

# THE SOURCE



May/  
June 2009

Useful information for the residents  
of the Columbia and Cayce Housing Authorities

Vol. 19  
No. 3

## CHA Inducts Two Wall of Fame Honorees

CHA held the 22nd Annual Wall of Fame Ceremony Friday, April 17 at 11 a.m. in the Drew Wellness Center gym. Gordon English and Beverly Hart Pittman were honored for their dedicated community service and added to an impressive list of individuals who at one time received housing assistance from CHA. Willie Jeffries, former head football coach at S.C. State University, was the keynote speaker.

### Gordon English

A resident of Saxon Homes from 1969-1975, Gordon Alexander English has committed over 20 years of his career to community service.

After graduating from C.A. Johnson High School in 1975, English took the advice of his high school track and field coach and continued his education at Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C. In 1978, he graduated from Voorhees with a bachelor's degree in business and secured a job at Bank of America. From there, English went to work in the insurance business and retired after 20 years from Leon Jones Insurance Agency.

In an effort to reach out to troubled teens in the community, English became founder and CEO of Comprehensive Consulting Services, which assists youth and small businesses with development and growth.

As a dedicated community volunteer, English coordinates holiday food drives, helps young people find jobs, serves as a mentor through the S.C. Youth Advocacy Program and spends countless hours volunteering at the Lutheran Boys Home and Carolina Children's Home. He is an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and currently serves as the Polemarch of the



Columbia (S.C.) Alumnae Chapter.

English is married to the former Linda McCormick and has two children: Gordon Alexander English, II and Zetavia B. English.

### Beverly Hart Pittman

A resident of Saxon Homes from 1964-1971, Beverly Hart Pittman has dedicated her life to helping the youth of Columbia achieve their dreams through education.

A native of Columbia, Beverly Hart Pittman is the youngest of eight children born to the late Eva and Frank Hart, Jr. After graduating from C.A. Johnson High School in 1970, Pittman continued her education at Benedict College where she graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Since Pittman believed education was the passport to better opportunities, she then earned a master's degree in social work from the University of South Carolina.

Pittman is currently employed as director

of the Project H.O.P.E./Teen Health Center for the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. She is a founding member of Just 'Cause, president of the Ridgewood Foundation, Inc. and serves on advisory committees for the March of Dimes and Palmetto Healthy Start. In addition, Pittman has served as a faculty member at Benedict College, Midlands Technical College and Allen University.

In 2008, she and her husband, Dr. Ezell Pittman, established an endowed scholarship at Benedict College for a student who plans to major in social work and have committed to awarding a scholarship to a deserving CHA youth planning to attend college.

The Pittmans are the parents of Dimitri, Vernon, Tracey and Ralph, III; grandparents of Corey, Brittany, Frederick, Jr., Courtney, Alexandria, Jourdan and Austin; and great-grandparents of Ja'Nae, Jadah, Corey, Jr. and Camari.



## Executive Director's Message *Gilbert Walker*

*Summer is finally on the way! And this summer, there are a lot of opportunities for young people and adults to stay active, learn something new and possibly even earn a little money.*

*For youth, Columbia Housing Authority, the S.C. Employment Security Commission, as well as other organizations, have a number of open positions for summer work. This could be a great learning experience for young people, as well as a chance to earn some cash for back to school shopping. Look for more information in this newsletter, or check with your manager to learn how to apply.*

*There also are a lot of training classes available for adults this summer, many of which are listed in this newsletter. From Money Smart Training to Career Development Training, and even an opportunity to take the GED Placement Exam for free, adults have many options to stay busy this summer and improve the skills they need to either find permanent work or improve their current financial situation.*

*During May and June, CHA will be busy with many of our annual events. I hope to see everyone at the Beautification Awards Ceremony May 20 and the Education Awards Ceremony June 11. Contact the Resident Programs Department to learn how to participate in these programs.*

*I hope everyone stays active and enjoys the summer. Remember to stay out of the heat and drink lots of water to avoid heat-related illnesses.*

