



Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs

Evanston faces foreclosure crisis

<http://www.pioneerlocal.com/evanston/news/1223183,ev-foreclosures-101608-s1.article>

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Faced with an alarming rise in home foreclosures that threaten to destabilize neighborhoods, Evanston officials vowed Monday to redouble their efforts to link individual homeowners with resources that might enable them to restructure their payments and salvage their homes.

At the same time, the city plans to apply to the state or Cook County for a piece of some new federal money to rehabilitate blighted, foreclosed properties and perhaps head off or reverse neighborhood decline.

"It is fair to say that there are foreclosures occurring in every neighborhood in Evanston, but there are a couple of neighborhoods to the west where there is clustering," said Dennis Marino, interim director of community development.

A staff review of the Illinois Foreclosure Listing Service revealed that:

- In October and November alone, 36 more Evanston homes will be auctioned due to foreclosure;
- So far in 2008, lenders have initiated 176 foreclosure proceedings on Evanston properties; and
- Banks or other mortgage holders bought back 81 homes of borrowers who did not keep up with their mortgages in the first seven months of this year.

Door-to-door effort

The Evanston Foreclosure Prevention Task Force recently placed 1,000 door hangers with foreclosure prevention counseling information in both English and Spanish in neighborhoods of the 5th, 2nd and 8th wards that have been hardest hit by foreclosures.

"We need to continue to educate people that when they miss that first payment, that is when they need to call and try to get some help," said Alderman Delores Holmes, whose 5th Ward has the highest concentration of foreclosures and pre-foreclosures.

"After it goes to three payments, it is almost too late," Holmes said. "I hate to say that, but it really is."

Evanston's Health and Human Services Department is sponsoring a foreclosure prevention seminar from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 5 at the Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave.

Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs

works for housing justice through service and advocacy:

Homesharing ~ Foreclosure Prevention Counseling ~ Fair Housing Investigation
Housing Justice Education, Organizing & Advocacy ~ Landlord-Tenant Complaints

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