



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 1, 2011**

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***VHDA'S FREE HOMEOWNERSHIP CLASS HELPS  
FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA IN JULY***

*Sign Up at [www.vhda.com/freeclass](http://www.vhda.com/freeclass) for In-Person  
or Online Classes at a Location Near You*

When Tara, a single mother living in Fredericksburg, VA, decided to buy her first home, the first step she took was taking a free first-time homebuyer class offered by VHDA. "The first-time homebuyer class prepared me to be a homebuyer by allowing me to get everything in order," she said. "I learned tons of information from VHDA's first time homebuyer class, including how to improve your credit score and to see if this was really a good decision for me or not. There's so much information to know when buying a home – without this class, I would have been lost."

Are you wondering how to navigate the home buying process but don't know where to begin? The Virginia Housing Development Authority and local nonprofits are offering free homeownership education classes throughout July 2011 in the Northern Virginia region. Also, National Homeownership Month is celebrated throughout the month of June to educate potential and existing homeowners in addition to encourage the benefits of owning and maintaining a home.

In addition to helping home buyers understand the home buying process, the completion of a homeownership education class is now required of all borrowers before applying for a VHDA home loan.

Attend one of the many free sessions below to learn about the advantages of homeownership.

**ALEXANDRIA**

- July 23, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at South County Center, 8350 Richmond Highway. For more information, contact 703-372-5440.

**VHDA Homeownership Education  
Class Topics**

- Personal Finance
- Credit Issues
- Role of Lenders
- Role of Real Estate Agents
- The Closing Process
- Home Inspection

***Sign up at [www.vhda.com/freeclass](http://www.vhda.com/freeclass)***

**- MORE -**

## **ARLINGTON**

- July 9, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Walter Reed Center, 2909 South 16th Street. For more information, contact Karen Serfis 703-527-3854.
- July 9, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Walter Reed Center (Spanish), 2909 South 16th Street. For more information, contact Ritha Gutierrez 703-527-3854. This class is taught exclusively in Spanish
- July 30, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Walter Reed Center, 2909 South 16th Street. For more information, contact Karen Serfis 703-527-3854.

## **FAIRFAX**

- July 23, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Northern VA Association of Realtors, 8407 Pennell Street, Lower Level Training Room. For more information, contact Song Hutchins 301-760-7636.

## **FALLS CHURCH**

- July 23, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Hispanic Committee of Virginia, 5827 Columbia Pike, Ste 200. For more information, contact Jhoanna Zurita 703-671-5666, ext. 16.

## **FREDERICKSBURG**

- July 16, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Bragg Hill Community Coalition, 400 Bragg Hill Drive. For more information, contact Phil Parr 240-274-7028.
- July 19, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and July 21, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Central Virginia Housing Coalition, 208 Hudgins Road. For more information, contact Brian Phelps 540-604-9943.

## **HERNDON**

- July 9, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Connections of Hope, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Suite 103. For more information, contact Laura Gutierrez-Cabrera 703-956-6722, ext. 110. This class is taught exclusively in Spanish
- July 23, 2011 from 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Connections of Hope, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Suite 103. For more information, contact Laura Gutierrez-Cabrera 703-956-6722, ext. 110.

## **MANASSAS**

- July 9, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Virginia Cooperative Extension, 8033 Ashton Ave, Suite 105. For more information, contact Terre Beopple 703-792-4765.

**- MORE -**

## **WOODBRI**

- July 16, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Ferlazzo Building, 15941 Donald Curtis Drive. For more information, contact Charlene Watkins-Byrd 703-580-8838.
- July 16, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Ferlazzo Building (VA Cooperative Extension), 15941 Donald Curtis Drive. For more information, contact Terre Boepple 703-792-4765.

For a complete listing of VHDA's Homeownership Classes, please visit [www.vhda.com/freeclass](http://www.vhda.com/freeclass). A complete listing is also available in Spanish at [www.clasegratisvhda.com](http://www.clasegratisvhda.com). Please call in advance to ensure homeownership classes have not been cancelled.

### **About VHDA**

VHDA is a self-supporting, not-for-profit organization created by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1972, to help Virginians attain quality, affordable housing. VHDA provides mortgages, primarily for first-time homebuyers and developers of quality rental housing. We use no state taxpayer dollars, but raise money in the capital markets to fund our loans. We also teach free homeownership classes, and help people with disabilities and the elderly make their homes more livable. VHDA works with lenders, developers, local governments, community service organizations and others to help put quality housing within the reach of every Virginian..

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