

NEWS

Zombie properties main focus at fight blight meeting

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City leaders in Little Falls are looking at new programs aimed at helping communities fight blight and in some cases, zombie properties which is a growing issue nationally and locally.

At Wednesday's fight blight meeting, city officials and community members came together at Benton Hall Academy to break down the problem and offer programs that are available to help.

The purpose of the presentations was to give people an overview of the greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank and explain the management, sale and refurbishment of zombie properties.

Little Falls isn't the only community trying to resolve the issue. Right here in Utica and in Rome, city law makers continue to battle zombie properties.

The Chief Enforcement Officer for Rome, Mark Domenico, said: "it's a problem that's common throughout upstate New York, throughout the entire state. A lot of it has to do with the financial ability of an owner to be able to invest into their buildings, to make them viable buildings. And then certainly with the mortgage crisis, that has caused a pretty significant amount of inventory that is distressed. So we're getting together to share some of the things that work in other communities and look at other opportunities and try and solve these problems."

After the presentation, there was a Q and A session, where people had the chance to address the presenters.

Also, Main Street First will hold a follow up meeting on March, 13 for those who want to find out what are the action-steps they can take to make their community a better place.

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