

Better Homes.
 Better Communities.
 Better Lives.

Betternews

Better Housing Coalition builds and advocates for quality affordable housing while creating sustainable communities through the greater Richmond area.



BHC Named
**“BLUE RIBBON
 COMMUNITY”**
 by the American Public
 Health Association

“A PHOENIX RISING FROM THE ASHES” was the headline in a local Chesterfield newspaper on April 20, 2006. The American Public Health Association recognized Winchester Greens as one of the five best revitalization projects in the nation. This recognition coincided with National Public Health Week whose theme was “Designing Healthy Communities, Raising Healthy Kids.”

We celebrated this honor with the dedication of a new community garden at the Winchester Greens Neighborhood Center. With the help of Cub Scout Troop 802, Winchester Greens kids, Chesterfield County officials, and Commonwealth Secretary for Human Resources the first vegetable garden was planted.



Photos: Taylor Dabney





CARTER WOODS II OPENS ITS DOORS

Carter Woods II opened its doors in October 2006 adding another 71 one and two bedroom apartments. In this phase we've taken energy efficiency and sustainable design to another level. Carter Woods II is the first multifamily EarthCraft House® certified building in the commonwealth of Virginia. EarthCraft House® is a green building program that serves as a blueprint for healthy, comfortable homes that reduce utility costs and protect the environment.

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” *Mahatma Gandhi*

BETTER HOUSING COALITION BUILDS

HOUSING. We build communities. We aspire to build lives and to enhance the quality of life and opportunity for all who we touch. We have always honored human dignity and made respect an integral part of our mission. Our founder, Mary Tyler McClenahan, grounded the organization in these qualities from the beginning. Over the past few years we also came to realize that care for the environment also had to be one of our core values.

In 2004 the BHC board of directors adopted the principles of sustainability as a core value. It permeates all of our thinking, all that we aspire to, and all that we do.

We believe we have a responsibility to promote the development of sustainable communities in accordance with the following principles:

Economic Prosperity

- Provide affordable housing
- Develop mixed use-mixed and mixed-income communities
- Build quality homes with low maintenance costs

Human Dignity

- Encourage community involvement and responsibility
- Value wisdom, experience, and talents of community
- Offer resident services
- Create healthy, beautiful and visitable living spaces

Environmental Responsibility

- Practice green building and low impact development
- Educate ourselves and our customers
- Honor needs of future generations by using resources fairly and efficiently

The construction and operation of buildings has a tremendous impact on the environment. Our buildings consume two-thirds of all energy in this country; they generate 33% of CO₂ and generate 40% of landfill material as the result of construction waste. The

environmental impacts of our buildings are eroding our very quality of life.

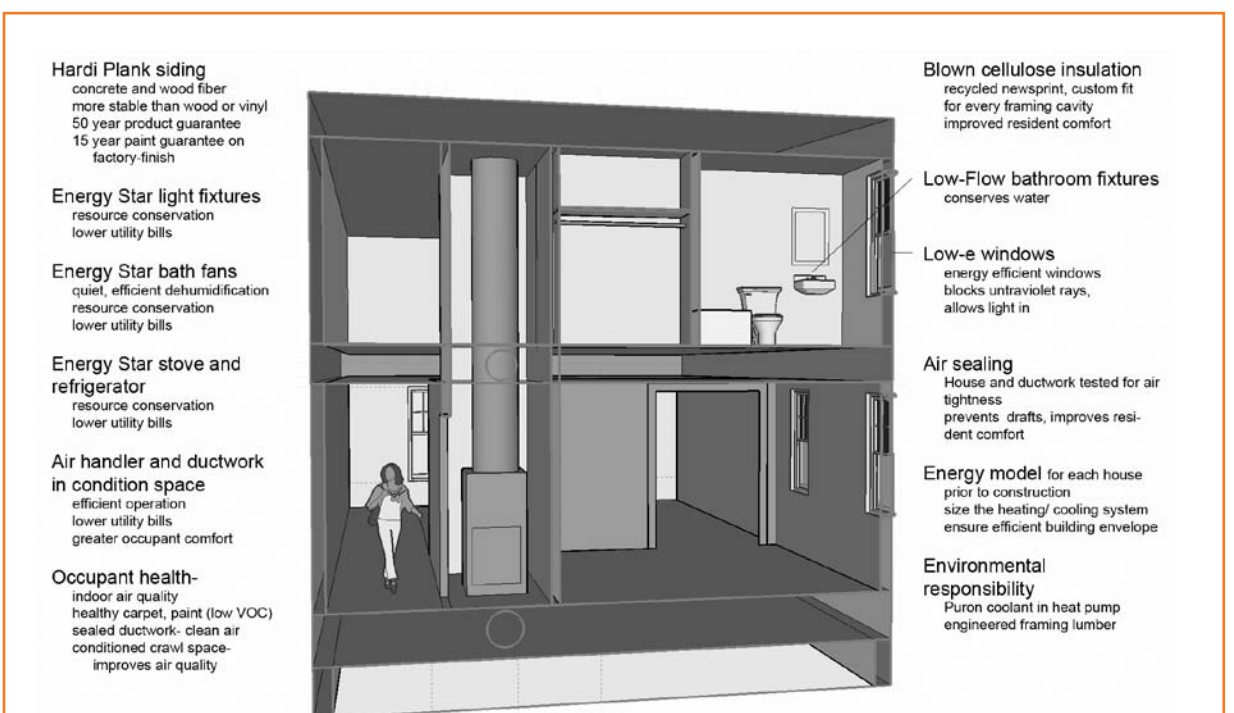
The good news is that there are many ways to improve how we construct and operate our buildings without increased costs or design sacrifices.

