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West Springfield Offering Free First-Time Homebuyers Classes & Home Rehab Panel

West Springfield, MA

West Springfield is offering a series of valuable resources to any current resident (or resident-to-be) seeking to make Westside their permanent home, or to improve upon their current home. On April 30, a panel on how to access grant funding for housing rehabilitation will be presented. In early May, Wayfinders will present a First Time Homebuyers Class. The Town encourages any interested residents to take part!

Age Friendly West Springfield, in conjunction with the Planning & Economic Development Department and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will present a panel discussing how to keep your home up to code and fully accessible to the whole family, utilizing public grant funding. This presentation on **Tuesday, April 30 at the West Springfield Public Library at 6 PM** is free, open to the public, and requires no background. Home Modification, Zoning and CDBG will be discussed.

The First Time Homebuyers class, facilitated by Way Finders, a nonprofit organization, will provide attendees with knowledge of how to navigate the tricky real estate system - including finding, financing, purchasing and maintaining a home. The two part class will take place at the **West Springfield Public Library on Saturday, May 11 at 9AM-2PM, and resume on May 18 from 9AM-2PM**. Way Finders is currently offering \$10,500 in down payment assistance for first time buyers.

"It's great that we are able to bring programs like this to the citizens of West Springfield. The more assistance we can provide potential residents the better," noted Mayor Reichelt when asked about the program. Current residents are invited to take part in the class for free, with proof of residency by providing a copy of their utility bill. Residents of other towns may attend this course for the regular \$50 rate.

This course is underwritten by the West Springfield Office of Community Development, with money from the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant, designed to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expand economic opportunities for low-and-moderate-income residents.

Those interested in the First Time Homebuyers class can get more information on the Way Finders website at www.wayfindersma.org/home-buyers, or by calling 413.233.1621 to register directly. Residents are asked to call to register in order to receive free tuition.

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More details on the First Time Homebuyers class or Housing Rehabilitation panel are available by contacting Carly Camossi, Outreach Coordinator for the Town of West Springfield at ccamossi@townofwestspringfield.org or 413.495.1844.