

Bedford-Stuyvesant Clarion
Newsletter of Community Board 3

Brenda Fryson, Chairperson
Community Board 3

Charlene Phillips
District Manager

Marty Markowitz
Brooklyn Borough President

Monthly Public Meeting of Community Board 3

Monday, March 3, 2008 — 7:00 P.M.

1368 Fulton Street, Lower Level, Community Room



TWO THREATS TO OUR PROPERTY ... THE DOUBLE WHAMMY
FIND OUT MORE AT THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING!

THERE ARE NOW TWO WAYS THAT A LIEN MAY BE PLACED ON THE DEBT YOU OWE.



NEW LIEN ON DELINQUENT WATER/SEWAGE CHARGES

- ▶ Are you up-to-date on your water and sewage charges?
If you have not paid your bills in more than one year, and/or you owe more than \$1,000, *you are at risk!*



RETURN OF THE LIEN ON PROPERTY TAXES

- ▶ Are you up-to-date on your real estate taxes?
If you are three years, or more, behind on your taxes, *you are at risk!*

YOU MAY BE EXCLUDED! If you fall into one of these categories, you are *excluded from the lien sale*

- ▶ Own a one family home
- ▶ Receiving the Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption [including Enhanced STAR] *
- ▶ Receiving the Disabled Homeowners Exemption*

*Turn the page to see how to apply for these exemptions. **DEADLINE: MARCH 15th**

WARNING: Although you may be excluded from the lien sale, you may be at risk of water turn-off at some point in the future if you do not make the effort to settle your bill.

DON'T DELAY --- GET THE HELP YOU NEED



HOW TO GET HELP FROM DEP THEY ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH YOU!!!

DEP has special incentive programs that **GREATLY REDUCE WHAT YOU OWE!**. However, you must go in to see one of their customer service representatives.

- ▶ **Payment Incentive Program I** – Available to owners of Single Family Homes
[Deadline was Feb. 21st, but try!]
- ▶ **Payment Incentive Program II** – Available to owners of Multi - Family Homes and Commercial Properties
[Deadline – April 22nd]

CONTACT DEP AT (718) 595-7000
VISIT THE BROOKLYN OFFICE AT 250 LIVINGSTON ST., 8TH FL.



HOW TO GET HELP FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE THEY ARE READY TO HELP!

Finance can assist with low down payments and installment agreements.

CONTACT FINANCE AT (211) 504-4039
VISIT THE BROOKLYN OFFICE AT 210 JORALEMON ST., 1ST FL.

[TURN THE PAGE FOR IMPORTANT DEADLINES --- MORE HELP --- MORE INFORMATION]

WHAT IS A LIEN? In New York City, the Department of Finance can sell the debt you owe (property taxes, water/sewage charges) to a private collection agency (lienholder). The lienholder will then attempt to collect the payments from you, including any interest and fees. After a specific length of time, the property can be sold (foreclosed), if the debt has not been settled.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

- ▶ The City Council passed new legislation that brought back the lien sale on property taxes
- ▶ That same legislation gave the Department of Environmental Protection the authority to conduct a "Stand Alone Lien Sale" in order to collect delinquent water and sewage charges.

ARE THERE TWO LIEN SALES?

No, this is a combined lien sale, conducted by the Department of Finance.

However, you must make *separate payment arrangements* if you owe both water/sewage charges and property taxes. You must **first** make an agreement with DEP *before* making arrangements with Finance.

WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

Several community organizations are standing by with counselors who can answer your questions, make calls for you, and assist with referrals.

PRATT AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL - (718) 522-2613

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF BEDFORD-STUYVESANT – (718) 919 - 2100

BRIDGE STREET DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – (718) 636-7596 X13

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT RESTORATION SINGLE STOP - (718) 636-6913

SCO/FAMILY DYNAMICS SINGLE STOP- (718) 919-1226

COME TO OUR ANNUAL OUTREACH SESSION

ON APRIL 23RD AT BOYS AND GIRLS H.S.

DEP and Finance personnel will be there to make payment arrangements, discuss your bill, and accept payments.

WHERE CAN I GO IF I AM NEARING FORECLOSURE, ON TOP OF THESE LIENS?

- ▶ DEP and FINANCE will work with you as much as possible. DEP also sponsors the SAFETY NET REFERRAL PROGRAM, which can put you in touch with a variety of agencies that can offer assistance.
- ▶ The community agencies listed above also have resources available.
- ▶ The New York City Comptroller has set up a Community Action Center that provides one-on-one assistance for those in danger of foreclosure. Call the Foreclosure Prevention Hotline at (212) 669-4600. The Center is located at 1 Centre St., Room 835, and is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR EXEMPTION PROGRAMS THAT WILL EXCLUDE ME FROM THE LIEN SALE?

