

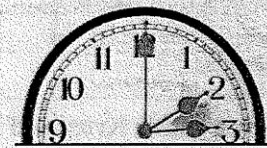
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New Moxey Rigby apartments on horizon

By Laura Schofer
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Out with the old and in with the new. The Freeport Housing Authority will build a 101-unit apartment building to replace the outdated Moxey Rigby apartments on Buffalo Avenue. Georgica Green Ventures will build the new apartment complex, called the "New Moxey Rigby," just west of the current site on East Merrick Road and Buffalo Avenue. The project is being funded with federal and state money as well as assistance from the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The estimated cost for construction for the new development is approximately \$30 million, according to John Hrvatin, executive director of the Freeport Housing Authority.

"The Moxey Rigby apartment complex suffered significant damage to its infrastructure by Super Storm Sandy, practically to the point of no return," Hrvatin, said at a press conference held on March 3. "Flooding was as high as ten feet above ground, about the level of the wrought iron fence." In the aftermath of that storm "The Freeport Housing Authority recognized that there was an opportunity to make Moxie Rigby bigger, better and more resilient for residents who were desperate for modern, safe housing."

The announcement was made before several dozen residents as well as Village of Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy and trustees, Nassau County Legislators Steve Rhoads and Laura Curran, Town of Hempstead Councilwoman Erin King Sweeney,

See **FREEPORT**, page 6



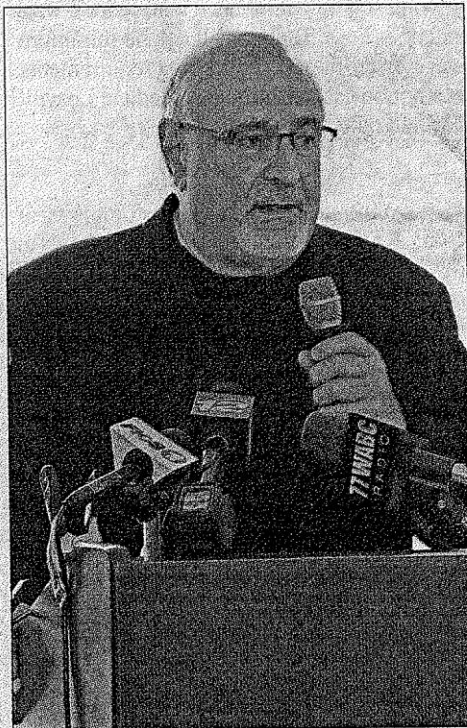
Hawkins Webb Jaeger

A RENDERING OF THE NEW MOXEY RIGBY was unveiled at the press conference.



Sue Grieco/Herald

THE NEW MOXEY RIGBY WILL SOON BE A REALITY. Mayor Kennedy offered support and encouragement for the new development. With Kennedy is John Hrvatin, executive director of the Freeport Housing Authority.



A LANDMARK DAY FOR FHA.
Dr. Joseph Cattano, Chairman of the Board of the FHA.



STATE OF THE ART FACILITY.
 Village Trustee Ron Ellerbe examines renderings.

Freeport Housing Authority to build new public housing

Continued from front page

former New York Rising Director Jon Kaiman and Kyle Strober, representing U.S. Senator Charles Schumer. All the public officials who spoke embraced the new project. "It's a win-win for the Village," Kennedy said.

"I am tremendously proud to be here today to announce a new beginning and fresh start of a brand new housing development," Dr. Josephina Cattano, chairman of the Board of the Freeport Housing Authority said. "The buildings, which were so badly damaged by Sandy are over 60 years old and antiquated in many ways," he explained.

The new Moxie Rigby will sit on a 2.44-acre site or 106,168 square feet and will include 102 parking spaces. The building's footprint is 34,634 square feet and will include 101 apartments ranging from one to four bedrooms that are 25 percent larger than the existing units. The five-story building, to be elevated above flood levels, is a "New England shingle style design," architect Michael Russo of Hawkin, Webb, Jaeger said. "The building is fully flood and storm resilient and exceeds energy codes." All apartments are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and can be converted to help

residents age in place. "These apartments are designed as homes," Russo said.

The project should take approximately 18 months to complete once they break ground, which could be either fall of 2016 or early in 2017. The project will also provide hundreds of prevailing wage construction jobs "that will boost the local economy," Kennedy said.

Moxie Rigby was the first African American judge in Nassau County and the county's first African American elected official. He was a Freeport resident, a graduate of Freeport High School and served as vice chairman of the Freeport Housing Authority. It was his vision to create public housing in Freeport. The new building will also be named in his honor.

The Freeport Housing Authority is a public benefit entity that is federally funded and administers public housing and housing choice voucher programs to about 500 families and close to 1,500 individuals in Freeport. In addition to Moxie Rigby there are two other housing complexes - one at 100 North Main Street and the other at 240 South Main Street.

"We pulled together to build something special here," Cattano said. "Soon there will be a state of the art facility."