



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 26, 2006

CONTACT: Maria Smith at (614) 466-2382
or Melissa Ament at (614) 466-6619

JOHNSON PRESENTS GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COLUMBUS — Lieutenant Governor Bruce Johnson today recognized two Ohio communities, one company and one community organization for their efforts to enhance the quality of life for local residents. Recipients of the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Housing and Community Development include: Lawrence County; Trumbull County; Engines, Inc. (Lawrence County); and Maplewood Park Improvement Club (Trumbull County).

"I applaud these organizations for demonstrating a commitment to improving the quality of life in Ohio communities," said Johnson who also serves as state development director. "These award winners have shown creativity and dedication in designing programs that address the housing and community development needs of their residents, that not only improve the quality of life for thousands of Ohioans, but contribute to the overall success of Ohio's economic climate."

The Governor's Awards are presented to organizations that demonstrate outstanding housing and community development efforts. This year's award winners, selected by the Ohio Department of Development's (ODOD) Office of Housing and Community Partnerships, implemented exemplary projects funded through ODOD programs.

Lawrence County and Engines, Inc. were honored for their successful partnership in the company's expansion of its railroad car component manufacturing operation. The \$1.3 million project successfully created 50 jobs in this Appalachian community.

Trumbull County and the Maplewood Park Improvement Club are being recognized for improving Maplewood Park, a small neighborhood in Trumbull County with 272 residents, 83 percent of which are of low and moderate income. The Club initiated a grassroots effort, which included a door-to-door income survey of the neighborhood that determined a need for infrastructure improvements and a community park. The County was awarded funds to make the needed improvements. Today, the residents of Maplewood are enjoying a new neighborhood park and infrastructure improvements.

-30-

Editor's Note: For detailed information about each project, you may contact:
Ralph Kline, Lawrence County and Engines, Inc., (740) 532-3534, rkline@ilcao.org
Julie Green, Trumbull Co. and Maplewood Park, (330) 675-2480, pcgreen@co.trumbull.oh.us