The Senior Citizen Homeowner and the Disabled Homeowner Exemptions will exclude you from the lien sale (and also reduce your tax base – even if you are current with all of your payments. There is only one form to complete. It is called the EXEMPTION AND ABATEMENT APPLICATION FOR OWNERS.

- ▶ Pick up a form at Community Board 3, 1360 Fulton Street, or at any of the community agencies listed above.
- ▶ Print a copy from the Finance website: nyc.gov/finance. Not computer savvy? Ask someone to print the form for you.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|---|--|
| ▶ LIEN SALE | MAY 19TH |
| ▶ LAST DAY TO SETTLE ALL ACCOUNTS --- | MAY 16TH |
| ▶ LAST DAY TO APPLY FOR SENIOR, DISABLED EXEMPTIONS | MARCH 15TH |
| ▶ OUTREACH SESSION AT BOYS AND GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL | APRIL 23RD |
| - LOOK FOR THESE NOTICES IN THE MAIL FROM FINANCE AND DEP - | |
| ▶ 60 DAY NOTICE ... MARCH 17 TH | ▶ 30 DAY NOTICE ... APRIL 14 TH |
- You may also receive information in the mail from Bridge Street Development Corporation.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE ALERT! HEAP
Home Energy Assistance program

HEAP helps qualified senior citizen homeowners or tenants, and low-income families with their fuel and utility costs. YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR HEAP THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING IF:
 You meet income guidelines
 You are 60 years of age or older
 You are the head of household and receive Social Security Disability
 You live alone or with a spouse only and receive SI Code A
 Applications may be obtained in the Community Board Office

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If your building/home is heated with gas only, contact this program for Weatherization services such as boilers, windows, roofs, air sealing, doors, insulation of roof cavity and walls, refrigerators, and energy efficient lighting. www.dhrc.state.ny.us or 718-638-5705

BEWARE OF "LENDERS" WITH "GREAT OFFERS" AT YOUR DOOR
 Once the lien list is published, our community is targeted by dishonest business people who offer unrealistic deals to "help" you pay off your taxes or water bill. Don't be fooled! Watch out for our seniors and young people who have inherited the family house. They are the most vulnerable. This is the start of the predatory lending season!

AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR SALE

Home ownership does not have to be a "dream deferred".

From time to time, Community Board 3 will publish information about affordable homes that are for sale by our local, non-profit community development agencies. We want to reach out to our neighbors in public housing. **PASS THE WORD!**

HOME OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (First Time Home Buyers Only)
BRIDGE STREET DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Contact Tami Aikens 718-636-7596 Ext. 13
Home Ownership Counselor

1133 Bedford Ave.	323 Quincy St.	366 Quincy St.	205 Madison St.	201 Sumpter St.
1 Family Residential w/ Commercial Space Owners Unit 25% Down Payment \$550,000	2 Family Brownstone 3 story Bldg. 5% down payment \$550,000	1 Family Brownstone 2 story Bldg. 5% down payment \$435,000	2 Family Brick 4 story Bldg. 5% down payment \$560,000	2 Family Brick 2 story Bldg. 5% down payment \$540,000

TWO AND THREE FAMILY HOMES FOR SALE BY BEDFORD-STUYVESANT RESTORATION CORPORATION

The minimum household income starts at \$56,000 (subject to change), and, a minimum down payment of 5% of the sales price plus "closing costs" is also required.

For further information contact James E. Robinson at 718-399-8005 or via E-mail at tcgcon@aol.com

937 Gates Ave. Malcolm X / Patchen	297 Kosciuszko St. Tompkins / Throop	496 Monroe St. Lewis / Marcus Garvey	284 Nostrand Ave. Lafayette / Kosciuszko
New Construction—3 story 3 Family Brick 3—Two-bedroom Apts. Finished Cellar Income up to \$88,625 household per annum 5% down payment \$500,000	Gut Rehabilitation—3 story 2 Family Frame 3 bedroom duplex, owner unit Studio floor through, rental Unfinished Cellar Income up to \$70,900 household per annum 5% down payment \$375,000	Gut Rehabilitation—3 story 2 Family Brownstone 4 bedroom duplex—owner unit 1 bedroom floor through—rental Unfinished Cellar Income up to \$88,625 household per annum 5% down payment \$475,000	Gut Rehabilitation—3 story 2 Family Frame 2 bedroom duplex—owner unit 1 bedroom floor through—rental Unfinished Cellar Income up to \$70,900 household per annum 5% down payment \$375,000

CONDOMINIUM—491 Bainbridge Street—North West Corner of Saratoga Avenue [Gut Rehabilitation—3 Family Brick]

