
Foreclosure relief seminar to be held Thursday in Roxbury

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A foreclosure relief seminar will be held at the Vine Street Community Center in Roxbury Thursday.

The two-hour seminar, which begins at 6 p.m., will provide information on a program designed to help families reacquire property they own – either facing foreclosure or already foreclosed on – at current market value.

The program, Stabilizing Urban Neighborhoods, is an initiative of the non-profit financial development institution, Boston Community Capital, which is committed to helping low-income communities.

“BCC’s Stabilizing Urban Neighborhoods (SUN) Initiative stops the displacement of families and the neighborhood-destabilizing effects of vacancy and abandonment by acquiring and financing foreclosed properties before evictions occur,” says the nonprofit’s website. “To date, BCC has helped over 90 families remain in their homes.”

Earlier this fall, the organization received \$5.5 million from two prominent national charitable organizations to expand its groundbreaking foreclosure program.

While the rent-heavy Hub has not been hit as hard with foreclosures as other areas in the country, Massachusetts has seen a record number of foreclosure auctions this year. And, a Suffolk University/Boston Globe poll last month said more than three-fourths of Massachusetts residents surveyed say the recession has not ended, despite the recession had officially ended in June 2009.

In an effort to protect homeowners and address concerns about how foreclosures are conducted, Secretary of State William F. Galvin announced last week he plans to submit a bill next month that would force Bay State mortgage lenders to obtain court approval before seizing homes.

“Are you a working family that has suffered a hardship leading to a mortgage default or foreclosure? Do you have a stable income? Do you live in Boston or Revere?,” asked a flyer for Thursday night’s seminar. “If you answered YES to all these questions, we may be able to help you keep your home! Join us to talk about the possibility of getting your home back at a price you can afford.”

For more information, call 617-933-5880.

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