



**For Immediate Release**

*Photo attached*

*Bethpage FCU Roosevelt Groundbreaking-BMB 2451.jpg*

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**BETHPAGE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW BRANCH IN ROOSEVELT**

*Long Island credit union becomes first major financial institution in underserved community*

*(June 10, 2009...Bethpage, NY)*

In groundbreaking ceremonies last week, Bethpage Federal Credit Union (Bethpage) detailed plans to open a branch at 383 Nassau Road in Roosevelt, bringing a major financial institution to a community historically ignored by banks.

Bethpage President and CEO Kirk Kordelski was joined by U.S. Representative Carolyn McCarthy (NY-04), Town of Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray, Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi, Roosevelt Community Revitalization Group Liaison Clara Gillens Eromosele, and other invited guests ‘shovel ready’ to turn the ground for the credit union’s 20th Long Island community branch.

“This year, we are marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first credit union founded in the U.S. as a financial cooperative built on the principle of ‘people helping people’ and a mission to educate, advocate and improve the lives of all member-owners,” said Kordeleski. “Bethpage Federal Credit Union continues to grow because of the merits of this philosophy and we continue to reach out to communities like Roosevelt where we are needed and where we can provide good service and be an active neighbor.”

In the six years since Bethpage received its charter to serve all Long Islanders, it has grown to become the largest regional credit union in terms of assets, membership, and the number of service locations throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

“I am pleased to welcome Bethpage Federal Credit Union to Roosevelt. Bethpage consistently reaches out to the communities where they are located and this is no different,” said Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy. “Opening a branch here will be a great benefit to the community, which has been largely underserved by banks in the past. I look forward to a prosperous relationship between Bethpage and the Roosevelt community in the years to come as a result of this venture.”

Nassau County is committed to joining forces with Nassau's towns, villages and cities to tackle the economic challenges faced by Nassau's older suburban communities. “Roosevelt is home to strong families and communities,” said County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi. “The opening of the new Bethpage branch is another step in revitalizing the downtown commercial area that defines the community.”

According to Hempstead Supervisor Kate Murray, Bethpage will bring new jobs and a new vibrancy to Roosevelt. “Currently there is only one financial institution in Roosevelt and many neighbors have to go outside of their hometown to deal with their financial needs,” said Murray.

“Roosevelt is on the rise,” stated Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby. “The addition of Bethpage Federal Credit Union will be creating jobs, beautifying the downtown and attracting more businesses that will pay property taxes.”

Construction on the Roosevelt branch will begin this summer with completion targeted for December, 2009.

“Roosevelt is a diverse but strong community — and families here seek the same measures of success for their children as in any other community of Long Island,” said Clara Gillens Eromosele. “Bethpage Federal Credit Union has demonstrated its allegiance to all Long Islanders by providing much-needed banking services and products to Roosevelt residents and businesses, and I’m encouraged we’ll have new homeowners, expanding business opportunities, and financial education for our young people. We embrace our new neighbor Bethpage Federal Credit Union and see this project as another step in the revitalization of our community.”

As the largest credit union on Long Island, Bethpage has grown rapidly in recent years to position itself as a strong alternative to traditional banks. A financial cooperative that is owned by its members, Bethpage offers better rates, lower fees and a full menu of personal and commercial financial services. For the year ending December 31, 2008, Bethpage’s assets grew by 15% to \$3.2 billion and membership increased 9% for a total of 152,000 members.

In addition to providing outstanding service, Bethpage continues to grow because its members recognize it is a vigilant, safe and strong institution that was not involved in sub-prime mortgages, which embroiled many of the nation's largest financial institutions.

**PHOTO CAPTION:** Under clear skies and with a spirited welcome from new neighbors, Bethpage Federal Credit Union (Bethpage) President and CEO Kirk Kordeleski (*pictured center*) led groundbreaking ceremonies for the financial institution's latest community branch at 383 Nassau Road in Roosevelt, expected to open by the end of this year. *Pictured (l to r):* Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi, Hempstead Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby, Irwin R. Krasnow, Hempstead Town Supervisor Kate Murray, Kirk Kordeleski, Roosevelt Revitalization Community Liaison Clara Gillens Eromosele, U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy, Hempstead Town Clerk Mark A. Bonilla, Bethpage Federal Credit Union VP Lina Armyn, were among the invited guests and officials at the proceedings. During remarks, it was observed that banks had not historically invested in the Roosevelt community, and that the presence of the credit union will bring new opportunities to the residents, businesses, and the ongoing revitalization of Roosevelt.

**About Bethpage Federal Credit Union:** A credit union with 152,000 members and more than \$3.2 billion in assets, Bethpage maintains branches in Bay Shore, Bethpage, Central Islip, Commack, Elmont, Farmingdale, Freeport, Glen Cove, Hempstead, Huntington, Levittown, Lynbrook, Massapequa, Melville, Mineola, North Babylon, Port Jefferson, Riverhead and Smithtown with over 200 surcharge ATMs in King Kullen, 7-Eleven, Walgreens and Costco locations throughout Long Island. Phone: 1-800-628-7070 or visit: [www.bethpagefcu.com](http://www.bethpagefcu.com)

**About the Roosevelt Property:** The Nassau Road parcel that is the site of the future Bethpage Federal Credit Union branch, was formerly a polluted brownfields site, acquired by Hempstead Town, decontaminated and prepared for sale and development. Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi, Supervisor Kate Murray and Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby, listening to the voices of Roosevelt neighbors, put the property out to bid and stipulated that a financial institution be constructed at the site. Roosevelt residents called for a neighborhood financial institution during a Roosevelt Visioning process and Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi, Supervisor Kate Murray and Councilwoman Goosby played a vital role in achieving this goal.

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