

Camden accounts for \$26M in funds by building homes

Courier-Post staff

CAMDEN — Mayor Dana Redd announced Thursday that Camden has successfully implemented two Neighborhood Stabilization Program federal grants totaling \$26 million.

The funds came from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“The NSP2 funds have brought together agencies that have worked to strategically build cleaner and safer neighborhoods with more affordable housing prospects,” Redd said.

In February 2010, the Camden Redevelopment Agency was awarded \$11.9 million and the Housing Authority of the City of Camden got \$14.1 million from HUD to stabilize certain census tracts through housing redevelopment and related activities.

The congressionally mandated expenditure deadline of Feb. 11 was successfully achieved by both agencies.

“As a result of the NSP2 funds, the City of Camden has been able to build new housing for veterans and future residents, and most importantly, create job opportunities for Camden residents. Over the course of the grant, NSP2 agencies and developers worked closely with the CRA’s Mentoring Program to hire 17 city residents from the HACCC’s Youth Build Program.”

Projects that have benefited from the grant funds include the rehabilitation of 100 residential units; the demolition of 50 vacant, blighted and unsafe structures; the development of 40 family units; and an equal number of special needs housing for formerly homeless veterans.

“Although the housing market was at its lowest point when we embarked on the NSP2 program, our homes are selling, and more housing and retail investments for are being committed in North Camden, Gateway, Cooper Plaza/Lanning Square, Marlton, Stockton and Rosedale to deepen the impact for truly great community life,” said Sandra Ross Johnson, executive director of the Camden Redevelopment Agency.