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## **NEIGHBORWORKS AMERICA FIGHTS LOAN MODIFICATION SCAMS DURING NATIONAL NEIGHBORWORKS WEEK**

*Hudson River Housing, Inc. to host informational Legislative Breakfast*

**Poughkeepsie, NY** – This week Hudson River Housing, Inc., our area’s local NeighborWorks organization, will fight loan modification scams in Dutchess County by hosting an informational legislative breakfast for staff members of local, state, and federal politicians. This loan scam event is just one of the more than 150 loan modification scam awareness events being held during national NeighborWorks® Week (June 5-12, 2010) to inform tens of thousands of homeowners on how to avoid and [report loan modification scams](#).

Hudson River Housing has invited the staff members of our local elected officials to learn more about our programs and services offered to combat loan modification scams, provide foreclosure prevention counseling, and provide emergency housing services to those in need. The breakfast will take place on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am at the NeighborWorks HomeOwnership Center of Dutchess County at 291 Mill Street in Poughkeepsie. The importance of educating local staff members was brought to our attention by Assemblyman Marcus Molinaro. As local staffers often answer the phone when constituents contact their representatives with housing issues, Hudson River Housing believes it is important to share with them information regarding how we may be able to provide direct assistance or referrals.

“It is a double tragedy when financially struggling homeowners pay for help in an effort to save their homes, only to fall further behind in their mortgage payments when no help is provided or the company disappears overnight. There is no need to pay anyone for help saving your home. Not only is this often illegal, but better services are available for free from highly trained foreclosure prevention counselors at NeighborWorks organizations and other non-profits throughout our region,” said Deborah Boatright, director, Northeast District of NeighborWorks America.

National [NeighborWorks® Week](#) – a time to celebrate vibrant, healthy and strong communities – is an ideal time for NeighborWorks organizations, which have worked so hard all year long to build communities and connect neighbors to neighbors, to take this stand.

“The events this week will help homeowners learn how to avoid and report mortgage modification scams, which will sustain and protect the dream of homeownership for thousands. Promoting, preparing and protecting long-term homeownership has been a NeighborWorks® Week tradition for 26 years,” said Ken Wade, CEO of NeighborWorks America.

In addition to mortgage modification scam prevention events nationwide, NeighborWorks® organizations also are holding traditional community celebrations and hands-on community building activities, including home repair and painting events, landscaping projects, and mural painting. These efforts, and those of NeighborWorks® Week events over the past 26 years, leave positive lasting legacies in participating communities all year round.

In addition to the Legislative Breakfast, Hudson River Housing is hosting three other NeighborWorks Week events:

- On Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> we are holding a clean-up of the Fall Kill Creek in collaboration with Clearwater as part of our Middle Main Revitalization initiative. Volunteers will help remove trash from the section of the creek that passes through the Middle Main neighborhood behind the Public Safety Building at 505 Main Street.
- On Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, we are hosting an annual community meeting for the Middle Main Revitalization initiative. This meeting will feature an interactive visioning session with attendees to help develop a plan for the Middle Main neighborhood going forward. The meeting will be held at El Dorado restaurant located at 380 Main Street in Poughkeepsie at 5:30pm.
- On Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, Hudson River Housing is cosponsoring the Community Preservation Corporation's Hudson Valley Main Street Summit. This free conference will include speakers from around the tri-state area on such topics as the role of colleges in downtown redevelopment and energy-efficiency incentives for Main Street properties.

NeighborWorks® Week is one of the country's largest volunteer programs. In 2009, more than [16,000 volunteers](#) worked to build better and strong communities.

News media that are interested in the National NeighborWorks Week events taking place this week should contact Elizabeth Celaya at (845) 454-5176 or [ecelaya@hudsonriverhousing.org](mailto:ecelaya@hudsonriverhousing.org). For more information about the Loan Modification Scam campaign, please visit [www.loanscamalert.org](http://www.loanscamalert.org).

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#### About Hudson River Housing, Inc.

Hudson River Housing (HRH) has substantial experience developing and managing affordable housing in the community. HRH was created in 1982 to address the emerging homeless problem in Dutchess County, and is now a large, multi-service provider of housing and other services to a wide range of populations. The expertise of Hudson River Housing is increasingly relied upon to inform local planning related to housing, community development and homelessness. Since its formation, Hudson River Housing has developed 37 affordable homeownership opportunities, nearly 300 apartments and 9 commercial spaces. For more information, please call (845) 454-5176 or visit [www.hudsonriverhousing.org](http://www.hudsonriverhousing.org).

#### About NeighborWorks® America

NeighborWorks® America creates opportunities for people to improve their lives and strengthen their communities by providing access to homeownership and to safe and affordable rental housing. Since 1991, we have assisted nearly 1.2 million low- to moderate-income families with their housing needs. Much of our success is achieved through our support of the NeighborWorks network — more than 235 community development organizations working in more than 4,400 urban, suburban and rural communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In the last five years, NeighborWorks organizations have generated more than \$15 billion in reinvestment in these communities. NeighborWorks America is the nation's leading trainer of community development and affordable housing professionals.

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