

## **T. John Venditti Post 1 – Site Improvements (W436)**

March 26, 2010

**Grantee:** John Venditti Post 1, Italian American War Veterans, Inc. (the “Post”)

**ESD Investment:** A grant of up to \$50,000 to be used for site improvement and related costs such as paving, landscaping, signage, and building exterior work.

**Project Location:** 500 and 504 Danforth Street, Syracuse, Onondaga County

**NYS Empire Zone (or equivalent):** N/A

**Project Completion:** May 2010

**Grantee Contact:** George LePorte, Commander  
500 Danforth Street  
Syracuse, NY 13208  
Phone: (315) 424-0161 Fax: (315) 424-0161

**Project Team:**

Project Management	Meg Paskins
Affirmative Action	Helen Daniels
Environmental	Soo Kang

### **Project Description:**

#### Background

The Italian American War Veterans of the United States held its first National Convention in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1936. The group was formed by a group of Italian-American veterans who felt the need to establish a social organization based on military ties and friendships made while serving in World War I. Grand Post #1 was officially chartered by the State of New York in 1932 and by the national organization in 1938. The name of the Post was changed in 1939 to the John Venditti Post in honor of John Venditti, the first Syracusan killed in action during World War I. The current Post home on Danforth Street was officially opened in 1970.

In September 2007, the Post purchased an adjacent property which was in foreclosure. The Post plans to use the front of the property as a parking area, as existing parking only accommodates four cars even though the Post has 500 members. The lack of parking poses a congestion problem on Danforth Street, and elderly and disabled members have to walk long distances to enter the facility. In addition, the Post has frequent events for patients at the VA hospital, and transportation ambulances encounter hazardous parking conditions. The rear portion of the lot will be transformed into a picnic and recreation area for members, their families, VA hospital patients, and local youth activities.

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**The Project**

The project, expected to be complete in May 2010, involves improvements to the lot purchased by the Post in 2007, as well as exterior improvements to the Post’s existing facility. The Post used its own funds to demolish the lot’s existing structure in October 2009. ESD’s grant will cover the cost of lot improvements such as paving, excavating, landscaping, and fence installation, which will result in the creation of 20 additional parking spots and green space in the back of the property. The grant will also cover costs associated with improvements to the Post’s existing facility including the installation of a handicap entrance, signage, and fixing exterior bricks, cement stairs, and sidewalk. The Post hired AAA Fabrizio Enterprises, Inc., (“Fabrizio”) to do the demolition and will continue to use Fabrizio’s services for the improvements described above. Fabrizio, a construction-building contractor based in the Syracuse area, has been in business since 1994.

Upon completion of the project, the Grantee will furnish a final report describing the impact and effectiveness of the project.

Financing Uses	Amount	Financing Sources	Amount	Percent
Site Improvements	\$50,000	ESD Grant	\$50,000	100%
Total Project Costs	\$50,000	Total Project Financing	\$50,000	100%

**Environmental Review:**

Pursuant to the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and the implementing regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, ESDC staff performed an uncoordinated review. This review determined the project to be an Unlisted Action, which would not have a significant effect on the environment. It is recommended that the Directors make a Determination of No Significant Effect on the Environment.

**Statutory Basis – Community Capital Assistance Program:**

The project was authorized in accordance with Chapter 84 of the Laws of 2002 and reappropriated in the 2009-2010 New York State budget.

**Disclosure and Accountability Certifications:**

The Grantee has provided ESDC with the required Disclosure and Accountability Certifications. Grantee’s certifications indicate that Grantee has no conflict of interest or good standing violations and, therefore, staff recommends that the Corporation authorize the grant to the Grantee as described in these materials.

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Syracuse (Onondaga County) – John Venditti Post #1 – Site Improvements – Community  
Capital Assistance Program – Determination of No Significant Effect on the Environment

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RESOLVED, that based on the material submitted to the Directors with respect to the John Venditti Post 1 – Site Improvements Project, the Corporation hereby determines that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the environment.

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