



Member News

September 2008

Highlights:

2009 Homeownership Fair

Welcome New Members

Foreclosure Prevention

Financial Literacy

Speaker Orientation

Upcoming Classes

Benchmark Update

So Long...



SAVE THE DATE:

**Annual Free Homeownership Fair
Saturday, February 28, 2009
10 am to 3 pm
DuPage County Administration Building
421 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton**

Mark your calendars for this once-a-year community outreach event offering one-stop shopping for information and programs for current and first-time homebuyers.

We're projecting that this year's event will be better than ever. The housing market may be in a slump, but there is good news! For first-time home buyers this may be the best time ever to purchase a home. Housing prices are down and there is a strong inventory

of homes for sale. Credit is tight, but that offers an incentive for buyers to get their financial house in order and get on a financial plan for homeownership. We will be offering a series of workshops throughout the day on preparing for homeownership as well as preserving and maintaining your home. We're counting on you to be there! Detailed information on sponsorship and workshop opportunities will be distributed in the next several weeks.

Welcome New and Renewing Members

We are very pleased to welcome Republic Bank and Integrus Lending Group to our membership roster. In addition the following have renewed their membership in the Center since the last newsletter:

Bank of America

Community Bank-Wheaton/Glen Ellyn

Fifth Third Bank

MB Financial

If you have questions about your membership, **contact Dru at (630) 260-2500, extension 2502 or dru@dhoc.org.**

Foreclosure Prevention Brochure Available

Our outreach effort to churches, community outreach centers, libraries, township offices, legislators and municipal leaders about the default counseling services offered by the Center has been a great success. We've sent over 2,200 Foreclosure Prevention pamphlets to these organizations and several have called and asked for additional copies. The brochure outlines the steps homeowners should take if they receive a foreclosure notice and the free resources offered by DHOC. Additionally the pamphlet gives a foreclosure timeline and standard workout options. We have a good track record for preventing foreclosure with clients who've completed our program. However, we'd like to reach more individuals and families who could benefit from these services. A pdf of the brochure is on our website (www.dhoc.org), however, if you'd like a supply for your clients, **contact Dave or Jennie at (630) 260-2500, extension 2501 or info@dhoc.org.**

Financial Literacy

We've developed a Financial Literacy program covering banking, insurance, budgeting and credit. Depending on the needs of the organization, we will be presenting this in two sessions with individual financial literacy counseling offered if needed. Judy Graves, one of housing counselors is coordinating this program. **Contact Judy at (630) 260-2500, extension 2506 or judy@dhoc.org for more information.**

Home Buyer Education Class Speaker Orientation

We've scheduled Speaker Orientation sessions for Lenders and Realtors interested in being a speaker at our twice monthly Home Buyer Education Classes. For lenders, speaking at the class provides you with CRA credit and it helps lenders and Realtors generate business leads.

To ensure a high-quality program, we require that you attend an orientation in order to be on our speaker list. At the Orientation, we will discuss the format and expectations for our class speakers.

Lender Speaker Orientation
Thursday, Oct. 30 from 8:30 to 10 a.m.
Metropolitan Family Services
222 E. Willow in Wheaton

Realtor Speaker Orientation
Thursday, Nov. 6 from 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Metropolitan Family Services
222 E. Willow in Wheaton

To RSVP for either Speaker Orientation, contact Dave or Jennie at (630) 260-2500, extension 2501 or info@dhoc.org.

Upcoming Home Buyer Education Classes

<u>Class Date</u>	<u>Class Location</u>
<u>Saturday, September 27, 2008</u> <u>9 a.m. to 1 p.m.</u>	Outreach Community Center 345 S. President Street Carol Stream, IL 60188
<u>Saturday, October 4, 2008</u> <u>9 a.m. to 1 p.m.</u>	Addison Village Hall One Friendship Plaza Addison, IL 60101
<u>Saturday, October 18, 2008</u> <u>9 a.m. to 1 p.m.</u>	Realtor Association 6655 S. Main Street Downers Grove, IL 60516
<u>Saturday, November 1, 2008</u> <u>9 a.m. to 1 p.m.</u>	St. Paul Lutheran Church 515 S. Wheaton Avenue Wheaton, IL 60187
<u>Saturday, November 15, 2008</u> <u>9 a.m. to 1 p.m.</u>	DuPage County Administration Building 421 N. County Farm Road Wheaton, IL 60187

Space is limited and reservations are required. Please call (630) 260-2500.



This collaborative effort of community leaders, Realtors, developers, employers, government officials and the nonprofit community continues its work to expand the availability of affordable/workforce homes across DuPage County.

