

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

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Columbia Housing Authority Recognized at CCHRCO Meeting

Six Columbia Housing Authority youth were awarded scholarships from Carolinas Council of Housing, Redevelopment and Codes Officials (CCHRCO) at their annual meeting in August. The agency also received a Human Service Award for their Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Training Program.

Scholarship Winners

CCHRCO awarded \$1,000 scholarships to the following CHA youth to use toward one year of tuition at the college of their choice. Selection was based on the student's grades, letters of recommendation, and an essay describing their future plans. All together, CHA scholarship winners had a 3.75 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

- **Salwa Adly** – attends Midlands Technical College
- **Jaded Brown** – Eau Claire graduate; attends Claflin University
- **Michael Cunningham** – C.A. Johnson graduate; attends Tuskegee University
- **Ebony Hall** – Eau Claire graduate; attends Midlands Technical College
- **Queshada Johnson** – Eau Claire graduate; attends Johnson & Wales University
- **Louis Moore** – Eau Claire graduate; attends Coastal Carolina University



Human Service Award

The Human Service Award is presented each year to just three housing authorities in North and South Carolina for developing an innovative and effective community program. The CNA Training Program is made possible through a public/private partnership between Palmetto Health and CHA. A certified instructor from Palmetto Health teaches participants the basic activities of patient care, while CHA provides space at the Cecil Tillis Center for the training classes.

The program prepares participants for employment in a variety of health care facilities, including hospitals, nursing homes and medical offices. In order to become a CNA, the State of South Carolina requires an individual complete 40 hours of both classroom and clinical training. However, CHA program provides 105 hours of classroom instruction and 70 hours of clinical experience to better prepare students for the challenges they will encounter in the workplace.

"At CHA, we encourage all of our residents to become self-sufficient, because we believe it will empower them to positively contribute to others in the community," said CHA Executive Director Gilbert Walker. "Thanks to the generous support of Palmetto Health, approximately 40 people can participate in the CNA Training Program each year."

In 1998, the CNA Training Program was created to satisfy a need for economic empowerment in CHA communities by providing residents with more job skills training programs, and also to address the shortage of certified nursing assistants in the area. After five successful years collaborating with Columbia Health Care Services and Richland County School District Two, CHA began its partnership with Palmetto Health in 2003.

COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

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Celia Saxon Health Center Holds Open House



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 ROSEWOOD HILLS


CELIA SAXON

CCHRCO
Annual Meeting:
Scholarships and
Awards Presented

On Oct. 3, Columbia Housing Authority and Palmetto Health celebrated the reopening of the 9,000-square-foot Celia Saxon Health Center, located at 2133 Walker Solomon Way near the Drew Wellness Center. The reopening continues a strong partnership between CHA and Palmetto Health and celebrates the center's 10th anniversary of offering healthcare services to the community.

The center's services were relocated for six months during an \$850,000 renovation project, funded by Celia Saxon HOPE VI grant money and funds from Palmetto Health. Improvements to the facility included major systems replacement such as electrical, plumbing and HVAC, new roof, windows, parking and exterior finish, as well as improved patient flow and confidentiality.

Preventative Care and Wellness Education are primary goals of the Health Center. Services include: physical exams, including pap smears and pregnancy testing; sports physicals; sick visits for adults and children; and treatment for most medical conditions, including asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure and sexually transmitted diseases.

The remodeled Health Center is the latest example of how CHA emphasizes the importance of healthy living. Just last month, CHA finished construction on a new walking trail next to the Drew Wellness Center, which a number of city residents are now using daily. CHA provides all new Celia Saxon residents with a free one year membership to the Wellness Center.



