The Housing Partnership is one step closer to building its fifth affordable senior rental development. Westinghouse Seniors Apartments achieved a major funding milestone when it was awarded $7.8 million in tax credit allocations recently. “The need for affordable housing in our community is extraordinary and access to funding is limited and difficult to secure,” said Fred Dodson, Chief Operating Officer for The Housing Partnership. Westinghouse Seniors was one of two developments that received tax credits in this most recent allocation cycle as part of a competitive process that evaluated more than 100 tax credit project applications.

Westinghouse Seniors received the highest site score in the evaluation process as the prime location provides access to recreation and nature, entertainment and shopping, public transportation, healthcare and jobs. The proposed 86-unit senior development is set for construction on 4.59 acres near the corner of Westinghouse Boulevard and South Tryon Street adjacent to the Ayrsley community. Other design elements of the development include a picnic area, walking trail, and sitting areas.

“The Housing Partnership makes every effort to ensure that our developments are well-designed and well-managed to enhance the quality of life for our renters,” said Dodson. Once completed, Westinghouse Seniors will join The Housing Partnership’s portfolio of high-quality senior rental developments that include The Gables I & II along Statesville Avenue, SpringCroft at Ashley Park in the SouthPark area and Anita Stroud just off Oaklawn Avenue.
For the second year in a row, members of The Housing Partnership’s Resident Leadership Council (RLC) were awarded scholarships to participate in the NeighborWorks® America Community Leadership Institute. Resident leaders from Housing Partnership communities - Arbor Glen, Cardinal Glen, Druid Hills, Park at Oaklawn, and Seversville - attended the four-day training held in Kansas City, MO. The Community Leadership Institute is an invitation-only training event that aims to strengthen the voices and skills of community, resident and volunteer leaders.

Participants attend in teams from areas served by NeighborWorks Network organizations. While at the institute RLC members had the opportunity to attend workshops on various community development topics. At the end of the four days, participants developed an action plan for a project that they would undertake to effect positive change in their communities. The RLC members will prepare a grant application for their project to submit to NeighborWorks for funding in early 2012.

On a gorgeous sunny evening in August, families, friends, business owners, and local police officers gathered in Druid Hills Park to send a unified message that crime has no place in their community. The gathering was in observance of the “National Night Out” call to action. Druid Hills has participated in this national event since 2006.

For the last two years, though, there has been a shift in the mix of residents who come out. “One thing that stood out this year as well as last year is that it is intergenerational. This year we had people from ages 8 months old to 93 years old,” said Darryl Gaston, President of the Druid Hills Neighborhood Association.

National Night Out ‘America’s Night Out Against Crime’ (NNO) was started in 1984 by Matt Peskin, a local community organizer, in an effort to raise awareness and strengthen local participation in anti-crime activities. The idea behind NNO is that if communities across the country band together on a single night to focus on crime prevention it would effect change on a massive scale. Since the very first NNO event in 1984, 37 million residents in over 15,000 communities have taken part in the annual celebrations.
Sustainability has taken on a whole new meaning in Double Oaks. If you’re taking a drive just west of Statesville Avenue near the site of the existing Double Oaks Road, you’ll notice large mounds of what appears to be dirt. What you’re seeing is actually recycled material. By employing this process, less construction waste is going into landfills and more community assets are staying in Double Oaks.

By recycling construction material, The Housing Partnership is furthering its commitment to enhance the strengths of Double Oaks and involve sustainable practices in the redevelopment of this site. The improvements and benefits to the environment through such efforts will be long-lasting.

Traffic patterns affected by the work are being communicated through e-blasts. These e-blasts are keeping neighboring residences, businesses and places of worship informed about the construction schedule, how they might be affected, who they can contact with questions and the outcome they can expect from the work.

Updates:
• Anita Stroud Park will receive improvements as part of the revitalization of Double Oaks. This work will include a stream restoration project and an enhanced natural landscape plan running from Statesville Avenue to Double Oaks Road.
• Road and landscape improvements have begun on Statesville Avenue and will last approximately six months. These improvements will turn this road into a 3-lane boulevard like East Boulevard with one lane of traffic in each direction and a turn lane in the middle. Changes are designed to enhance local traffic to homes, businesses and churches and create wider sidewalks and space for biking.

Revitalization

NeighborWorks® America awarded a $450,000 grant to rehab Shelton Knoll Apartments and houses on Mattoon Street.

GRANTS & DISTINCTIONS

- Housing Partnership Network granted $13,980,000 for foreclosure prevention services and $69,992 for homeownership counseling.
- NeighborWorks® America awarded a $450,000 grant to rehab Shelton Knoll Apartments and houses on Mattoon Street.
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development granted $120,000 through its Neighborhood Stabilization Program for the rehab of houses on Rachel Street.
- Fannie Mae awarded a $50,000 grant to support foreclosure prevention education and counseling.
- Bank of America awarded $30,000 for homeownership education and $4,500 for events sponsorships.
- Fifth Third Bank awarded $25,000 for financial literacy education and counseling.
- BB&T awarded $10,000 for the homeownership education program.
- SunTrust Bank donated $1,000 in support of The Homeownership Center of Charlotte.
HCC & Fifth Third Bank eBus Community Fair

All Aboard! The Homeownership Center of Charlotte (HCC) and Fifth Third Bank teamed up on Saturday, October 8, 2011 to cruise into the Southside Homes Community to empower residents through financial literacy.

Organized by Fifth Third Bank as part of its Financial Fitness Tour, the 4-hour community fair featured representatives from nonprofit organizations in the areas of youth education, workforce development, health and wellness. Residents from the Southside Homes Apartments were given the chance to win a flat screen television furnished by the bank.

The highlight of the community fair was the high tech eBus manned by HCC staff. “Having a resource like the eBus is such a valuable educational tool, and corporate partners like Fifth Third make it easier for us to take financial literacy directly to the people who need it most,” said Ralpshine Caldwell, Senior Vice President of Homeownership. Attendees were treated to free credit reports and credit scoring as well as advice on how to improve their financial outlooks. The state of the art eBus was outfitted with Internet accessible computers, projector and screen, printers, private consulting areas and individual workstations.

To find out how to bring the Fifth Third Bank eBus to a community near you, contact the bank’s community development office at 704.688.4567.