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## Local Briefs

[ Originally published on: Friday, May 02, 2008 ]

**Valley CDC offers free foreclosure help NORTHAMPTON - Valley Community Development Corporation is offering foreclosure-prevention counseling. This free, one-on-one counseling is available to homeowners throughout Hampshire County. There are no income restrictions.**

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The services are funded by a state budget allocation from the Massachusetts Division of Banks through the state Department of Housing and Community Development.

According to Michele Morris, homeownership director for Valley CDC, the service includes extensive counseling around debt management and budgeting. The organization will evaluate the homeowner's loan and explore options, including negotiating directly with the lender for loan modification, refinancing with other lenders, or selling the property.

While Valley CDC typically serves Easthampton, Northampton, Hadley and Amherst, the recent funding has allowed the organization to expand throughout Hampshire County and target the five communities with the highest rates of foreclosure in 2007, including Huntington, Ware, Granby, Belchertown and South Hadley.

For more information, contact Michele Morris at 586-5855, ext. 18, or email [mm@valleycdc.com](mailto:mm@valleycdc.com).

### Law firm relocates to Amherst

AMHERST - Sasson, Turnbull & Hoose, a longtime Springfield law firm, has moved its main office to 190 University Dr. in Amherst.

The firm's main office had been in downtown Springfield for the last 28 years, but is moving to the corner of Route 9 and University Drive to better serve its clients in Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire counties. The firm will keep a satellite

office in Springfield for its Hampden County clients. That office is located at 1145 Main St., Suite 508.

The new Amherst phone number is 253-3900.