
Press Release

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Friday, July 23, 2010

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COUNTY OFFERS FORECLOSURE PREVENTION DIRECTORY

Brochure Offers Comprehensive List Of Agencies To Assist Homeowners

The Burlington County Office of Consumer Affairs today announced it is distributing a comprehensive brochure offering advice to homeowners facing foreclosure and personal financial crises which could result in the loss of their homes.

An 11-page "Foreclosure Prevention Information Directory," offering an extensive listing of government and non-government agencies to assist homeowners, is being made available through various County offices and courts facilities, branch libraries, and non-profit organizations.

Since last year the County has held three mortgage foreclosure forums to assist homeowners who were struggling to stay in their homes. Freeholder Mary Ann O'Brien, who oversees Consumer Affairs, said the brochure was a direct outgrowth of the forums.

"The one thing we all learned is that so many homeowners are not aware of the agencies and wealth of assistance that may be available to them," said O'Brien. "This brochure pulls it all together."

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The first agency listed in the brochure is the Burlington County Office of Consumer Affairs, which has been assisting those consumers who have become victims of “scams” perpetrated by individuals who have wrongfully taken money on promises to save homes from foreclosure, who offer to provide mortgage payment assistance in exchange for a homeowner’s property deed, and/or offer refinancing from an unlicensed lender.

“We try to alert consumers to think before making payment on any offer, especially if it sounds too good to be true, because it probably isn’t true,” said Consumer Affairs Director Renee Borstad. “But you have to take it a step further when it comes to homeowners facing foreclosure – if someone is asking for money to help them save their home, it is highly likely this is a scam in the making.”

Information in the brochure was compiled by Yvonne Meli of Delran, a volunteer; Burlington County College designed and printed the directory, free of charge.

The County-sponsored forums, in Mount Laurel, Pemberton Township, and Westampton, were organized with assistance from the N.J. Superior Court, the N.J. Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Delaware Valley, and other agencies. Representatives of the agencies made presentations, and then fielded specific questions from homeowners.

Borstad said another forum would be held in the late summer/early fall. Those wishing to receive a copy of the directory by mail should contact Consumer Affairs at (609) 265-5054. It also can be viewed on-line by clicking [Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Directory](#)

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