



Hempstead Village

## **New Website for Development Project**

By Aisha Al-Muslim

The developers in charge of Hempstead Villages downtown revitalization project recently launched an interactive, bilingual website to encourage residents to participate in the process.

The Hempstead Village board and the village's Community Development Agency designated Renaissance Downtowns Urban America as the master developer of the \$2 billion project two weeks ago. A week later, the developers launched the website, [www.renewhempstead.com](http://www.renewhempstead.com)

The website requires village residents and stakeholders to register and validate their interest in the redevelopment. Once validated, members are asked to express their agreement to the "Triple Bottom Line" philosophy of economic, social and environmental responsibility.

Users can engage with the developers and each other to discuss what they want to see included in the plan, voice concerns and learn about events pertaining to the redevelopment efforts. Ideas could include a central plaza, a movie theater, an ice skating rink or a cultural arts center. When enough individual users 'like' an idea, similar to the Facebook feature, the developers would commission a feasibility study to determine its viability.

The redevelopment is to include a combination of condominiums, co-ops and rental apartments to accommodate all income levels. It also would include a hotel, shops, open spaces, parking and entertainment. The entire project could take about a decade to complete, developers have said. The project is expected to create more than 3,500 permanent jobs and 10,000 construction jobs, developers and city officials have said.

For more information, contact Renaissance Downtowns Urban America at 516-307-8310.