

BELDEN SANFORD A  
Form 4  
December 29, 2005

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
BELDEN SANFORD A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
COMMUNITY BANK SYSTEM  
INC [CBU]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
9 LYNACRES BLVD.  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/21/2005

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
President & Chief Executive Of

FAYETTEVILLE, NY 13066

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code V Amount (D) Price   |  |   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security | 2. Conversion or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|

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| (Instr. 3)      | Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8)<br>Code | Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title           | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of Shares |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Stock<br>Option | \$ 13.175                          | 12/21/2005       | D                  | 1,200  | 02/20/2003          | 02/20/2012         | Common<br>Stock | 1,200                               |
| Stock<br>Option | \$ 14.525                          | 12/21/2005       | A                  | 1,200  | 12/30/2005          | 02/20/2012         | Common<br>Stock | 1,200                               |
| Stock<br>Option | \$ 23.04                           | 12/21/2005       | A                  | 34,238   | 12/21/2005          | 12/21/2015         | Common<br>Stock | 34,238                              |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                 | Relationships |           |                                |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                        | Other |
| BELDEN SANFORD A<br>9 LYNACRES BLVD.<br>FAYETTEVILLE, NY 13066 | X             |           | President & Chief Executive Of |       |

## Signatures

Donna J. Drengel, as attorney-in-fact, pursuant to a power of attorney 12/29/2005

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The reporting person agreed to cancellation of an option granted to him on February 20, 2002, in exchange for a new option having a higher exercise price.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.