


Community News

1941 - 2015



Greensboro Housing Authority
74 Years of Excellence in Affordable Housing
www.gha-nc.org

The mission of the Greensboro Housing Authority is to provide safe, quality, affordable housing to low-income, elderly, and the disabled in the Greensboro Community; to maintain a safe and secure community environment; and to encourage personal responsibility and upward mobility of residents while maintaining the fiscal integrity of the agency.

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Little Free Libraries Dedicated



Children visit the Little Free Library at Smith Homes.

Perhaps you have seen them in your community - small wooden boxes shaped like little houses and filled with books. These are Little Free Libraries that have been placed in the Smith Homes, Riverbirch, Hampton Homes and Hickory Trails communities for the benefit of all Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) residents.

As part of Housing America Month, a dedication ceremony was held at Smith Homes in October to welcome the Little Free Libraries as a

new addition to the communities and to encourage residents, both youth and adult, to take advantage of the opportunity to have books available close to home. The ceremony included comments from GHA’s CEO Tina Akers Brown, Glenwood Library’s Youth Specialist Cynthia Dye, and Smith Home’s Resident Council President Gloria Rankin. “It’s a very simple idea – building a box and filling it with books – but it’s an idea that can make a huge difference in lives,” said Ms. Akers Brown. “No matter what our age, how much money we have, how strong we are, or where we live; books can be enjoyed by all of us.”



A child enjoys a book during the Little Free Library dedication.

Any individual or organization who would like to donate books are asked to contact GHA’s Resident Services at 336-303-3010.

Award of Excellence Received for Theater Program



The cast of "The Wiz", the latest production for the "It's Your Time to Shine" theater arts program

Greensboro Housing Authority was honored as an Award of Excellence winner by the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) at NAHRO's national conference in Los Angeles, CA. Each year NAHRO recognizes outstanding innovation and achievement in housing and community development programs throughout the country through the awards program which includes a Regional Award of Merit and the National Award of Excellence. GHA received the award in Program Innovation for its "It's Your Time to Shine" theater arts program.

With a mission to enhance the artistic qualities of our youth through education, imagination and creativity, youth ages five

to seventeen who live in GHA housing communities participated in the eight-week "It's Your Time to Shine" theater arts program during the summers of 2013-2015. The program provided youth from the public housing communities of Claremont Courts and Riverbirch with a platform to creatively express themselves, develop their talents, and to learn the skills needed to carry out a theater arts project to completion.

The youth committed to attend weekly rehearsals during the summer at the Claremont Courts Community Center. In addition to the time management needed to produce each play, the youth were taught the need for cooperation and the importance of supporting and working with each other. Through the hard work and discipline of these youth and their leaders, the four plays have been produced since 2013 - "You Look Ridiculous", "A Mixed-Up Fairy Tale", "Drug-Related: A Deadly Dream" and "The Wiz" - were a huge success. "The Wiz", the most recent play performed on August 19th at the Claremont Court Community Building, was made possible with funding from ArtsGreensboro and the NC Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.



Sheketa Jones and son Gerrod Springfield with car acquired from Wheels4Hope.

Wheels4Hope

Sheketa Jones, a GHA Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) participant since 2010, received a car from Wheels4Hope at Greensboro's Art of The Wheel Event on October 17th. Since being in the FSS program, Ms. Jones has received her high school diploma, obtained employment in the health care field and is currently moving forward with the goal of homeownership for her and her son.

Wheels4Hope is a faith-based, volunteer-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to helping low-income families and individuals by providing them reliable, affordable vehicles.

“What Home Means to Me” Winners

Winners of the annual “What Home Means to Me” poster contest were announced at the September celebration at the African American Atelier. Speakers for the event included Greensboro Mayor Nancy Vaughan; Eleanor Schaffner-Mosh, Deputy Director of ArtsGreensboro; GHA CEO Tina Akers Brown; LaShari Clemmons, Education Director of the African American Atelier; and Sabrina Abney, GHA’s Client Services Coordinator.

GHA winners include

1st place - Tatiyana Blakely, Aninah Blakely, Caniya Hall

2nd place - Essence Cooper, Alonzo Hall, Bianca Hall

3rd place - Tyrese Hardy, Joshua Bryant, Issabella Hayes

All winners received gift cards from GHA for their efforts.



Winning artwork shown above by Tatiyana Blakely, GHA’s 1st place high school winner and a winner in the SERC-NAHRO regional competition.

RAD Update

This is part of a series of articles to keep you informed about Greensboro Housing Authority’s (GHA’s) progress in converting our public housing communities to Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) housing.

RAD is a program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that seeks to preserve aging public housing communities through the leverage of public and private debt and equity in order to reinvest in the public housing stock. Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) applied and was approved to participate in the RAD program in December 2013.

RAD will allow GHA to convert its Public Housing units to Project-Based Section 8 vouchers. Through RAD, GHA will be able to take full ownership of its public housing units and renovate the housing using private sources of financing. This will allow GHA to do much needed repairs and improvements to our communities that have not been possible with HUD funding alone.



RAD renovations have begun at Hampton Homes including roof replacements and exterior painting of all apartments.

HUD provided initial approval on the RAD conversion for Claremont Courts, Hall Towers, Gateway Plaza, Hickory Trails, Lakespring, Abby Court, Woodland Village, and Foxworth. The planned improvements specified for each property are based on recommendations from residents, GHA’s 20-year Physical-Needs Assessment, and HUD’s required Project Capital Needs Assessment. The RAD conversions are scheduled for these properties within the next 60 days. GHA will send out further correspondence to residents with detailed information on the scheduled renovations and information related to the upcoming RAD conversions for the aforementioned properties in the next 30 days.

GHA is working with HUD and our financing team to obtain the necessary financing to renovate Claremont Courts and Hall Towers, which are scheduled to occur in the next 30 days. The planned renovations for Claremont include floor replacements, doors, new painting, bathroom and kitchen water fixtures; the replacement of worn stair treads and water heaters; the installation of upgraded dryer connections, electrical outlets and switches, and smoke detectors; plumbing improvements; and site and playground surface enhancements. Renovations are planned to start by the end of 2015. As for Hall Towers, the planned renovations consist of interior cabinet replacements, new smoke detectors, multipurpose room and common area improvements to include painting, renovations, new mechanical systems in the common area, and multipurpose room improvements.

COMMUNITY NEWS

A publication of the
Greensboro Housing Authority

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Property Management Region 1
Claremont Courts · Woodberry Run ·
Laurel Oaks · Foxworth · Lakespring Ct.
274-3491

Property Management Region 2
Hampton Homes · Hickory Trails ·
Woodland Village
274-3236 · 297-2114

Property Management Region 3
Smith Homes · Abby Court
273-3688

Property Management Region 4
Ray Warren Homes · Applewood ·
Silverbriar · Riverbirch · Pear Leaf
275-6995

Property Management Region 5
Gateway Plaza · Hall Towers ·
Stoneridge
275-9892 · 272-7869

Housing Choice Voucher Program
Family Self Sufficiency · Homeownership
303-3079 · 271-2546

Public Housing Family Self Sufficiency
303-3003 · 303-3009

Resident Services
336-303-3010

GHA Maintenance Emergencies
272-4137 (Primary #)
(Secondary 336-659-3050 - Call only if
primary # is not operating)



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(l to r) Hall Towers' residents Elnora Holmes and Lucille Rucker feed a giraffe during a trip to the Lazy Five Ranch in Mooresville. The senior trip, which was held on September 14th, was sponsored by Senior Resources of Guilford.