



Gary R. McCarthy
Acting Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF SCHENECTADY
NEW YORK

City Hall, 105 Jay Street, Rm 111
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305-1938
(518) 382-5000
Fax: (518) 382-5272
gmccarthy@schenectadyny.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, November 3, 2011

CONTACT: Richard Purga
Acting Director, Department of Development
(518) 382-5149

Schenectady Homes Made Lead Safe with HUD Grant

Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy recognizes First Homeowners to Complete Lead Safe Program

SCHENECTADY – Acting Mayor Gary R. McCarthy will recognize Mr. and Mrs. Amarjeet Singh as being among the first homeowners to have successfully benefited from the City of Schenectady’s Lead Safe Housing Program. This recognition will occur at the Singh’s residence at 26 Western Parkway on Friday, November 4, 2011 at 10 a.m.

A \$3.2 million Lead Safe Housing Program grant awarded to the City of Schenectady from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will allow 225 housing units to be made lead safe by March, 2014. The large number of homes in the City built before 1978 was a key reason Schenectady received the grant. Homes built prior to 1978 may contain lead-based paint – potentially presenting a hazard to occupants.

Acting Mayor Gary R. McCarthy stated, “With 95% of the city’s housing stock built before 1978, long-term exposure to lead, poses serious health problems, particularly in young children; our Lead Safe Housing Program addresses that problem.”

“Unborn babies and young children are at greatest risk for health problems from lead poisoning – their smaller, growing bodies make them more susceptible to absorbing and retaining lead,” According to Schenectady County Commissioner of Health, David Pratt. “Headaches, irritability, abdominal pain, vomiting, anemia, weight loss, poor attention span, noticeable learning difficulty, slowed speech development and hyperactivity are all problems that have been associated with exposure to lead.”

The City and the County of Schenectady’s Public Health Services are partners in this program. Public Health administers the grant for the City and integrates it with other Lead Poisoning Prevention programs offered by the County. A central intake system for all the programs is run by the County.

Under the Lead Safe Housing Program, landlords and or owners apply to have their housing units assessed for lead risk. If hazards are present and the landlord or the tenants meet the qualifying factors, including federal income limits, owners are eligible to receive a grant for the full amount of the cost of the rehabilitation work needed to make the home lead safe. “The average cost to perform this grant supported work is \$7,500 per unit, said Richard Purga, Acting Director of Development. “Only certified contractors, approved by the program are allowed to bid on and perform the work.”

For information on the Lead Safe Housing Program, please contact Schenectady County Public Health Services at 518-386-2818.