

# WHA News of the Day

Wilson Housing Authority  
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### NEWS ALERT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILSON –The Wilson Housing Authority will hold a ribbon-cutting event on May 3, 2012 to formally re-open its HUD-funded Forrest Greene community, now ready for occupancy. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this was the only “green” grant awarded in North Carolina, providing \$7.2 million to renovate 68 units of housing. These dollars were encumbered and expended ahead of schedule and created much-needed jobs in Wilson while delivering a state-of-the-art model for sustainable renovation of affordable housing, notable for the following features:

- Geothermal heating and cooling units resulting in the reduction of power consumption needed to heat or cool by up to 70 percent. This technology takes advantage of the Earth’s constant temperature of about 55 degrees to help heat or cool the home depending on the season;
- Solar panels on the community gazebos will power the community lighting needs, power community wells for garden irrigation, and any excess power generated will be sold back to the municipal power company. We have installed underground cisterns that collect rainwater, which is then used to irrigate the community garden areas that have been constructed, giving our residents an area to grow a portion of their food;
- Lighting fixtures and appliances are all Energy Star rated; and
- The use of pervious concrete and a limited number of driveways to minimize runoff from the site.

The event at 422 Jefferson Street will begin at 10:30 a.m. (running about one hour) with speeches from local and federal officials including Congressman Butterfield. WHA President and CEO Edward R. Jagnandan will preside.

Housing redevelopment has a substantial, positive effect on quality of life from many perspectives including the improvement in housing, lower utility costs and general improvement of quality of life. This completed project has produced a neighborhood of high quality, sustainable housing.

Media coverage of this event is most welcome. Housing Authority officials will make the units available for photography before and after the event. Please contact Jean Bolduc @ 919-225-1984 or [jean@penandinc.com](mailto:jean@penandinc.com) for any special logistical needs.

WILSON, NC