



Community News

A Quarterly Publication of the Greensboro Housing Authority

Fall 2011

“What Home Means to Me”

A dozen youth in three age categories from GHA communities all across Greensboro have been named local winners in the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials’ “Housing America” Poster Contest.

The winners include 13-year-old Symeon Davis, a middle school student from Hampton Homes, who was a national winner last year and had his poster included in NAHRO’s 2011 Housing America Calendar.

This year’s first-place local winners are: Vasean Morehead, an elementary student from Smith Homes; Symeon; and Imani Upsher, a high school student from Riverbirch.

Second-place winners are: Myrical Sumner, an elementary school student from Ray Warren; Saskia Donnell, a middle school student from Riverbirch and Shaquill Woodberry, a high school student from Hickory Trails.

Third-place winners are: Jahyra Davis, an elementary school student from Laurel Oaks; Serenity Johnson, a middle school student from Ray Warren and Alexis Pemberton, a high school student from Riverbirch.

Receiving honorable mentions are: Nakia McDonald, an elementary school student from the Housing Choice Voucher Program; Kayla Pemberton, a middle school student from Riverbirch and Khadijah Blakely, a high school student from Hampton Homes.

The theme of the competition was “What Home Means to Me.” Eight of the local winners will go on to the national competition.



WINNERS - Chief Executive Officer Tina Akers Brown (top) joined six of the poster winners at a gallery show at the Willow Oaks Community Center; students work on posters (right) during one of the Art Workshops held at Riverbirch, Hampton Homes, Smith Homes, Laurel Oaks, Ray Warren Homes and Hickory Trails; this year’s poster (bottom) from last year’s national winner Symeon Davis, a Hampton Homes middle schooler, is extremely colorful.



It was a Wonderful Summer



SUMMER FUN - (Top) Children in the "First Tee of the Triad" attended practice rounds at the Wyndham Championship; the GHA Events Committee, working with employees, raised money to purchase 91 book bags for children living at Baylor Court and Woodberry Run; GHA provided free scholarships for residents of both public housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs throughout the city. Scholarships were awarded to Camp Weaver, NC A&T Basketball Camp, Camp Anytown and Greensboro Parks and Recreation. (Bottom) Lunch was served four days a week throughout the summer for children at Ray Warren Homes, Smith Homes, Hickory Trails and Claremont Courts; Participants from GHA's "BUCKY" program conducted comparison shopping this summer as part of their school supply challenge to make the most reasonable decision on how to spend their money wisely. Program funds were supplied by the Future Fund grant and GHA; Teens in the "youth designed" Operation Smart Choices program were hard at work on a new theatrical play called "2GETHER WE STAND" about a community working together to save local businesses.

Crisis Assistance Available from Salvation Army

The Salvation Army, through partnerships with other agencies and organizations, is offering emergency help, including financial assistance, to those facing a crisis, including GHA residents.

In addition to basic needs--such as food, shelter and clothing, the agency also offers rent or mortgage assistance, utility payments to prevent disconnection or for reconnection and other assistance on a case-by-case basis. Services are available through their Crisis Hotline at 235-0368.

The agency's Center of Hope also provides a federally-funded "Crisis Intervention Program" that helps low-income families with young children under six years of age and the elderly or disabled with their utility bills on an emergency basis. The program aims at reducing the risk of health and safety problems, illness or eviction.

Hotline callers can get assistance in Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Bangla, Creole, Farsi, French, Hindi, Korean, Punjabi, Somali, Urdu and English.

The new service went into effect in July.

“National Night Out” Brings Community Together



COMMUNITY FUN - Residents came out in droves for National Night Out, eating all sorts of great food (top row) and visiting with each other. Three-year-old Jazion Roseboro, daughter of Chasity Roseboro, loved the GHA fan, while GHA Intake Specialist Darren McGill entertained the youth as “The Cat in the Hat.” Charles Peoples (second row) was grilling again, explaining that “It’s a community thing.” Firemen D.J. Flash (Michael Zimmerman) showed off the firetruck, while (third row) his buddy Blisters (Jeff Pritchett) entertained the youth. Police mingled with the crowds during the evening as Unique Harrison rode around on a bike he won in a raffle at Hampton Homes. Claremont Courts, Gateway Plaza, Hampton Homes, Hickory Trails, Riverbirch, Stoneridge, Smith Homes and Ray Warren Homes joined more than 100 neighborhoods throughout the city and an estimated 40 million people around the country in the observance of NNO.

How to Get Help with SAT/ACT Test Costs

High school juniors and seniors who receive free or reduced lunch or participate in the Upward Bound program are eligible to receive up to two fee waivers for SAT and ACT testing for college.

They’re also eligible for up to four fee waivers for applications to colleges and universities.

That’s a big savings since the tests can cost up to \$49 each and college applications can cost up to \$75 each.

For more details, please visit your high school counselor or contact GHA Resident Services Coordinator Marilyn Smith at 336-303-3010.

COMMUNITY NEWS is a publication of
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Assisted Housing Office
271-3368

Property Region I
Applewood • Claremont Courts,
Woodberry Run • Lakespring Court
Baylor Court
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 • Riverbirch • 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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Greensboro Housing Authority
450 North Church Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

Lease Termination-- Don't Let This Happen to You

A very important responsibility of tenancy is paying rent on time in accordance with the lease. With the possibility of losing the opportunity for affordable housing and with increased costs of penalties and fees, it is now even more important to make payments in a timely manner.

- In September 2011, GHA sent Lease Termination notices to 533 residents who had not paid their rent on time.
- Late payment penalties of \$15, if full payment is not received by the fifth day of the month, are due and collectible two weeks after written notice.
- Effective August 1, 2011, the cost and fees to file court papers for non-payment of rent increased throughout the state. Charges include \$96 in court costs plus a \$30 processing fee. These increased costs and fees are charged to the resident and could be avoided by paying rent on time.
- If a resident is taken to court for non-payment, GHA can ask for possession and court costs, thus resulting in the resident's loss of affordable housing.

GHA understands its clients face financial challenges. Rents are adjusted according to our clients' reported income levels in order to make units affordable.

If you are a GHA tenant, please report any change in status of your monthly income immediately to your property manager so that your rent can be adjusted according to federal regulations.