Sustainable design in our housing and other buildings requires a holistic view on land, infrastructure, and buildings in order to use material, energy, and water resources efficiently, improve the health of ecosystems, and address health issues related to indoor air quality. We

practice green sustainable design in all our housing at Better Housing Coalition.

The benefits of green building are many and measurable. Why would we build our building any other way? We owe it to those who buy and rent our housing and we owe it to those who will follow us in this world. The challenge to our planet and all that we hold sacred in at stake.

Stewardship of the earth is a fundamental value which guides and informs the work of the Better Housing Coalition.



What is green building?

by Karl Bren, BHC Board Member

GREEN BUILDING is an approach to design and construction that minimizes or eliminates the negative effects of buildings on the environment and the people who occupy them.

Some of the major concepts of green building:

- Reduced energy and water consumption. Green buildings typically consume 30 to 40 % less energy and water than conventional buildings.
- Improved indoor air quality through better ventilation, safer construction materials and reduced volatile organic compounds in the building envelope
- Resource—efficient strategies that often allow for downsizing of costly mechanical systems, reduction of wood and other materials without sacrificing strength and building performance.
- Encourages building preservation and use of local and regional materials and agriculture for construction and landscaping encouraging local economic growth.
- Efficient use of land and materials resulting in less air pollution, greater water quality and supply, and minimal negative effects to the local ecosystem.
- Increased occupant comfort, health and satisfaction.

COMMUNITY DAY CELEBRATION

One Moonwalk \$200; hot dogs and soda \$300; popcorn making machine \$200; painted faces on children... priceless.

On a beautiful autumnal day, the social work program hosted a Community Day at Winchester Greens. There were sack races, basketball tournaments, flag football games, and pie eating contests for kids of all ages. The residents of Market Square joined in the festivities and shared their artwork: detailed quilts, watercolor paintings, and intricately crocheted blankets.

Representatives from Chesterfield Adult Education, Social Services, Capitol Area Training Consortium, The Read Center, New Visions, New Ventures, 4-H, the Boy Scouts and many more participated in the day's events.

"The goal," said Nina Williams, program director at Winchester Greens, "is to continue BHC's mission of providing services that enhance healthy and sustainable communities. Community Day was an excellent opportunity to celebrate and encourage our community by providing a fun and an informative venue to connect residents with local community resources."



Long & Foster Volunteers help out at Winchester Greens

On June 7th twenty-five volunteers from various Long & Foster Real Realty spent the day giving fences a fresh coat of paint at Winchester Greens. "The picket fences at Winchester Greens really add a lot of ambiance but it takes a lot of manpower to keep them fresh looking. We were thrilled to have the volunteers spend a day with us," said Jose Vargas, Director of BHC's property management company.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Our senior residents have also been renewing, sustaining and thinking green!

Many folks are trying new things: computer training, gardening and games to improve mind and memory. Rockwood residents did their own recycling project with a White Elephant exchange and mock auction. 26 residents of Market Square participated in the Walking Club and felt the benefits of all their efforts. They have inspired Monarch Woods and Carter Woods to jump on the bandwagon with their own walking clubs as well. Local trips to the Carytown Watermelon Festival and the Farmer's Market have provided fun, fellowship and entertainment. At the Chesterfield County Fair, residents were able to see the award winning art work produced by the Winchester Greens kids. A trip to the Richmond Symphony's 'Kicked Back Classics' renewed several resident's musical ambitions. The Garden Party at Columns on Grove celebrated Fall in tradition and style. Let the holiday planning begin!



Craig Anderson

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Rockwood Village
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Winchester Greens
743-7030

Market Square Apartments
279-0133

Monarch Woods
320-4301

Better Housing Coalition has a new address

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Website:

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THE SKIES WERE OVERCAST AND IT HAD BEEN RAINING ALL DAY. BUT MIRACULOUSLY AS 6:00 CAME AROUND THE SKIES LIGHTENED. ON MAY 6, LISSY & STEWART BRYAN HOSTED BHC'S INAUGURAL BUILDER'S SOCIETY DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT.



Photos: Taylor Dabney

Better Housing Coalition is pleased to announce a grant from

THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION
for our Productive Landscape Initiative

ALCOA FOUNDATION
to improve Energy Efficiency
for Single-family homes at Winchester Greens



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Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Richmond, VA
Permit No. 555



BETTER NEWS is published by BETTER HOUSING COALITION, a private non-profit organization.
Tel: 804-644-0546. Marilyn McAteer, Editor. Postage paid at Richmond, VA.
Postmaster: send address changes to Better Housing Coalition, P. O. Box 12117, Richmond, VA 23241.



Printed on recycled paper.