

*Government Update* is a quarterly publication of the Columbia Housing Authority, Columbia, South Carolina for the elected officials of Richland County and the City of Columbia, South Carolina.

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Please contact Ashley Elsasser at (803) 254-3886 ext. 225, or by email at [aelsasser@chasc.org](mailto:aelsasser@chasc.org).

#### Check us out on the web:

[www.chasc.org](http://www.chasc.org)

## Where did all the residents go?

There have been several questions recently about the relocation of residents from the Saxon and Hendley communities. Every resident from each of the communities was offered either a different apartment within the CHA's stock of apartments and homes or a Section 8 voucher that would enable them to find an apartment in the private market. Some residents did choose to leave assisted housing altogether, but the majority remained with the CHA.

Following are the breakdowns of what residents chose to do. The CHA continues to track the location of every resident that remained in CHA housing, both conventional and Section 8.

#### Hendley Homes:

- Total Number of Units: 299
- Total transfers within public housing: 89
- Total transfers from public housing to Section 8: 127
- Total move outs from public housing: 83

#### Saxon Homes:

- Total Number of Units: 400
- Total transfers within public housing: 162
- Total transfers from public housing to Section 8: 156
- Total move outs from public housing: 82

## Preparing for the Future

Residents from the former Saxon Homes community have been busy preparing for housing opportunities that will become available once construction of the new Celia Saxon Neighborhood is complete. Every resident that opted to remain in CHA housing has a case manager that assists him/her in enrolling in job training and educational programs.

Since the relocation of residents from Saxon was completed, 110 of them have enrolled in homeownership counseling and 50 have completed the entire homeownership counseling program. Seven of the families have purchased homes.

An important part of the HOPE VI program is assisting residents in obtaining job training, education, and employment. The HOPE VI staff has worked closely with former Saxon residents to accomplish the following (numbers are from the Third Quarter 2002 report submitted to HUD):

- 67 residents enrolled in job skills training programs
- 42 residents enrolled in the GED program
- 40 residents have participated in one of the CHA's counseling programs
- 12 residents found employment through the CHA's job placement assistance

The CHA will continue to work with former Saxon residents to help them achieve the goals they have set for themselves and their families, and to assist them in their efforts to end their dependence on government assistance.

# COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

# U · P · D · A · T · E

*A publication for the elected officials of Richland County and the City of Columbia, South Carolina.*

## In this issue:

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Preparing former Saxon residents for the future



[www.chasc.org](http://www.chasc.org)

## Construction on the Saxon Homes Site has begun!

Redevelopment of the Saxon Homes site off Harden Street became a reality in May as the Columbia Housing Authority (CHA) began digging the foundations for five of the ten elder cottages that will be constructed at the corner of Oak and Read Streets. The new units, which are the first to be constructed on the Saxon Homes site as part of HOPE VI revitalization, will house senior public housing residents (individuals over the age of 50) who were relocated from Saxon Homes prior to demolition.

Throughout the HOPE VI revitalization process, the CHA has given former Saxon residents the opportunity to voice their opinions. It was no different in the case of determining how occupants for the new cottages would be selected.

During a recent meeting of the senior residents who were relocated from Saxon Homes, a process to determine who would get the first opportunity to move into the cottages was agreed upon. After discussing several options, the seniors decided that occupancy of the new cottages would be determined by birth date. The oldest ten residents would move into the cottages first.



*Construction has begun on five of the ten elder cottages that will be built on the Saxon Homes site. The cottages are located on the corner of Oak and Read Streets.*

"It was wonderful to see such cooperation among our senior residents," said Gilbert Walker, CHA Executive Director. "There was a genuine concern that the older residents have the opportunity to live in the new

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community, and they worked together to find a solution that would accomplish that goal.”

### Timeline for the redevelopment of the Saxon Homes Site:

During the next year, there will be a substantial amount of construction activity on the Saxon Homes site.

**Fall 2003:** Begin construction on the infrastructure for the City's new wellness center and the lower portion of the Saxon site.

**Spring 2004:** Begin construction on 28 garden apartments and 11 duplexes on the lower portion of the Saxon site.

**Spring 2004:** Construction of the City's new Wellness Center begins.

**Spring 2004:** Construction of the homeownership units on the upper portion of the Saxon site begins.

**Spring 2005:** Begin construction of rental units on the upper portion of the Saxon site.

“It has been a long journey,” said Walker, “and there have been many challenges and issues to resolve along the way. However, we've worked closely with the City of Columbia and other organizations to move the project along, and we're beginning to see our efforts rewarded as units are built and families are relocated into the community.”

