

## Stoneridge Upgrade Complete



*(l to r) Mayor William H. Knight, City Council Member Trudy Wade, GHA Commissioner Nancy Hunter, City Council Member Mary Rakestraw, GHA Chief Executive Officer Tina Akers Brown and HUD Director Michael A. Williams cut the ribbon opening the new Stoneridge Community Center.*

Officials from the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) joined Greensboro city officials to help GHA officially open a new Community Center at the Stoneridge community in November.

The new Center provides 1,650-sq.ft of handicap-accessible meeting space, a kitchen and activity room for resident functions, office space for property and case management as well as space for a Wellness Clinic. It's the first GHA facility to be constructed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification standards.

Three of the community's 50 two-story apartments were modified to single-story handicap-accessible units as part of the project. In addition, all apartments received chair lifts, alarm systems, new kitchen and bathroom tile, upgraded electrical systems and new roofs.

The work was financed through a \$1.4 million Elderly / Disabled American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant, coupled with GHA reserves and capital funds.

Acquired in 1978, Stoneridge was built prior to Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards requirements.

## Want to Join the Girl Scouts?

The Girl Scouts, always a fun and valuable experience for young girls ages 5 to 17, have active troops meeting weekly at several GHA communities.

Here's an up-to-date list: Hickory Trails, Thursdays at 5:30 pm; Hampton Homes, Wednesdays

at 5:30 pm; Ray Warren Homes, Tuesdays at 3 pm; Smith Homes, Thursdays at 3 pm and Laurel Oaks, Tuesdays at 3 pm.

For more information, please contact Debra Julian of the Carolina Peaks to Piedmont Girl Scout Council at (336) 274-8491 ext 3128.

# Resident Council Presidents Celebrate the Season

Resident Council Presidents were honored "for the wonderful work they do" at a special luncheon during their December meeting at Willow Oaks.

Chief Executive Officer Tina Akers Brown told the group: "Keep doing what you are doing, because it works."

Each Council President has a special "wish" for their communities in 2012:

*Our plans are to help parents keep their children safe by working closely with the Boys and Girls Club, providing workshops at our Resident Council meetings and offering activities at Smith Homes for our community's children.*

Gloria Rankin  
Smith Homes

*I am wishing for more community involvement at Hickory Trails and, once we get the community library and tutoring center going, having the residents join together in building a strong community. I personally believe Hickory Trails is a strong community of people who want a better life and, hopefully, this can be achieved one person at a time.*

Donna Gilmer  
Hickory Trails

*Having GED classes held in Claremont Courts, family involvement in programs from beginning to end, and working with community resources (Thriving At Three, Parents As Teachers, Library, Reading Connections etc.) to assure everyone is being served.*

Charlene Washington  
Claremont Courts

*For the Applewood Community I would like to be able to put some board games for all ages in the community building for residents to use, come together and enjoy one another.*

Pamela Stimpson  
Applewood

*I wish for more pride in our community for Gateway Plaza.*

Josephine Chavis  
Gateway Plaza

*More resident activities and resident community meetings are the hope for Silverbriar.*

Erika Posey  
Silverbriar



RESIDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENTS - Erika Posey (left), Carolyn Coleman, Linda Sumner, Josephine Chavis, L'Donna Gilmer and Gloria Rankin.

## Greensboro Housing Authority 2011 Resident Council Presidents

ABBY COURT  
DeVron M. McCreary

PEAR LEAF  
Valerie Smith

APPLEWOOD  
Pamela Stimpson

RAY WARREN  
Linda Sumner

CLAREMONT COURTS  
Charlene Washington

RIVER BIRCH  
Carolyn Coleman

FOXWORTH  
Adrienne Jenkins

SILVER BRIAR  
Erika Posey

GATEWAY  
Josephine Chavis

SMITH HOMES  
Gloria Rankin

HALL TOWERS  
Gracie Wilson

STONERIDGE  
Phaysal Ross

HAMPTON HOMES  
Annie Driffin

HICKORY TRAILS  
Le'Donna Gilmer

*My wish is to have more activities for the children living in the Hampton Homes community.*

Annie Driffin  
Hampton Homes

*Our goal for Riverbriar is to have our residents think more in terms of living in a community and taking pride in that community.*

Carolyn Coleman  
Riverbriar

## Three GHA Students Win National Poster Contest

Three GHA youth, two high school students and a middle schooler, have been named winners in the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials' "Housing America" poster contest.