*Enjoy the beautiful weather!*

# Upcoming Events

## May

- 5 – Money Smart Training: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at The Cooperative Ministry; (Class 1 of 3 – Must also attend May 12 & 19 for certification); Call 799-3853, ext. 325 to register.
- 7 – Money Smart Training: 2 – 4 p.m. at Tillis Center; (Class 1 of 3 – Must also attend May 14 & 21 for certification); Call 254-3886, ext. 220 to register.
- 13 – Budget & Credit Class: 6 to 8 p.m. at Tillis Center
- 15 – Career Development Graduation: 10 a.m. at Tillis Center
- 18 – Residential Housekeeping Training: 10 a.m. to noon at Tillis Center
- 20 – Beautification Awards Ceremony: 5:30 p.m. at Tillis Center
  - Budget & Credit Class: 6 to 8 p.m. at Tillis Center
- 21 – Home & Yard Maintenance: 6 to 8 p.m. at Tech Services, 1915 Harden St.
- 25 – Memorial Day: CHA offices closed**

## June

- 11 – Education Awards Ceremony: 6 p.m. at Tillis Center
- 25 – Home & Yard Maintenance: 6 to 8 p.m. at Tech Services, 1915 Harden St.
- 27 – Homebuyer Class: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Tillis Center

# Community Club Meetings

## May

- 12 – Gonzales Gardens: 5:30 p.m., Community Room
  - Arrington Manor High Rise: 3 p.m., Community Room
- 18 – Latimer Manor: 5:30 p.m., Community Room
- 20 – Lewis Scott Court: 6 p.m., Community Room
- 21 – Oak Read High Rise: 3 p.m., Community Room
- 25 – REC Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Tillis Center
  - Marion Street High Rise: 3 p.m., Community Room

## June

- 9 – Gonzales Gardens: 5:30 p.m., Community Room
  - Arrington Manor High Rise: 3 p.m., Community Room
- 15 – Latimer Manor: 5:30 p.m., Community Room
- 17 – Lewis Scott Court: 6 p.m., Community Room
- 18 – Oak Read High Rise: 3 p.m., Community Room
- 22 – Marion Street High Rise: 3 p.m., Community Room
- 29 – REC Meeting: 5:30 p.m. at Tillis Center



Reasonable  
Accommodations  
Available Upon Request  
TDD: (803) 256-7762



---

# Important Information for You!

## Deadline May 15 to Apply for SYEP

All applications are due by 4:30 p.m. May 15 for the Summer Youth Employment Program. Information about open positions is available at CHA management offices, the CHA main office and on the CHA Web site at [www.chasc.org](http://www.chasc.org).

CHA will offer the Summer Youth Employment Program from June 10 to August 7, 2009.

This is a great opportunity for young people to learn how to work in a professional office environment and the importance of following standard workplace policies such as dress code, showing up on time, manners, time management, etc. Youth also will learn new skills, tour local colleges and create resumes that can be used in future job applications.

Only youth who can work during the entire eight-week program from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday need apply.

Other information:

- 11 full-time positions available
- \$7.25 per hour/ 40 hours per week
- Must be a rising high school senior currently enrolled in school
- Must be a CHA public housing or Section 8 resident
- Must be available to work the ENTIRE program – no exceptions
- Former SYEP participants are not eligible
- Participants must attend SYEP Orientation on June 9

**\*\*\*Additional positions may be available due to an increase in funding through the Federal Stimulus Package. Visit [www.chasc.org](http://www.chasc.org), or call the CHA Job Line at 254-3886, ext. 361 for the latest information.**

## Take GED Placement Exam for FREE

Do you feel your employment opportunities are limited because you do not have a GED or high school diploma? Have you always wanted to earn your GED, but haven't known how to get started? Then take advantage of this FREE opportunity and start the process of earning your GED today!

On June 16, CHA residents can take the GED Placement Exam for FREE at 2 p.m. at the Cecil Tillis Center. This exam is the first step to getting you enrolled in GED classes.

Take the first step today! Registration is required. Call 254-3886, ext. 220 to learn more.

## CHA Offers FREE Money Smart Training

Money Smart is a comprehensive financial education curriculum approved and designed by the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) to help individuals develop financial skills and build positive banking relationships.