## Homes for Sale

The CHA has begun building five single-family homes off Barhamville and Waverly streets. These houses should be completed by the Fall of 2003, and are available for sale now.



For more information about these homes, please contact Julia Prater at (803) 254-3886 ext. 204.

## New and Improved. . .

For additional information about the CHA, check out our new and improved web site. The new site includes the following information:

- CHA Employee Directory
- Section 8 Vacancy listing
- Events Calendars
- Employment Opportunities
- Program Information
- Wall of Fame Information
- Information about our communities
- HOPE VI Revitalization Updates
- Annual Plan Information

Visit the new site today at:  
[www.chasc.org](http://www.chasc.org)

## HOPE VI Master Developer

The CHA has contracted with The Communities Group (TCG) to serve as Master Developer for the Celia Saxon Neighborhood. The new community will be constructed using HOPE VI monies that were awarded to the CHA.

TCG is a conglomeration of several businesses, each of which brings a specific set of skills to the project. They are:

- TCG Development Services, Developer
- Rodda Construction, Construction Management
- DESA, Inc., Construction Management
- Torti Gallas CHK, Master Planner
- Carlsten Pucciano & English, Inc., Architects
- McCreary/Snow, Architects
- Environ AgScience, Inc., Landscape Firm
- Chao Associates, Engineering Firm
- Volunteers of America of the Carolinas, Property Management
- Gary Realty Co., Homeownership Marketing

## CHA begins planning for the future of Hendley Homes

The CHA has begun the process of planning for the future of the former Hendley Homes site on Rosewood Drive. The process will be driven by several methods of community involvement including workshops, interviews and advisory teams.

The CHA has selected a team of consultants to facilitate the

planning process. Led by Urban Collage, Inc., the team includes the market analysis talents of Zimmerman/Volk Associates, the transportation expertise of URS Corporation, and the development counsel of Huntley and Associates.

The first community meeting was held on April 3 at Rosewood Elementary, and many concerned residents attended to learn more about the planning process. The next meeting has been scheduled for May 22. The location and time for the second meeting will be posted on the web at [www.chasc.org/cola/Hendley.htm](http://www.chasc.org/cola/Hendley.htm) closer to the meeting date.

### Timeline for the Hendley Homes planning process:

**May 22:** Next public meeting

**June 27:** Revitalization Concept Plan complete

**July 14:** Public meeting #3

**August 15:** Site Redevelopment Plan complete

**September 18:** Public meeting #4

**September 26:** Final Master Plan complete



The CHA is currently in the process of developing a master redevelopment plan for the Hendley Homes site.

## Former residents inducted into Wall of Fame

During the Sixteenth Annual Wall of Fame Ceremony on April 17, 2003, the Columbia Housing Authority (CHA) added three more former residents to its impressive list of inductees.

**Angela L. Stone**, a former resident of the CHA's Saxon Homes community, was inducted for her success in the music industry. In addition to releasing two successful albums, Stone has appeared in the movies “Hot Chicks” and “The Fighting Temptations” as well as commercials for Gap and Coca Cola. At the time of induction, she was preparing for her first appearance on Broadway in the well-known musical, “Chicago.”

**Colonel Walter L. Watson**, a former resident of the CHA's Saxon Homes community, was inducted for his impressive 25-year military career that spanned the globe and included assignments as a flight instructor, flight examiner and flight commander in tactical fighter and strategic reconnaissance squadrons. Currently, Watson serves as the Senior Aerospace Science Instructor for the C.A. Johnson High School Air Force Junior ROTC unit.

**Senator Kay Patterson**, a former resident of the CHA's Saxon Homes community, was inducted for his tireless service to the residents of South Carolina. In 1974, Patterson was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. He served as a Representative until 1985 when he was elected to the South Carolina Senate. Patterson has been a moving force in promoting and effecting change in the state of South Carolina.

“This year's inductees are excellent examples of what can be accomplished through hard work and determination, said Gilbert Walker, CHA Executive Director. “ They have all worked hard to succeed in their personal careers, yet they have never forgotten the communities they grew up in.”

