



# TOWN OF RIVERHEAD NEWS

Office of the Supervisor

**SEAN M. WALTER**

200 Howell Avenue  
Riverhead, NY 11901

(631) 727-3200

[www.townofriverheadny.gov](http://www.townofriverheadny.gov)

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**CONTACT**

Sean Walter, Supervisor  
(631) 727-3200

**RIVERHEAD TOWN ONE OF FIVE BROWNFIELD OPPORTUNITY AREA PROGRAMS  
RECOGNIZED STATEWIDE AT ANNUAL BROWFIELDS SUMMIT**

(Albany, NY) – The Town of Riverhead’s Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Program was one of five statewide that was recognized as outstanding at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Brownfields Summit in Albany.

Created in 2003 as part of the state’s landmark Brownfields law, BOA provides resources to poor urban and downtown communities to address brownfields and the underlying conditions fueling abandonment and decay. BOA has become very important in weak market areas - giving community leaders a new, effective tool to reverse the downward cycle of disinvestment.

The five awards were presented by the New Partners for Community Revitalization (NPCR). “We are very pleased to honor these Outstanding BOAs,” said Jim Tripp, Board Chair of the nonprofit NPCR and Senior Counsel at the Environmental Defense Fund. “There are currently over 125 New York neighborhoods participating in the BOA program. These five leaders were selected because they are carrying out extraordinary economic revitalization initiatives that show that neighborhoods long plagued by contamination can use state resources to create value and attract private investments that build on their neighborhood’s character and strengths. The BOA program has proven to be one of the state’s most effective tools for creating synergy between environmental cleanups, community interests and economic development.”

Since its launch more than a decade ago, some \$46 million has been awarded to New York neighborhoods through BOA. “This state funding is leveraging an estimated \$25 billion in investment for affordable housing, open space, transportation/transit oriented development, jobs, and other economic regeneration activities,” said NPCR Executive Director Jody Kass. “The BOA program’s area-wide approach -- as opposed to site-by-site investments that have failed to create new economic anchors in our most challenged neighborhoods -- has also become a national model, copied in several states, including Ohio, and by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.”

Community Development Director Chris Kempner said Riverhead’s \$567,000 BOA Opportunities grant from the Department of State, in partnership with the Department of Environmental Conservation, has allowed the town to hire renowned planning consultant Nelson, Pope & Voorhis (NP&V) to develop comprehensive approaches to generate new visions to revitalize downtown Riverhead.

Senator Ken LaValle said, “I am pleased that the Town of Riverhead has been recognized for a Community Revitalization BOA award. This good news is another success that will go hand-in-hand with the Town’s downtown revitalization efforts, the enactment of our EPCAL (Enterprise Park at Calverton Reuse and Revitalization) legislation and the awarding of \$6.3 million in State funding for the upgrade of the sewage treatment facilities at EPCAL.”

Supervisor Sean Walter said, “The Town of Riverhead is so thankful to be recognized as one of the five Community Revitalization 2014 Outstanding BOA award. The award is perfectly timed as Downtown Riverhead is seeing a wave of new development through both public and private investment of over \$50 million dollars in just the last 4 years including the opening this month of the newly renovated formerly vacant 36,000 square foot Woolworth building that was vacant for over 10 years, several new businesses, and a new shared office concept building that will be the first of its kind on Eastern Long Island. The Town’s ongoing beautification of Grangebél Park, including a nationally recognized migratory fish passage, and renovation of the East End Arts Council Green Space with improved access to the Peconic River and Great Peconic Bay as well as \$1.5 million dollars in new sidewalk is turning Riverhead into the new hot spot for investment in Suffolk.”

“I am proud of the efforts of the town staff involved in the BOA,” Councilwoman Jodi Giglio said. “There are more than 125 New York neighborhoods participating in the BOA program. To be singled out as one of the five leaders state-wide is quite an accomplishment. It is my hope that the work accomplished under this program will pay huge economic development dividends in the near future in and around the downtown central business district.”

Likewise, Councilman John Dunleavy said, “The Town of Riverhead’s recognition as an Outstanding BOA Program is the result of the town board and staff being committed to improving the downtown business and tourist environment for the betterment of residents and visitors alike.”

Kathy Eiseman, a partner at Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, said the consulting firm “is pleased that the Town of Riverhead has been recognized for the work completed under the NYSDOS BOA program which builds upon the extraordinary accomplishments the Town has made in recent years towards revitalizing its downtown and the Peconic river corridor. We are proud to be a part of the Town’s team on this important effort and look forward to completing the next steps which the DOS grant project has made possible. Two funded projects under the grant include assisting with a new National Register District for the historic homes in the vicinity of 2nd Street and an application to expand the Community designation within the WSRR area which will incentivize reuse of abandoned and underutilized properties along West Main Street. These action oriented components exemplify the value of the BOA Program.”

Kempner said the BOA funding will allow Downtown Riverhead to continue along the path of smart development for a newer brighter downtown with unique cultural attractions, a bustling Main Street, an Arts District, an Historic District with protected historic buildings, as well as an expanded and improved waterfront. Most important, funding for a parking analysis to accommodate the new development, funding to expand the Historic District, along with an economic and market trends analysis of existing conditions with targeted identification of reuse and development opportunities will assist private investors that see the potential of a wise investment.



Walter said the Town of Riverhead BOA team includes “a very engaged steering committee of community members from a diverse representation of businesses within the BOA corridor” including: Ray Pickersgill, Executive Director of the Business Improvement District; Small business owner Dennis McDermott of The Riverhead Project; Bryan DeLuca, General Manager of the Long Island Aquarium and Hyatt Place Hotel, and Janine Nebbons, General Manger of the Riverhead Tanger Outlet Center. Town officials Councilwoman Jodi Giglio, and Councilman John Dunleavy, as well as Deputy Supervisor Jill Lewis, Community Director Chris Kempner, Assistant Town Attorney Dan McCormick have contributed many hours to working with the project consultants and steering committee to identify and address key issues and obstacles for revitalization along the Main Street corridor. “The project Planning Consultants Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, LLC, led by partner Charles Voorhis, CEP, AICP and project manager Kathryn Eiseman, AICP, Nelson, Pope & Voorhis, LLC, along with community support outreach by Sustainable Long Island led by Executive Director Amy Engel and Director of Programs, Erin Thoresen, have done an outstanding job analyzing very diverse issues along an eclectic corridor with uses that vary from standard industrial use to former duck farms to a beautiful historic downtown district, all running along the Peconic River, a federally designated estuary of national significance,” said Supervisor Walter.

The other “Outstanding BOAs” recognized at this year’s Summit were:

- South Buffalo BOA;
- Vacuum Oil, Rochester BOA;
- Sunset Park, Brooklyn BOA; and
- Lower Concourse, Bronx BOA.