Topics discussed include: establishing and building banking relationships, understanding and using credit, knowing your rights, budgeting, homeownership and more!

The Money Smart program consists of three classes, and CHA residents are required to attend ALL three classes in a series in order to receive a certificate of completion. There is no charge to participate.

Classes will be held at two locations this May:

- **The Cooperative Ministry** (3821 W. Beltline Blvd.) – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesdays May 5, 12 & 19. Call 799-3853, ext. 325 to register.
- **The Cecil Tillis Center** (2111 Simpkins Lane) – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays May 7, 14 & 21. Call 254-3886, ext. 220 to register.

## Scholarships Available

CHA will award \$100 scholarships to qualified CHA residents who have graduated from high school, college (2 or 4 years) or a GED program.

To apply, contact the CHA Resident Programs Department, at (803) 254-3886, ext. 344.

## CHA to Hold Awards Ceremony

CHA will hold the annual Education Achievement Awards Ceremony at 6 p.m. June 11, 2009 at the Cecil Tillis Center.

CHA youth and their parents are eligible to receive awards for academic achievement during the 2008-2009 school year.

For more information or to obtain an application, contact the Resident Programs Department at (803) 254-3886, ext. 344.

## CHA to Participate in Eastover Parade

The Annual Town of Eastover Parade will be held Saturday, May 2, 2009 at noon. The parade will begin at Webber Elementary School, 140 Webber School Road, and will proceed through the Town of Eastover.

CHA will decorate a float for the parade and plans to host a cookout afterwards at the Lower Richland Community Center. CHA residents and employees are invited.

## Beautification Awards Date Changed

The Beautification Awards Ceremony will be held May 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cecil Tillis Center, located at 2111 Simpkins Lane. The event previously was scheduled for May 19.

For more information, call your management office or 376-6153.



South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control

## New Project HOPE/ Teen Health Center Opens at Latimer Manor

On April 13, Project HOPE/Teen Health Center opened a new office at Latimer Manor to offer reproductive health programs to teens and their families.

The office, located in Apt. 13-5, will be open during after school hours throughout the school year and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. over the summer.

While the primary goal of the center is pregnancy prevention, the staff also will hold information sessions to address the educational, social and mental health of teens.

Teenage residents of Latimer Manor and neighboring communities are invited to suggest topics that they would like to see included in the center's programs and services.

In addition, teens can volunteer to serve as advisors to the center with Beverly Malone, manager of Latimer Manor.

Teen Health Center staff includes Beverly Hart Pittman, director; Cassandra Lindsay-Nesbitt, program coordinator; Lanita Sunshine Patterson, health educator; and James Marshall, program coordinator.

All programs and services are CONFIDENTIAL and FREE to teens between 13 and 19 years old.

The center is funded by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

For more information, or to learn how to participate in Teen Health Center programs, call Mrs. Pittman at 253-7521.

# CHA Holds Public Meeting on Future of Gonzales Gardens

On April 2, CHA held a public meeting at the Cecil Tillis Center for residents and neighborhood representatives to gain input about how to redevelop Gonzales Gardens.

At this time, there is no clear plan for redeveloping Gonzales Gardens, and CHA does not plan to start construction there anytime soon. CHA is in the early stages of talking about different ways the community could be redeveloped.

Over the next few months, CHA will hold a series of community meetings to hear what residents of Gonzales Gardens and nearby residents and businesses think should be built if the site is redeveloped. All residents of Gonzales Gardens are strongly encouraged to attend all the meetings and participate in the process.

CHA is working closely with Columbia City Councilman E.W. Cromartie, who is anxious to hear from the people who live in this neighborhood.

"This is an opportunity to hear from the community," said Councilman Cromartie. "I would like to see mixed-use affordable housing that blends with commercial development to make a real livable affordable community."

CHA Executive Director Gilbert Walker thinks input from residents and nearby neighbors is the key to having a successful new development.

"We hope that with community input, we can create a plan that will replace the existing structures with a modern, livable development that will improve the overall quality of life in the area," said Walker.

Located on 23 acres off Forest Drive in the heart of Columbia across from Providence Hospital, Gonzales Gardens is the largest public housing community in the Midlands. Built in 1939, the 280-unit complex was among the area's first public housing communities.