This advertisement is not an Offering. No Offering can be made until an Offering Plan is filed with the Department of Law of the State of New York. This advertisement is made pursuant to Cooperative Policy Statement No. 1 issued by the New York State Attorney General, File #CP07-0113

FIRST FLOOR	SECOND FLOOR	THIRD FLOOR
3 bedroom 1 parking space in attached garage Suggested monthly Maintenance \$620.00 Income up to \$116,985 household per annum \$427,915	2 bedroom 1 parking space in attached garage Suggested monthly maintenance \$492.00 Income up to \$88,625 household per annum \$354,250	2 bedroom Estimated monthly maintenance \$468.00 Income up to \$88,625 household per Annum \$327,000

FREE AND LOW-COST TAX PREPARATION RESOURCES

Sponsored by the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, the Coalition for the Improvement of Bedford-Stuyvesant, New York City Housing Authority, and Brooklyn Cooperative

THERE'S A LOCATION NEAR YOU — SPREAD THE WORD!

FREE TAX PREPARATION SITES

[ACCEPTING CLIENTS WHO MAKE UNDER \$40,000 WITH CHILDREN AND \$20,000 WITHOUT CHILDREN]

BLACK VETERANS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Location: 665 Willoughby Ave. (Throop and Marcus Garvey)
Days and Times: Tuesday-Thursday—9 a.m. -5 p.m.
By Appointment Call: (917) 671-1000

FOOD CHANGE

Location Restoration Plaza,
1368 Fulton St (New York and Brooklyn)
Days and Times: Monday—Friday—12 noon—7 p.m.
Closed all Mondays in March/April 4 and 11

ST. JOHN'S BREAD AND LIFE

Location: 75 Lewis Ave. (Willoughby and Hart)
Days and Times: Wednesday—5:30 p.m.—8 p.m.
Call (718) 574-0558, ext. 10 for information

LOW-COST TAX PREPARATION SITES

[ACCEPTING CLIENTS WHO MAKE UNDER \$40,000 WITH CHILDREN AND \$20,000 WITHOUT CHILDREN]

COST: \$10.00 OFF-PEAK—\$20.00 PEAK

MARCY HOUSES

Location: 582 Park Ave. (Nostrand and Marcy)
Days and Times: Wednesday—Friday—1 p.m.—8 p.m.
Saturday—10 a.m.—2 p.m.

307 TOMPKINS AVENUE (Lexington and Quincy)

Day and Time: Mondays—10 a.m.—7 p.m.

666 WILLOUGHBY AVE. (Throop and Marcus Garvey)

Day and Time: Tuesdays—1 p.m.—8 p.m.

1224 Bedford Ave. (corner of Hancock)

Dates: Sundays—March 2, 23, 30 and April 6 and 13

CB3 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mon	3rd	7:00pm Public Board Meeting
Tues	4th	6:30pm Civic Committee
Wed	5th	7:00pm Parks, Arts & Culture
Thurs	6th	6:30pm Health / Social Services 7:00pm Transportation Committee 828 Greene Avenue-Antioch Bapt. Ch. 7:30pm Consumer Services Committee
Mon	10th	6:30pm Landmarks
Tues	11th	6:00pm Economic Development 6:30pm EP/Sanitation
Wed	12th	6:15pm Housing/Land Use
Thurs	13th	6:00pm Education and Youth Services
Mon.	17th	7:00pm Executive Committee

Precinct Council Meetings

81st Precinct Community Council,
March 11, 2008, 7:00 PM

757 Monroe Street, P.S. 309 (Corner of Ralph Avenue)

79th Precinct Community Council
March 26, 2008, 7:00 PM

Brooklyn Job Corps. (Corner of Dekalb and Nostrand)

Launching of the Buy a Book for Macon Campaign!

Brooklyn Public Library's (BPL) Macon Library, located in Bedford-Stuyvesant, is currently under renovation and is scheduled to re-open in spring 2008. Buy a Book for Macon is a fundraising campaign to enhance the collection at the historic branch and support the establishment of BPL's first African American Heritage Center which will be housed at Macon. BPL needs your support for this campaign! Every dollar raised will be matched by the Independence Community Foundation.

To donate go to: www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/support/macon
or call 718-230-2738.

4TH Annual Book Drive and December 2007 through May 2008

Sponsored by
The Education Committee of Community Board 3
&
The Brownstoners of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Inc.

As in the three previous years, the Book Drive collects books for adults to be placed in the Parent-Coordinator's offices of our local schools.

Please bring all books to the Community Board Office ‡ 1360 Fulton Street, 2nd level, between 10:00 and 4:00pm

For Information

Please call the Community Board Office at 718/622-6601