ROSEWOOD HILLS

WILL BLOOM NEXT SPRING

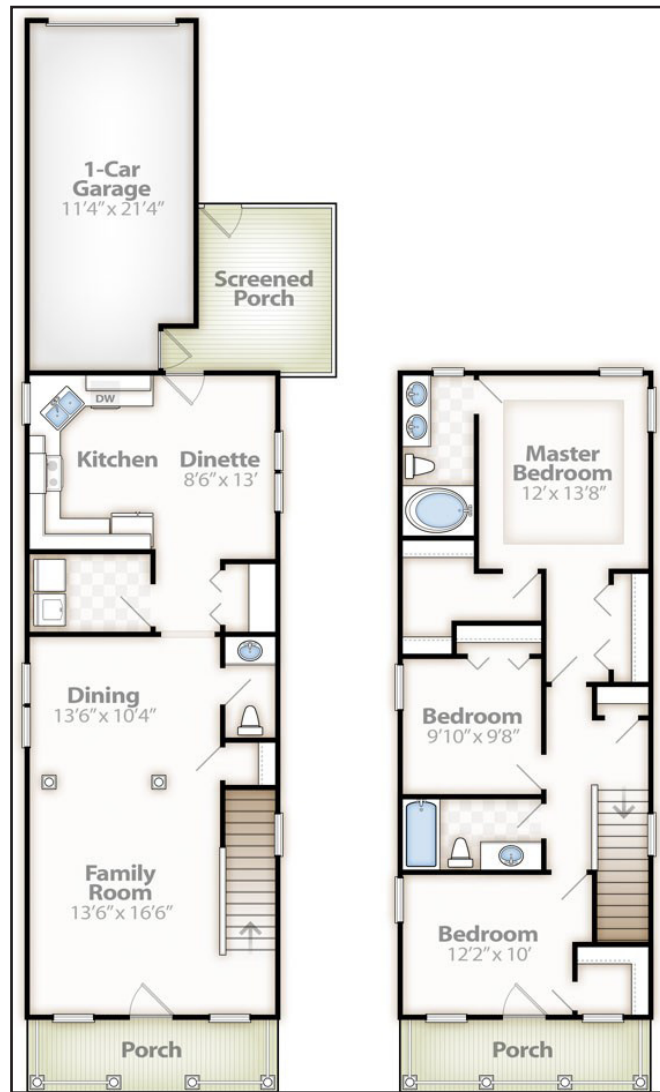
For the past few months, workers have been transforming the cleared lot where Hendley Homes once stood into the new Rosewood Hills development. The infrastructure contractor is installing storm water drainage systems, detention ponds, water and sewer lines, and underground utilities. In addition, crews will be laying out a new street grid that includes sidewalks, streets, curbs and gutters. While this list of projects may seem long, the Columbia Housing Authority expects the site work to be completed by early 2007. At that time, dwelling unit

construction will begin and the community will start to take shape.

Right now, CHA is working on the final details of the single-family home plans for the site. The new homes will be one or two stories, have three or four bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and range in size from 1,200 to 2,050 square feet. Other features will include hardi-plank and/or brick exterior, architectural shingles, 9-foot ceilings, rear-loaded garages, and screened-in rear porches.

A total of 187 single-family homes, town homes, apartments and duplexes will be built at Rosewood Hills. CHA has already received a lot of positive feedback from residents of Columbia and elsewhere about possibly moving into the neighborhood. To date, the agency has a list of 35 people who have expressed a strong interest in purchasing a new home in the development.

Below is a rendering of a two story, 1,656 square-foot home that will be built in Rosewood Hills. The floor plan for this home is on the left.



CELIA SAXON

CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETE

Columbia Housing Authority completed dwelling unit construction in Celia Saxon on June 30, 2006, concluding a 7 year redevelopment effort funded in part by a \$25.8 million HOPE VI Revitalization Grant for the Saxon Homes Community. The new neighborhood is located in the heart of Columbia's Federal Empowerment Zone.

The development has created opportunities for reinvestment in the community and reconnects formerly isolated public housing tenants with the surrounding neighborhood. Approximately \$3 million of the HOPE VI grant was dedicated to assisting residents in becoming economically self-sufficient and/or achieving homeownership either on site or in the surrounding neighborhood. Total investment in the new community exceeds \$60 million, and 89 former residents have moved back into the new community.

The first phase of construction was completed in 2003. Under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, 35 single-family homes were built off-site at the T.S. Martin site behind W.A. Perry Middle School.

On-site housing begins at the corner of Read and Harden Streets and continues North on Walker Solomon Way and Oak Street to Chestnut Street. It includes 164 rental apartments and town homes, and 93 single-family owner-occupied units. The single-family homes have been selling very well, and only 25 homes remain available for purchase to families whose incomes are within 80% of area median income.

Columbia Housing Authority is proud of what has been accomplished in Celia Saxon. The in-town community offers attractive and affordable housing, as well as a number of neighborhood amenities:

- **Charles R. Drew Wellness Center** - includes a natatorium, fitness equipment, walking track and gymnasium, and offers classes in health and wellness, swimming and personal training to promote healthy lifestyles
- **Cecil A. Tillis Center** - a training facility for job and career enhancement, including a full-service computer lab with wireless Internet access and homework assistance

- **Celia Saxon Health Center** - a partnership between Palmetto Health and Columbia Housing Authority to serve the health care needs of the community

- **First Tee Golf Facility** - a golf learning center whose mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing affordable learning facilities and education that promotes character development and life enhancing values through the game of golf

- **Drew Park** - includes a walking trail, gazebo and state-of-the-art playground equipment

- **FREE Wi-Fi Internet**

The Wi-Fi Zone

As part of the HOPE VI Revitalization Grant, CHA has constructed a Wi-Fi network in Celia Saxon to provide free Internet access to everyone in the community and surrounding area, including the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center and Allen Benedict Court. Celia Saxon is one of the first strictly residential Wi-Fi hotspots in Columbia, and CHA is proud to set the standard for other developments in the area.



A laptop or desktop computer with a wireless access card and Windows 2000 or Windows XP software is required to use this service. However, residents who do not own a computer can still access the Internet in the nearby Cecil Tillis Center computer lab Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"Free Internet access is yet another reason why people are choosing to purchase a home in Celia Saxon," said CHA Executive Director Gilbert Walker. "In addition to offering potential buyers affordable prices and the best opportunities for homeownership in Columbia, we have included a number of neighborhood services as well."