*John Skach, senior associate at Urban Collage, Inc., the firm engaged by CHA to lead a master planning process for possible revitalization of Gonzales Gardens, addresses the audience at the public meeting.*

# Balanced Eating on a Budget

Eating a balanced meal helps keep your body healthy. A “balanced” meal simply means eating the right amount of the right type of food.

Every meal should have at least one choice from each of these groups:

- **Grains and cereal** — At least half of these should be whole grain. Oats are a great choice!
- **Vegetables and Fruit** — Eat a variety of these everyday!
- **Dairy** — Try 1% or skim for a low-fat option.
- **Meat or Meat Substitute** — A portion of meat is about the size of your palm. For a balanced meal, eat less meat and load up on vegetables!

## One Week of Groceries for Under \$25

### What You Can Make

#### **Breakfast:**

##### Monday/Wednesday/Friday

- oatmeal, 1 egg, OJ (6 oz)

##### Tuesday/Thursday

- cereal, 1 egg, OJ (6 oz)

#### **Lunch:**

##### Monday/Wednesday/Friday

- egg sandwich, carrot sticks

##### Tuesday/Thursday

- peanut butter sandwich, broccoli florets

#### **Dinner:**

##### Monday/Wednesday/Friday

- beans (with 1/3 lb. hamburger), brown rice, collard greens

##### Tuesday/Thursday

- hamburger soup (with mixed vegetables), toast (2 slices), OJ (6 oz)

#### **Snacks:**

##### Divide Extra Food

- 4 eggs, 3 slices of bread, peanut butter, carrots and broccoli

### Shopping List

- 1 bunch of broccoli
- 1 bunch of collard greens
- 1 onion
- 1 pound of ground beef
- 1 can of store-brand oatmeal
- 1 small box whole grain cereal
- 1 bag of store-brand brown rice
- 1 dozen of store-brand medium Grade A eggs
- 1 can store-brand orange juice concentrate
- 1 bag of carrots
- 1 loaf of store-brand whole wheat bread
- 1 jar of store-brand peanut butter
- 1 bag of store-brand whole beans



## What's in a Balanced Meal?

### **Balanced Breakfast**

1/2 cup oatmeal with cinnamon and 2 tbsp. raisins

1 slice of whole wheat toast with peanut butter

1 small banana

1 cup 1% milk

1 tsp. margarine



### **Balanced Lunch**

2 slices wheat bread

2 oz. turkey breast

1 slice cheese

1 tbsp. low-calorie mayonnaise

1/2 cup corn

1 cup lettuce, top with canned tomatoes

1 cup canned fruit

2 tbsp. low-calorie salad dressing

### **Balanced Dinner**

2/3 cup rice

1 cup beans (dry or canned)

1 cup salad (leftover from lunch)

1 cup yogurt

2 tbsp. low-calorie salad dressing

### **Balanced Snack**

3 cups popcorn and 1 cup milk



## Did you know...

Meat substitutes are usually healthier and less expensive than meat?

### **What are meat substitutes?**

- Beans and Peas
- Nuts and Seeds
- Peanut Butter
- Eggs



### **Great meals without meat:**

- Pasta Salad
- Beans and Rice
- Chili with beans
- Grilled cheese (no butter)
- Egg white omelet
- Peanut butter sandwich
- Tomato soup
- Pasta with marinara

*Source: Rebecca Wrenn, MS, RD, LD  
Program Coordinator, Office Public Health  
Nutrition, S.C. Department of Health and  
Environmental Control (DHEC)*

## Freeze Credit Report to Prevent Identity Theft

The new Financial Identity Fraud and Identity Theft Protection Act (FIFITPA) enables consumers to place a security freeze on their credit report free of charge.

Placing a freeze will prevent anyone from accessing it without your permission, reducing the risk of identity theft. Freezing your credit will not affect your credit score or rating and is completely free of charge.

Consumers considering freezing their credit report will still enjoy fast access to their report. You can temporarily “thaw” or permanently remove the freeze at anytime, for any reason. Access to the report must be granted by the credit reporting agency within 15 minutes of your request.

