



SUSTAINABLE LONG ISLAND

Advancing the Economy, Environment and Equity

Feb. 2, 2007

Newsday
2345 Pinelawn Road
Melville, NY 11747
Att: Editor

To the editor:

Newsday has done an admirable job in recent weeks reporting on the problems facing communities such as New Cassel and Roosevelt, including disappointing construction and delays in implementing much-needed community revitalization projects.

What's missing, however, is a portrayal of the many exciting developments in those communities and others like them. Many people are putting their hearts and souls into revitalizing their towns, and their work is paying off. Just a few examples: New Cassel's seven new development sites that fulfill the community's request for affordable housing options, along with a bank, supermarket and pharmacy; and 200 new affordable homes in Roosevelt, as well as a new daycare facility and the clean up of brownfield sites along Nassau Road.

There's still much to be done. The segregated communities, degradation of natural resources, suburban sprawl and blighted areas that plague many Long Island communities resulted from more than a half century of poor or non-existent regional planning, and they will require time and commitment to resolve.

Newsday must keep reporting on the bumps large and small that get in the way of true sustainable development for our region. But the impassioned efforts of dedicated residents and others who have come together work toward economic redevelopment, environmental health and social equity should not be ignored.



Sol Marie Alfonso-Jones
Director of Programs, Sustainable Long Island