To date, the Benchmark effort has

- Bolstered **AWARENESS** of the need for workforce housing by creating a PowerPoint Community Homeownership Presentation and training volunteers to deliver the message throughout DuPage County formulating a **speaker's bureau**. Our speaker's bureau includes fifteen speakers who have reached over **800** people through presentations to civic, faith and community groups such as the Oak Brook Rotary, the DuPage Workforce Board, the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Wheaton Ministerial Association.
- Created an **e-mail alert system** for **ADVOCATES** for workforce housing policies in their communities. There are currently **113** people on that distribution list, most of whom were recruited as a result of the Community Homeownership Presentations.
- **ENGAGED** residents and leaders in Wheaton and Wood Dale in brainstorming creative mixed-use, mixed-income developments by working with the Northeast Illinois Chapter of the America Institute of Architects on two **design charrettes**.
- **DEMONSTRATED** success by advocating for County approval of Wahlgren Court, a new attainable **housing development** in unincorporated Glen Ellyn.
- Begun to **EXPLORE** redevelopment options for the Hubble Middle School site in Wheaton that will incorporate attainable housing units by engaging the Center for Building Communities at the University of Notre Dame School of Architecture to plan a **fall 2008 studio project**.
- **COMMUNICATED** through an **e-newsletter** that connects all of the people interested in the Benchmark efforts.

For more information, contact the DuPage Homeownership Center at (630) 260-2500 or info@dhoc.org. You also can find the *Benchmark* Symposium reports at www.dhoc.org.

The Community Outreach Speakers Bureau is looking for opportunities to bring this program to churches, service clubs, employee or other group. For more information, please **contact Dru at (630) 260-2500, extension 2002 or Dru@dhoc.org**.

Volunteers Needed

ALERT--Volunteers are needed to register class participants and distribute certificates at our Home Buyer Education classes throughout the year. We are experiencing a shortage of volunteers for this—if you can help, please let us know.

Other opportunities include:

- Put a link to DHOC on your website
- Participate in planning and fund raising activities
- Provide administrative assistance for special mailings, events, etc.
- Support efforts to preserve and encourage workforce housing—sign up to
 - bring our presentation to your church, community or workplace
 - attend meetings of my city council/village board when housing issues are on the agenda
 - contact my elected officials regarding the need for affordable housing
 - add to the email alert list to keep me informed of developments in the affordable housing arena

If you are interested in any of the above, contact Dru at (630) 260-2500, ext. 2502 or Dru@dhoc.org.

So long...

This is my last Member Newsletter. Member updates will continue written by either Dru or the new Executive Director, once she/he is on board. Although the decision to retire was made several months ago, the time has gone by at warp speed. While I'm very much looking forward to traveling and spending time with my retired husband and my beautiful grandchildren, I will sorely miss all of you. For the past three years that I've served on staff at the Center and for the years before that where I served on the board, it has been a life-enhancing experience. I can remember earlier in my career when I enjoyed a corner office at Michigan and Wacker, I thought this was as good as it got. And believe me, it was a heady experience looking down North Michigan Avenue as they lit the lights for the Holiday season or watching the Chicago River turn green in preparation of St. Patrick's Day. But in retrospect, the time spent at the Center has been the highlight of my career. I've met the most interesting, engaging and passionate people through the Center. I've shared the joy of families who were able to make the dream of homeownership possible through the work of the Center. I've formed relationships that I will continue to treasure. But most of all, I will always feel proud of playing a small part in an organization that really makes a difference in people's lives. Thank you for your support, encouragement and friendship. I will miss you.

I want to especially thank our Board of Directors and the Marketing Committee, especially Karen Hill (Peoples Resource Center), Joan Rickard (DuPage County Community Services), Kathe Doremus and Connie Ross-Reynolds (Community Bank-Wheaton/Glen Ellyn), Vicki Flemmer (US Bank), Fred Hoebel (Coldwell Banker), Mitzi Hands (Mitzi Hands Realty) Amy Robey (Mainstreet Organization of Realtors), Tammy McKamey (Amcore Bank), Liz Corry (Wheaton City Council) and Bill Ware (Amalgamated Bank) for always being willing to do whatever it takes to make the Fair and the Annual Celebration great events.

Not to sound like I'm giving a long Oscar acceptance speech, but I couldn't end this without thanking my brilliant co-workers, Lynette, Jo, Judy, Dave, Jennie and most especially Dru. This organization does such great work because it is not a job...it's a mission. Each in his or her special way puts the clients first--always. Way, way back before anyone was talking about a financial bail-out, the DHOC was gently and persuasively urging clients to do the hard work of financially preparing for homeownership. For someone who is mathematically challenged, I've learned so much from them.

But, but...I won't be completely gone. I will continue as a member of the Marketing and Outreach Committee and I'm sure I'll see some of you at the Affordable Housing Breakfast. So until we meet again, my very best wishes...*Sheila McCann*