To place a freeze on your credit report, you must contact ALL three of the credit reporting agencies (listed below) by either certified mail, telephone or through their Web site. Each agency has up to 10 days to provide you with a PIN to enable you to thaw or permanently lift the freeze as necessary.

### Equifax

Equifax Security Freeze  
P.O. Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
(800) 685-1111  
[www.freeze.equifax.com](http://www.freeze.equifax.com)

### Experian

P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
(800) 972-0322  
[www.experian.com/freeze](http://www.experian.com/freeze)

### Transunion

P.O. Box 6790  
Fullerton, CA 92834  
(888) 909-8872  
<https://annualcreditreport.transunion.com/fa/securityfreeze/landing>

To learn more, contact the S.C. Dept. of Consumer Affairs at (803) 734-4203, or online at [www.sconsumer.gov](http://www.sconsumer.gov).

*Source: S.C. Dept. of Consumer Affairs*

## Career Development Has Eight New Graduates



*Front (L-R): Sallie McDaniel, Wanda Phillips, Marche Harrison, Sara Emmanuel and Beverly Moyd. Back (L-R): Kimala Leverett, Corretta Cameron and Candra Cannon. Not shown: Beverly Jivers, who started a new job and could not attend. Congratulations to everyone!*

## Recycling Drop-Off Center Opens in Northeast

In an effort to make household recycling more convenient and simpler for residents, the Richland County Solid Waste Department has opened a new Recycling Drop-Off Center at 400 Powell Road, the first of its kind in the Northeast community. The official grand opening was held April 16 at the Powell Road site.

Residents can now drop off these items to be recycled:

- Glass
- Cardboard
- Newspaper
- Junk Mail
- Box Board/Cereal Boxes
- Bottles/Plastic Containers
- Steel & Aluminum Cans
- Motor Oil



Richland County hopes the new center will encourage residents to recycle household items that would eventually end up in a landfill.

Reducing landfill space saves Richland County thousands of dollars each year and increases the county’s continued effort to “Go Green.”

For more information, call the Richland County office of Public Information at (803) 576-2067.

# Section 8 Updates

## Change in Procedure for Updating Client Files

In order to better serve clients, the CHA Section 8 Department has made a few changes to their procedure for updating client files.

Clients should still contact their assigned caseworker first to schedule an appointment to discuss any requests or changes to their file. However, the Section 8 Department may schedule the client to meet with a different caseworker for their appointment.

By allowing clients to see a different caseworker, CHA hopes the process of updating client files will take less time. Therefore, clients should benefit from any changes earlier than they could with the previous system.

## Section 8 Caseworker Contact Information

Carrie Ballard	(803) 254-3886, ext. 239	cballard@chasc.org
Katrina Bridgette	(803) 254-3886, ext. 229	kbridgette@chasc.org
Wilda Courtland	(803) 254-3886, ext. 232	wcourtland@chasc.org
Maxine Donaldson	(803) 254-3886, ext. 263	mdonaldson@chasc.org
Valarie Hilton	(803) 254-3886, ext. 238	vhilton@chasc.org
Edwina Smith	(803) 254-3886, ext. 258	esmith@chasc.org
Nicole White	(803) 254-3886, ext. 244	nwhite@chasc.org
Jaqueline Wilson	(803) 254-3886, ext. 257	jwilson@chasc.org

## Things to Remember...

- It is important to keep your **reexamination appointments** with your caseworker. ALL adults (18 or older) in your household MUST attend.
- Make sure that you will be available for your **annual inspection**. If you know that you will not be there, make arrangements for someone 18 or older to be in the home. If you are in an apartment complex, contact your manager to see if they could let the inspector into the home for you. Regardless, call the inspector beforehand to tell him/her who will be there.
- If you know that you **cannot make ANY appointment** you have scheduled with the Section 8 Department, you need to call the person with whom you have an appointment **at least two days** in advance to reschedule.
- **Utility assistance checks** are mailed the first **business** day of the month. If you do not receive your check by the fifth (5th) business day, call your caseworker.
- When there is a **change in household income**, no rent change will be made until the caseworker has received all verified information to justify a change.
- When you give **notice to move**, but then decide not to move, you and the owner must notify your caseworker in writing of your approval to stay.
- When you receive an **eviction notice**, both you and the owner must notify the caseworker immediately and provide the caseworker with a copy of the notice.
- When your unit is **abated** for the owner not completing repairs, you may be required to move in order to continue receiving Section 8 rental assistance. If you decide not to leave the abated unit, your assistance will be terminated. Whether you decide to leave the abated unit or not, you are **still responsible for paying your portion** of the rent.

