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Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Press Release

Mayor McCarthy Announces Home Buyer Workshops as part of his H.O.M.E.S. Program Classes Make It Easy for Home Buyers to Confidently Buy a Home in Schenectady

SCHENECTADY - Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy today kicked off the Home Ownership Made Easy in Schenectady (H.O.M.E.S.) Program season with the announcement of the first 2015 City-wide Open House on Sunday, February 22nd from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. and a series of workshops lead by Better Neighborhoods, Inc. (BNI) as part of the City's H.O.M.E.S. Program. The workshops will walk home buyers through the process of purchasing a home which some new home buyers find intimidating.

“Assisting people in achieving the American Dream of Homeownership has been a central part of my administration and Schenectady’s variety of housing options and opportunities available to prospective home buyers makes it a perfect choice,” said Mayor Gary McCarthy. “Home ownership plays a critical part in the long term economic stability of both individual families and communities. Through the H.O.M.E.S. Program we have helped many families achieve that dream and look forward to continuing that success in 2015.”

Over a series of three workshops, Better Neighborhoods, Inc (BNI) staff train home buyers how a home purchase works, including important topics such as:

- Understanding and improving your credit
- The costs of purchasing and owning a home
- Obtaining the funds to purchase a home (including available government assistance for first-time home buyers)
- The role of Realtors®, attorneys and lenders
- Selecting a home you can afford and how to manage a home once you’ve moved in

More

Better Neighborhoods, Inc. will offer these three-part workshops throughout the year, on the following dates:

March 2nd, 9th, and 16th
April 1st, 8th, & 15th
May 13th, 20th, & 27th
August 5th, 12th & 19th
October 21st, 28th, & November 11th

Workshops will be held at Emmanuel Friedens Church, 218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady, NY 12307 and cost \$50 for the three sessions. To reserve a seat, call 518-372-6469 or visit www.better-neighborhoods.org.

H.O.M.E.S. started out with 9 partners (Key Bank, Prudential Manor Homes, the Schenectady City School District, the Gazette, NBT Bank, U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Legere Restorations, SRG Architects and Open Stage Media) and continues to bring in additional partners (NBT Bank, Greater Capital District Association of Realtors, CDTA, Prospect Lending, Coldwell Banker, SONYMA, Trustco, The Home Depot, Creating Why Media, Capital District Community Loan Fund, NYSHCR, Schenectady County Habitat for Humanity, Community Land Trust of Schenectady, Better Neighborhoods Inc, Homestead Funding, M&T Bank). Prudential Manor Homes, the first real estate partner with the City of Schenectady's Key to the City and H.O.M.E.S program, is now operating as Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Blake. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices has grown rapidly since its launch 17 months ago, and now counts nearly 35,000 agents and 1,100 offices operating in 47 states. In its first year the network was named 2014 "Real Estate Agency Brand of the Year" by consumers in the 26th annual Harris Poll EquiTrend® study and "Startup of the Year" among all U.S. industries at the 2014 American Business Awards.

About BNI

BNI is a HUD-certified housing counseling agency located in Schenectady. The agency has provided housing counseling since 1973. In addition BNI is a not-for-profit low-income housing construction agency and has rehabbed and constructed hundreds of homes since its founding 49 years ago. BNI has homes for sale for low-moderate income buyers. Please check our web site.

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