

Program to offer help with home foreclosures

Circuit Court of Cook County Chief Judge Timothy Evans recently announced the launch of community outreach efforts to inform Cook County homeowners about the free housing counseling and legal services available through the Circuit Court of Cook County Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program.

In July, the Circuit Court and several community-based organizations began an outreach to Cook County neighborhoods and communities hardest hit by the mortgage foreclosure crisis by contacting community leaders, faith-based groups and elected officials.

Additionally, representatives were sent door-to-door to speak with homeowners. Homeowners were given informational packets about the program and directed to the toll-free help line and website where they can access information about the Foreclosure Mediation Program.

Homeowners in foreclosure who wish to begin the mediation process can also now visit www.CookCounty-ForeclosureHelp.org to fill out an online form to request an appointment with a housing counselor.

This new feature is an alternative to the toll-free help line (877-895-2444 or 312-836-5222 TDD) and is accessible to homeowners with a valid e-mail address.

Eligible homeowners will receive confirmation of their appointment within 48 hours of submitting the online form (requests submitted after hours, holidays or weekends will be processed the next business day).

Evans said the program, which began in April, is designed to deliver critical support and information to homeowners directly impacted by the mortgage foreclosure crisis.

Since the program began, more than 1,500 homeowners have accessed the free services.

"Our goal is to reach as many homeowners as possible to, first of all, encourage them to come to court, and secondly, to let them know that when they do come to court, they will not have to face the legal process alone," Evans said.

The program offers an alternative method to resolve foreclosure cases.

Qualified homeowners will have the opportunity to meet with their lenders in the presence of a neutral mediator, someone trained to facilitate communication between both parties as they work to reach an agreement about the mortgage.

Funded by the Cook County Board and administered by the Circuit Court's Chancery Division, the program is a partnership between the Circuit Court of Cook County and several state and local organizations.

Together, the partners are working with attorneys and mediators from the Center for Conflict Resolution, the Chicago Legal Clinic and Chicago Volunteer Legal Services to provide access to free assistance to homeowners who have received a summons to appear in court.

In order to participate in the mediation program, homeowners must: Be residents of Cook County; have received a foreclosure summons from the Cook County Court; and live in the building in foreclosure, which can be a single-family home, single-family condominium or apartment building with four or fewer units.

Homeowners who have received a summons can call the toll-free help line or visit www.CookCountyForeclosureHelp.org/appointment-request to schedule a free meeting with a housing counselor, the first step in the mediation process.

After meeting with a housing counselor, homeowners will have the opportunity to meet with an on-site attorney to discuss the housing counselor's recommendations and prepare for a court date that will determine whether the foreclosure case can be mediated with the lender.

Homeowners who are concerned about their mortgages, but who have not received a summons from the court and are not in foreclosure, should visit www.CookCountyForeclosureHelp.org for a list of available resources.

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Local kids take part in Junior Olympics

Left to Right: Elizabeth Larsen, Kayla Vega, Nick Rebman, Adryna Lentino, Angelo Revil, Jack Cullotta, Sunny Ko, Timothy Lee, Kenny Nugyen and Gunil Ko. Not pictured are: Ashley Ziegler, Kate Zabat, and CJ Zabat.

(Courtesy photo)

A special elite team from the village, consisting of kids ages 7 to 14, was formed two years ago to begin training students in the Olympic sport of Taekwondo sparring. The training program for this team is very rigorous and is ongoing all year long.

The Team competed in the Junior Olympics June 28, through July 3, in Orlando, and performed extremely well at the National Level.

Scoring a gold medal in sparring this year was Kayla Vega. Sunny Ko placed in three events. Ko placed a gold in breaking, as well as a bronze in form and sparring. Elizabeth Larsen placed with a bronze medal in sparring. Timothy Lee placed in two events, with a bronze in both form and sparring. CJ Zabat achieved silver in forms, while Kate Zabat captured bronze in form, silver in breaking and bronze in sparring.

Glenbard North Little Panther Toddler Playgroup

is accepting registration for the 2010-2011 school year for our 18-36 months (1½ to 3 year old) Toddler Program. (Being potty-trained is not mandatory)

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For an enrollment packet, please call (630) 681-3194.