

# Corner Stone

Carolinas Council of Housing, Redevelopment & Codes Officials

Summer 2012



# Wilson HA Holds Ribbon Cutting for Forrest Green

By Rochelle Moore  
Times Staff Writer



Residents living in the Forrest Green community will reap the benefits of newly remodeled apartments that are cost-efficient with some of the latest energy efficiency technology.

The re-opening of 68 Forrest Green apartments was celebrated by the Wilson NC Housing Authority and others involved in the \$7.2 million project, which was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“It gives me a sense of personal satisfaction that we finally made it,” said Edward Jagnandan, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Wilson Housing Authority. “We’re finally here to open these 68 greening units.”



*Michael Williams, Director of HUD Greensboro , with WHA President/CEO Edward R. Jagnandan*

The project, which started January 2011, includes the use of a geothermal heating and cooling system that involves an underground well and use of ground water to reduce energy consumption and removes the need for compressors.

In addition to energy-efficient appliances, lights and water-saving mechanisms, the apartments have new kitchens, increasing the square footage by 150 feet, new roofs with energy-efficient shingles that reduce temperature absorption and reflect heat and new landscaping. The housing area has new solar-paneled gazebos that provide power for outside lighting and the apartment downspouts drain rainwater into a cistern that will be used for watering community gardens.

The roofs have been extended to increase shade and reduce energy consumption and pervious concrete sidewalks, located in different areas of the neighborhood, allows rainwater to pass through into the ground.

The Wilson Housing Authority was the only Public Housing entity in North Carolina and one of 37 in the nation to receive stimulus funds for the greening project, said Peter Behringer, a managing member of TCG Development Advisors.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Forrest Green and was followed by a tour of one of the new apartments as well as the grounds. Several Wilson leaders and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development officials from Washington, D.C., attended the event. “It’s days like these when you see the realization of how it all works out,” said Robert Noland, HUD grant manager from the Office of Urban Revitalization in Washington, D.C. “It was specifically for energy enhancements that not only make this a decent, affordable, safe place to live but also environmental friendly and cost effective.”

The federal stimulus grant also helped the Wilson Housing Authority by leveraging tax credits and \$7.5 in bond financing that will make it possible to build a 38 apartment complex for seniors at Starmount Circle, said Jaime Bordenave, TCG president and developer of the Forrest Green project.

Mayor Bruce Rose said the Forrest Green project will benefit residents by providing quality housing.

“I stand here today a proud Wilsonian,” Rose said. “We believe that everyone in this city should have a decent and affordable place to live.”