



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***VHDA'S FREE HOMEOWNERSHIP CLASS HELPS
FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS IN HAMPTON ROADS IN JUNE***

*Sign Up at 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 June 2011 in the Hampton Roads 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.

CHESAPEAKE

- June 4, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Greenbrier Library, 1214 Volvo Pkwy. For more information, contact DeAndrea Jones 757-831-8294.

**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

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- June 7, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and June 9, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Chesapeake RHA, 1468 S. Military Highway. For more information, contact Arthurine Peacock 757-233-6403. **You must attend both classes.**

HAMPTON

- June 6, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and June 7, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Hampton RHA, 1 South Armistead. For more information, contact Monique Jackson 757-727-1111. **You must attend both classes.**

NEWPORT NEWS

- June 7, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and June 9, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Clark Center, 392 Maple Avenue. For more information, contact Dorothy Buchanan 757-643-4086. **You must attend both classes.**

NORFOLK

- June 11, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Janef Library, 5900 E. Virginia Beach Boulevard #124. For more information, contact Yvonne Thompson 757-313-4673.
- June 14, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and June 16, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing, 201 Granby Street. For more information, contact Sydney Pettyford 757-314-4202. **You must attend both classes.**
- June 21, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and June 23, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at The Up Center, 222 West 19th Steet for more information, contact Jackie Cross 757-965-8657. **You must attend both classes.**
- June 23, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Little Creek Amphibious Base, 1450 D Street. For more information, contact Lisa Clark-Mary Spear-Dean Brassington 757-462-7563 **Open to valid military I.D. cardholders: Active duty personnel, reservists, National Guard, retirees, veterans and dependants.**

PORTSMOUTH

- June 11, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Effingham Plaza, 715 Madison Street. For more information, contact Wendy Hunter/Alita Thomas 757-391-2932.
- June 11, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Urban League of Hampton Roads, 3225 High Street. For more information, contact Ernest Rolland 757-627-0864

SUFFOLK

- June 18, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, 530 East Pinner Street. For more information, contact Sherri Wilson 757-539-2100.

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VIRGINIA BEACH

- June 6, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and June 8, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Beach Ford, 2717 Virginia Beach Boulevard. For more information, contact Robert Ashburner, Jr. 757-652-5851. **You must attend both classes.**
- June 14, 2011 from 5:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. and June 16, 2011 from 5:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. at Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation, 2400 Potters Road. For more information, contact Tanisha Davis 757-463-9516. **You must attend both classes.**
- June 15, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Oceana Naval Base, 1896 Laser Road, Suite 120 for more information, contact George Olsen 757-433-2912 **Open to valid military I.D. cardholders: Active duty personnel, reservists, National Guard, retirees, veterans and dependants.**
- June 18, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Beach Ford, 2717 Virginia Beach Boulevard. For more information, contact Robert Ashburner, Jr. 757-652-5851.
- June 21, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and June 23, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Beach Ford, 2717 Virginia Beach Boulevard. For more information, contact Robert Ashburner, Jr. 757-652-5851. **You must attend both classes.**
- June 18, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at NAACP Headquarters Office, 868 N. Newtown Road. For more information, contact Gayle Lynch 757-285-1205.

WILLIAMSBURG

- June 11, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Herron Payne Training & Marketing Center, 107 Bulifants Boulevard Suite D. For more information, contact Eilene Kondysar 757-250-3662.
- June 21, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and June 23, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at JCC Parks & Recreation Center, 5300 Palmer Lane, Suite 1A for more information, contact Caroline Rhodes 757-259-5340. **You must attend both classes.**

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

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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. Our mortgages are funded by bonds we issue, not state taxpayer dollars, and are available primarily for first-time homebuyers and developers of quality rental housing. 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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