It's the second straight year that GHA has had a national winner. All three posters will be included in NAHRO's 2012 Housing America Calendar.

Working on the theme, "What Home Means to Me," 12-year-old Symeon Davis of Hampton Homes won for the second straight year, joining 14-year-old Alexis Pemberton of Riverbirch and 17-year-old Shaquill Woodberry of Hickory Trails.

The three winners were among 40 entries in GHA's local contest. After joining several others in winning locally, the posters went on to the state contest sponsored by the Carolinas Council of Housing, Redevelopment and Codes Officials (CCHRCO), and all three won there, too, then went on to win at the national level.

All the local winners were displayed in an "Art Gallery" at the Willow Oaks Community Center.



**NATIONAL WINNERS** - Posters winning the national contest are the artwork of Alexis Pemberton (top right), Shaquill Woodberry (top left) and Symeon Davis (left) who won for the second straight year. They will appear in the 2012 NAHRO calendar.

## Mothers Learn and Talk About the Dangers of Smoking

- Smoking is the top cause of preventable death in America.
- Second-hand smoke is the third highest cause of preventable death.
- For every eight smokers who die from smoking in America, an innocent bystander also dies.

Those are some of the grim statistics smoking mothers learned at this year's "Great American Smoke Out" program held at Claremont Courts Nov. 17.

Leslie McLean of Alcohol & Drug Services, invited to speak at the program by Greensboro's "Thriving at Three (TAT)" group, also told the mothers, all members of TAT, about the dangers that smoking poses to the



**DANGEROUS** - Leslie McLean of Alcohol & Drug Services speaks on the dangers of smoking at the Great American Smoke Out at Claremont Courts

heart, lungs, skin, immune system and brain of the smoker as well as any young children in the household. She asked the group to seek out support systems to help them quit—for their children's sake.

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Woodberry Run • Lakespring Court  
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274-3491

Property Region II  
Hampton Homes • Hickory Trails • Woodland Village  
Abby Court  
274-3236 • 297-2114

Property Region III  
Smith Homes  
273-3688

Property Region IV  
Pear Leaf • Ray Warren,  
Laurel Oaks • Silverbriar • Riverburch • Foxworth  
275-6995

Property Region V  
Gateway Plaza • Hall Towers • Stoneridge  
275-9892 • 272-7869

Housing Choice Voucher  
Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) / Homeownership  
303-3079 • 271-2546

Public Housing - FSS  
Resident Opportunities and Self Sufficiency (ROSS)  
303-3034 • 303-3009

Public Housing Homeownership  
303-3002

Resident Services  
370-4380

Youth Services  
303-3225

GHA Maintenance Emergencies  
272-4137

Ambulance / Rescue / Fire / Police  
911

Crime Stoppers  
373-1000

Police Non-Emergency  
373-2222

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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## How to Reduce Utility Costs

Utility bills for gas and electricity typically rise during the cold winter months, which can put a strain on household expenses.

But, GHA's Operations Department has some tips that can help residents hold down costs while maintaining comfort.

- Lower your thermostat temperature to the lowest comfortable setting. You may save as much as 3 percent on energy bills for each degree you lower your thermostat. Reduce your thermostat setting at night and/or when you are away.

- Keep the outdoor units clear of grass, leaves, trash, clothing articles and toys.

- Keep all heating outlets and return-air grills free from obstructions, such as draperies, furniture or rugs. Clean these vents regularly with a vacuum or broom. Cleaning the vents is the responsibility of the resident.

- Keep all windows and doors located near your thermostat closed tightly.

- Keep draperies and shades open on sunny days but closed on cloudy days

and at night.

- Keep heat sources, such as lamps, away from the thermostat.

- Keep refrigerator motor and coils clean and unobstructed.

- Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.

- Keep range-top burner and reflectors clean; they will reflect the heat better and save energy.

- Wash your clothes in cold water whenever possible. Laundry detergents, not the water temperature, whiten your clothes.

- Clean the lint filter after every dryer load. Clothes will dry faster and you will save energy and reduce the potential of a fire caused by lint buildup.

- Wash full laundry loads, rather than washing multiple small loads. You'll save water, detergent and energy.

Remember, residents are required to maintain utilities to avoid weather-related damage to units, such as frozen pipes.