randall Elementary School and the Cortland Middle School. The City and the Cortland Housing Authority (CHA), which manages the County's federally subsidized housing, partnered on a \$60,000 match. Many of the children in the area live in CHA-managed housing. The City will construct a continuous sidewalk along South Pendleton and a portion of adjacent Huntington Street. Crosswalks will be installed and so will permanent mounted speed monitors. The Cortland Police Department will receive a bicycle for its patrol and a radar device to control traffic in the area.



Students walking to school on South Pendleton Street in the City of Cortland

Photo courtesy of the Cortland Standard

Congratulations to our customers! We anticipate that a new funding round will be announced in late winter 2009. Please call us if you believe you have a potential project.

MARATHON BOATS TO EXPAND

Marathon Boat Group (MBG) manufactures the famed Grumman canoe and boat, in addition to the DuraNautic boat, in the Village of Marathon. The company has a 51-year history in the community. Recently, there has been a boom in the pontoon boat industry which the MBG hopes to capitalize on by expanding its product line. Part of the company's expansion plans call for the creation of 15 new jobs. The Village of Marathon partnered with Thoma to submit a Community Development Block Grant for economic development to the NYS Office of Community Renewal. The Village of Marathon was the successful recipient of \$225,000 in CDBG funds which will leverage this \$950,000 project. The MBG will use these funds to renovate their building and purchase equipment. A portion of the grant award will be repaid to the Village in the form of a low interest loan.

"The Village of Marathon Mayor and Board have been very cooperative in working with us to realize our expansion goals. Working with Thoma was a pleasure. They facilitated the grant process and everything ran smoothly." - Doug Potter, President, Marathon Boat Group

