News Update - Sen. Carper and the Small Business Administration (SBA) Announce Disaster Assistance Loans for Sussex County‏

Email dated 1/8/13 from Sue Callaway

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> -----Original Message-----
> From: sue callaway [mailto:sue.callaway@gmail.com]
> Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013
>
> South Bethany,
>
> A press event with Senator Carper and the SBA was held at the South Bethany
> Town Hall on January 7, 2013. In attendance were representatives from the
> SBA and Senator Carper's staff. Representatives from South Bethany included
> Mayor Pro-Tem Sue Callaway, Town Council Members Pat Voveris and George
> Junkin, and Police Chief, Joe Deloach. Representatives from Fenwick Island
> included Town Manager Merritt Burke and Building Official Patricia
> Schuchman. Local papers, Cape Gazette, News Journal, and Coastal Point,
> also had representatives present.
>
> Tony Leta, SBA Director, Delaware District Office, who is tasked with
> helping deliver disaster assistance through the SBA Federal Disaster Loan
> program, reviewed the PowerPoint Presentation that was in the press kit
> available to all attendees. The following three documents are attached to
> this email and will answer most questions you may have: SBA Disaster
> Assistance PowerPoint Presentation, SBA Fact Sheet - Disaster Loans, and SBA
> News Release - SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Sussex County Residents.
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>
> Mr. Leta explained his presentation was an SBA Agency Declaration, not a
> Presidential or FEMA Declaration. The SBA will help deliver disaster
> assistance through the SBA Federal Disaster Loan Program for both property
> damage and economic injury.
>
> The following was emphasized at the meeting:
>
> SBA's disaster loans are available to more than just small businesses. SBA
> disaster loans are available to homeowners, renters, non-farm businesses of
> all sizes, and private, non-profit organizations.
>
> SECONDARY HOMES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SBA DISASTER LOANS. Neither are
> personal pleasure boats, airplanes, or recreational vehicles.
>
> PRIMARY HOMES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SBA DISASTER LOANS.
>
> RENTAL PROPERTIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SBA DISASTER LOANS.
>
> Only uninsured or otherwise uncompensated disaster losses are eligible for
> SBA Disaster Loans.
>
> Property damage loan applications must be made by March 4, 2013. Act now if
> you are interested.
>
> Economic injury (impact loss) loan applications must be made by October 10,
> 2013, one year from the Sandy event. This type of loss would be business
> related, i.e., lost sales.
>
> Sussex County is the only county in Delaware eligible for SBA loans.
>
> Applicants who apply must have a good credit history, the ability to repay
> the loan, and uncompensated or uninsured losses. Any loss covered by
> insurance or grant would not be eligible for a loan amount.
>
> Applicants must pledge collateral, though lack of sufficient collateral
> would not mean decline of a loan. Applicants must hold both homeowner and
> flood insurance on the property for which they loan.
>
> The SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Center is located in Worcester County at the
> Ocean Pines Library, 11107 Cathell Road, Berlin, Maryland 21811. The center
> is open Monday, January 7, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Tuesday, January 8 -
> Thursday, January 10, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The last day the center will
> be open is Thursday, January 10. The center will close at 6 p.m. on
> Thursday, January 10. Mr. Leta encouraged homeowners to start the process
> by going to the center to sit face to face with an SBA customer service
> representative to get assistance with completing the application. If
> homeowners are unable to visit the center, Mr. Leta recommended calling the
> U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance Customer Service
> Center at (800) 659-2955.
>
> The application can be completed online by using the SBA's Electronic Loan
> Application (ELA) at http://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.
>
> Homeowners, businesses, and non-profit organizations in Sussex County can
> apply for SBA disaster loans because Sussex County is contiguous to
> Worcester County, Maryland, which was the primary county adversely affected
> by Hurricane Sandy.
>
> Loan Limits:
> Real Estate - Up to $200,000
> Personal Property - Up to $40,000
> Refinancing - Up to $200,000
> Mitigation (if used to mitigate future flood damage) - 20% of verified
> losses, up to $200,000
>
> In the case of a disaster, SBA is a direct lender. The SBA will be lending
> directly to the homeowner or business.
>
> The SBA website, www.sba.gov/disaster, is very informative. A loan
> application is also available on the website.
>
> Homeowners can reach out to Bill Bishop, SBA Economic Development Specialist
> in the Delaware District Office, if they are not getting answers from the
> customer service representatives in Berlin or the customer service
> representatives at the 800 number. Bill Bishop's number is 302-573-6294
> Ext. 224.
>
> If homeowners have already completed flood repairs, they can still get an
> SBA disaster loan for those repairs if they are eligible. The SBA would
> need pictures (very helpful if available) and bills paid (receipts). It is
> not necessary to have your insurance settled at the time of applying for the
> SBA disaster loan. The SBA will make an adjustment when the insurance
> settlement comes in.
>
> Senator Carper then spoke to his concern of our changing weather and his
> advocacy of looking for ways to deal with causes of problems, and not just
> symptoms.
>
> He spoke to SBA loans as a service of our federal government.
>
> In the new session of the 113th Congress on 1/3/13 governors from Maryland
> to Maine put together a Sandy Supplemental Appropriation that requested $80
> billion in aid. The Senate provided a measure to fund 3/4 of this, close to
> $60 billion. The House chose to pull one part out and appropriated $9
> billion for flood insurance payouts. It is Senator Carper's hope the House
> will come back in January and finish its work.
>
> As a practicing "Golden Rule" individual, Senator Carper is hopeful that
> Republicans in the House will remember help throughout our country in time
> of need for fire, tornado, and flood. It is now our time of need. He would
> like to see the $60 billion appropriated with a fair amount earmarked for
> mitigation and taking steps to reduce future damage.
>
> A great example of this is with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
> replenishment and dune structure. The Senator is part of a contingency
> asking for continuation of this. Pine Hook is in need from a huge breach,
> and the Indian River Inlet Bridge needs a sand bypass system for protection.
>
> Senator Carper said he hopes homeowners will take advantage of the SBA
> Federal Disaster Loan Program. Senator Carper said homeowners can contact
> Denise Westcott at his Georgetown office at 302-856-7690 if they feel they
> need additional assistance with the process.
>
> South Bethany homeowner Dick Oliver asked a question regarding tax
> deductions on uninsured losses. Senator Carper said he would look into it
> and get back to Mr. Oliver. An SBA representative said that he did not
> think that Congress had voted on this specific tax issue yet.
>
> Mayor Pro-Tem Callaway thanked Senator Carper and his staff for being so
> responsive. She said that while South Bethany had not experienced the kind
> of damage and misfortune seen in New Jersey and New York, for the west side
> of South Bethany, Hurricane Sandy was the storm of the century. Nearly 90%
> of the homes on the west side experienced damage, and the loan disaster
> opportunity is recognition of the South Bethany flood damages and will
> assist those homeowners who may not readily have the funds available to make
> necessary repairs. The Town appreciates the response.