## Your Housing Assistance WILL BE Terminated If You...

- 1) Move out of the unit without informing your caseworker.
- 2) Fail to pay monies owed to CHA for unreported income or damages.
- 3) Engage in or threaten abusive or violent behavior toward CHA personnel.

## CHA Hosts Senior Blanket Drive

Last December, Cohen Cooke, Jr., a CHA Section 8 inspector, had an idea to host a Senior Blanket Drive to help older CHA residents in need.

Cooke asked CHA staff to donate new or slightly-used blankets that could be given to seniors to help them stay warm over the winter.

After only a few weeks, CHA had collected 17 blankets, all of which were distributed among senior Section 8 and public housing residents.

This was the first year that CHA had held a program like this, but the agency plans to hold it again in 2009. CHA hopes to collect many more blankets next winter to help as many seniors as possible.



*Willie Ruth Henderson (middle), a resident of Gonzales Gardens, accepts a blanket from Victoria Johnson (left), manager of Gonzales Gardens, and Cohen Cooke, Jr. (right), a CHA Section 8 inspector.*

## CHA Phone Directory

Work Orders	256-2091
Applications	254-3886 ext. 200
Section 8	254-3886 ext. 235
HOPE VI/FSS	254-3886 ext. 220
Fraud Hotline	252-8484
Security	254-3886 ext. 266
CHA Main Number	254-3886
Web Site	www.chasc.org



**Columbia Housing Authority**  
 1917 Harden Street  
 Columbia, SC 29204

**PRSRT STD**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**Paid**  
**Columbia, SC**  
**Permit No. 369**

*The Source* is a bi-monthly publication of the Columbia Housing Authority, Columbia, SC.

**CHA Board of Commissioners**

- Bobby D. Gist**, Chairperson
- Patrick J. Noble**, Chairperson-Elect
- Katheryn Bellfield**
- Arthur M. Bjontegard, Jr.**
- James A. Robertson**
- Kathleen G. Smith**
- Bessie Watson**

**Senior Management Staff**

- Gilbert Walker**  
Executive Director
- Doris Hill**  
Deputy Director for Assisted Housing
- Rosalia Moore**  
Deputy for Finance and Administration
- Julia Prater**  
Deputy for Affordable Housing and HOPE VI Coordinator
- Howard Thomas**  
Deputy for Housing and Facilities Management
- Nancy Stoudenmire**  
Director of Human Resources and Planning
- Angel Cruz**  
Director of Safety and Security
- Donna Gilbert**  
Director of Resident Programs
- Lindsay Hamrick**  
Media and Grants Coordinator

All CHA residents and staff are invited to send news items and photos to: Columbia Housing Authority, ATTN: Media and Grants Coordinator, 1917 Harden Street, Columbia, SC 29204 or e-mail lweathersbee@chasc.org. Submissions are subject to editing.

**Capital Improvement Update**

- **Completed:** Townhouses at Rosewood Hills are ready for occupancy; Rosewood Hills site construction work is complete;
- **Ongoing:** Current phase of single-family homes renovations; Rosewood Hills senior building construction continues; Dorrah-Randall building renovations in progress;
- **Upcoming:** Next phase of single-family homes; site work at Waverly Place.

**Columbia Work Orders**  
**February 5, 2009 - April 14, 2009**

Type of Work Order	# Received	# Completed	# Remaining
Emergency	5	5	0
Urgent	0	0	0
Vacant Apartment	202	192	46
Routine	1929	1886	308
Preventive Maintenance	1	1	0
Subcontract	19	17	2
HQS Do Work	567	550	16
Other	27	10	17
System	70	95	17
HQS Inspection	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2793</b>	<b>2746</b>	<b>389</b>