

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.

Visit us on the web:
www.chasc.org

■ Apply for CHA Housing Online!

The Columbia Housing Authority (CHA) now accepts applications for its conventional Public Housing units and its Homeownership Programs online. To apply, visit www.chasc.org.

For public housing: Click on "How to Apply." Then click "Conventional Housing."

For homeownership: Click on "Homeownership." Then click "Homes for Sale." Under the listings for each property or program, there is a link that allows you to apply for that program.

■ Update on Hendley Homes

The Columbia Housing Authority (CHA) continues to move forward with plans to redevelop the former Hendley Homes site off Rosewood Drive into Rosewood Hills, a new community featuring a variety of affordable and market rate homeownership and rental options. Although physical changes to the property have not begun, the CHA is working diligently to assemble the essential approvals and resources to make the new community a reality.

Following is a brief overview of what is going on:

- The Rosewood Hills site plan is being finalized.
- Infrastructure construction documents are being assembled, and the CHA hopes to begin soliciting bids from contractors by the first of December.
- Infrastructure construction is currently scheduled to begin in early 2005.

In addition to preparing for the physical construction of units, the CHA's HOPE VI/ Family Self-Sufficiency office is working hard to prepare former Hendley Homes families to return to the new Rosewood Hills community. To aid in this endeavor, the CHA hired Tyra Jefferson to serve as the Community and Supportive Services Case Manager for the residents who were relocated from Hendley Homes.

Since coming on board with the CHA in August, Jefferson has conducted in-home visits with 57 of the 131 families who still reside in CHA properties or CHA Voucher assisted units. Of the 57 families interviewed thus far, 40 have indicated an interest in returning to the new Rosewood Hills community. Nineteen of those 40 families hope to return as first time home buyers.

■ CHA Earns High-Performer Designation from HUD

The CHA was recently informed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that it had earned a Public Housing Assessment Score (PHAS) of 96 out of 100, making it a high-performing authority. The PHAS score evaluates five areas of a housing authority management: Maintenance and repair, communication, safety, services and appearance.

COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

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Celia Saxon Revitalization Continues to Progress

The Columbia Housing Authority's (CHA) efforts to transform the site of the former Saxon Homes public housing complex into a thriving, mixed-use, mixed-income community are well underway. Right away, passers-by will notice many changes, such as the construction of the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center. However, there are many not-so-obvious changes taking place on the site. Here's a brief overview of what's going on in the new Celia Saxon community.

- Infrastructure construction is approximately 40 percent complete. The CHA anticipates that this segment of the project will be completed by March 2005.
- Concrete pads for the multi-family buildings on the lower part of the site are being poured.
- Many of the roads and parking lots in the new community have been paved.
- The skeleton of the Charles R. Drew Wellness center is now visible from Harden Street. The City plans to complete the facility by Fall 2005.
- All of the elder cottages Oak Street and Elmwood Avenue have been completed and occupied.
- Six of the 93 single-family homes to be constructed in the Celia Saxon community are complete. Sales contracts are in hand for four of the 93 homes.

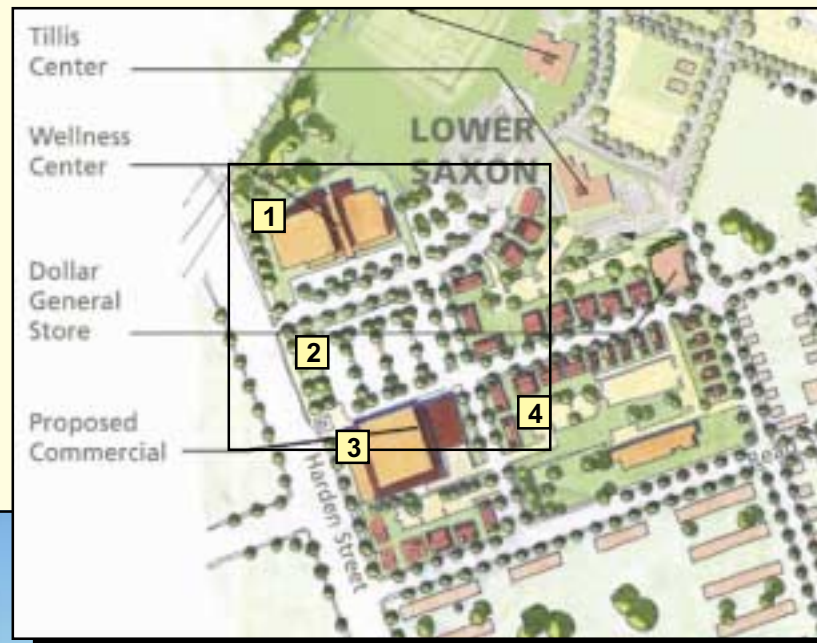
The Celia Saxon community is currently on schedule to be completed by June of 2006.



For a visual update on the progress being made at Celia Saxon, please see the inside pages of this newsletter.

Left: These five elder cottages along Oak Street are now occupied by senior residents who were relocated from Saxon Homes.

Celia Saxon: Putting the Pieces Together



Area 1: Construction on the City of Columbia's Charles R. Drew Wellness Center continues to progress. The City hopes to have the facility completed by Fall 2005.

Area 2: Parking area for the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

Area 3: Commercial/shopping area to be constructed by the CHA. The Authority hopes to begin construction on this project by Spring 2005.

Area 4: The multi-family buildings are under construction on the lower portion of the site. The CHA hopes to complete these units by late Spring 2005.



Area 5: Location of the CHA's Tillis Center. This facility is scheduled to undergo major renovations as part of the revitalization process.

Area 6: Current location of the Dollar General Store. Once the new commercial complex on Harden Street is complete, the CHA anticipates that the Dollar General will relocate to that site.

Area 7: Pads for the multi-family buildings to be constructed on the lower portion of the site. The CHA plans to complete these units by Spring 2005.

Area 8: Five of the 10 elder cottages constructed as part of the HOPE VI revitalization plan. All 10 of the cottages have been completed and are now occupied by former Saxon Homes residents.

