

**North Mankato** – For the past 6 years the City of North Mankato has been involved in seeing home buyer education classes provided to persons who are considering moving on up in the housing arena, downsizing or those who are first time home buyers. It has worked with PAH Home Stretch in securing the Police Annex Community Room at 1001 Belgrade Avenue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 5:30-9:30pm. for two sessions offered as Part A and B of a statewide educational program.

PAH Home Stretch requires advance registration by calling 507-345-3029, to learn from housing experts about the entire home buying process. Using the latest information education is provided on getting credit ready, financing tools for single-family households, whether you should build or buy an existing home, information about the latest tools North Mankato can provide to households working with Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Also discussed in the role of the realtor, home inspector, what is needed to be able to close on a home, home maintenance. All the information is provided in a take home curriculum designed by the Home ownership Center in St. Paul.

As of August 1, a web site for PAH Home Stretch will be linked to the city of North Mankato, to give latest details to interested persons. This is courtesy of Midwest Wireless and Partners for Affordable Housing. The site domain is [www.homebuyerclass.org](http://www.homebuyerclass.org) provided by Voyageur Web.

In 2006-2007 the registration fee for attending the classes is \$10 per household payable at the first session to PAH Home Stretch. Additional classes are also scheduled in New Ulm, St. Peter, Fairmont, Blue Earth to best meet the participants time frame for attending the classes as the first step in the home buying process.