



Resident Newsletter

May 2021

KEEPING UP WITH CURRENT TOPICS

Meet Housing Management

The Housing Management department implements and oversees the public housing program. Since COVID-19 has closed us off from seeing our residents regularly, we would like to take a moment to re-introduce ourselves!

Housing Management is staffed by the following dedicated individuals:

Angela Johnson – Property Manager for Walnut Terrace

Antoinette Leach – Property Manager for Scattered Sites

Brittany Harris – Office Assistant for Kentwood, Eastwood and Birchwood

Carol McTearnen – Property Manager for Chavis Heights

Daphne Foushee – Administrative Assistant

Dolores Cruz – Resident Services Coordinator

Jasmine Lee – Office Assistant for Berkshire Village, Meadow Ridge, Terrace Park and Valleybrook

Jealisia Webster – Property Manager for Heritage Park and Mayview

Katrina Williams – Applicant Intake Specialist

Kiah Johnson – Property Manager for Glenwood Towers

Melissa McCormick – Property Manager for Capitol Park

Millie Mercado – Office Assistant for Heritage Park and Mayview

Regina Jarman – Assistant Department Director

Rra Shannon – Property Manager for Carriage House, The Oaks, and Stonecrest

Sharonda Dickerson – Property Manager for Kentwood, Eastwood and Birchwood

Sonia Anderson – Department Director

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Susan Wirth – Housing Inspector

Valeretta Roberts – Property Manager for Berkshire Village, Meadow Ridge, Terrace Park and Valleybrook

We look forward to seeing residents in person as COVID-19 vaccinations increase and restrictions lift.

Reporting Maintenance Needs

Residents play an important part of identifying maintenance needs both inside resident units and around each community. RHA relies on residents to report all items observed that need repair.



Residents should call Maintenance to request a work order for any known Maintenance work. The number for the public housing work order line is [\(919\) 831-6401](tel:(919)831-6401).

When requesting a work order, make sure to clearly identify: who you are, your phone number, a detailed description of the issue requiring

attention, and the location of the issue. Residents only need to call *once* for each work order.

If you believe that the item is a serious issue affecting health or safety, immediately report the issue to your Management Office.

Building Futures Initiative

RHA is excited to be a Building Futures Initiative pilot site. This program's aim is to increase and improve employment opportunities for residents who participate in Section 3 employment, education and training opportunities in the

construction and building performance sectors.

As part of this program, Wake Tech is providing scholarships and apprenticeships for courses in carpentry, apartment maintenance, facilities maintenance, forklift operations and more.

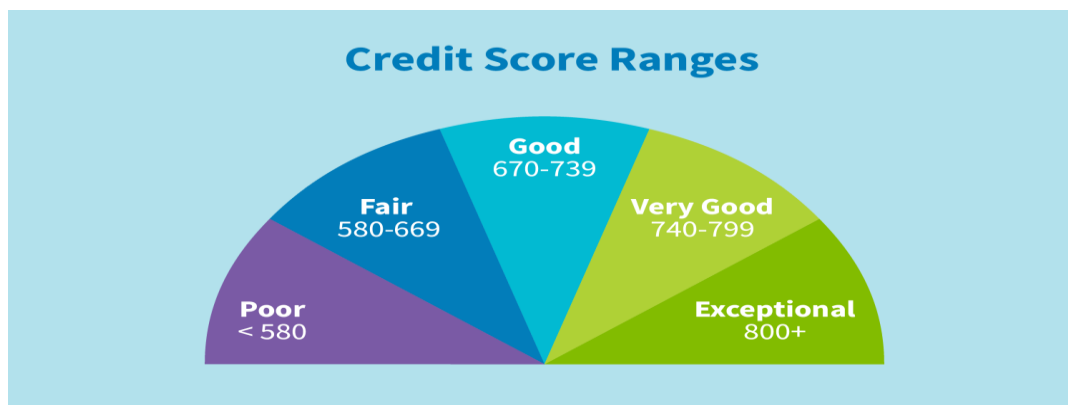
Want to learn more? Then come talk with a Wake Tech representative Thursday June 3rd from 9am-11am! An information table will be set up outside the RHA main office at 900 Haynes Street. Come drop off your rent and speak with a representative.

See *Page 3* to read about women working in these job sectors.

Establish and Improve Your Credit Score

All consumers are assigned a "credit score" which is a number that provides lenders with information about your financing history. This score can range from 300 to 850 points. A higher credit score number generally receives better credit terms. This can translate into lower payments and less interest owed over the life of the account. Keep reading below for some ways to establish and/or improve your credit score!

- Check your credit score to understand where you currently stand. Many companies allow you to check your score for free at least annually, if not more frequently.
- Notify the major credit bureaus if something on your report does not look correct.
- Shop around prior to opening an account to find which companies have the lowest rates and fees.
- Consider opening up a secured credit account to help establish your credit history.
- Set up at least one credit account where you can make on-time payments each month, preferably in full.
- Once you have opened accounts, make sure to pay them each month before your due date.
- Work to bring any past due bills current to avoid extra fees and higher interest rates.
- Keep the amount you owe low and work on paying down balances when you can.
- Limit how often you apply for new credit. Multiple inquiries and loans can lower your overall score.
- Be patient. Credit scores look at several years of your spending and borrowing history. The needle may move slowly, but you can improve your score if you stick with it!



Women in the Building and Construction Fields

Raleigh Housing Authority is currently partnering with Wake Technical Community College to provide a program that allows our residents to connect with job opportunities in the building and construction fields. Ultimately, this program will provide education, training, and resources that will help to find jobs and stable pay in a market that is expected to grow in demand throughout Raleigh.

Taking the leap into the building and construction fields can be daunting for many of our residents, in part because it is traditionally seen as a male dominated industry. Statistically, 78.6% of our households are female led. Just because these jobs are typically filled by males does not mean that only men are capable of working in trades!

We talked with some of RHA's staff in these fields to get their input on being a woman in a male dominated industry. One staff member was quoted as saying, "Being a woman in the building/construction field opens new doors of opportunity. From vision, design and oversight, to practical applications such as heavy equipment operators and professional electricians, plumbers, engineers, carpenters, there are countless opportunities for success. Creatively evaluate your strengths and applying them to one of the countless professions within the building/construction community. Women have a strong place at this table!"

Don't just take RHA's word for it. According to Wake Tech's Carpentry Instructor Charles Haskett, women have a growing presence in the construction and building fields.

"With a severe shortage of trained craftspeople in the building trades, there are so many opportunities for women in construction. I see more women taking part in apprenticeship programs and carpentry classes, and more construction companies hiring women. In fact, in today's world, many companies, especially the larger commercial construction companies, are actively seeking for women to fill roles traditionally reserved for men, and they're more than willing to train them. It's a good time to be a woman with a desire to have a career in construction."

While there are jobs within this industry that involve physical work, there are also several that do not. Just like in any business, there is a need for individuals to help with administrative roles, organizational roles, and more. In fact, RHA has female workers in all our departments, including in Maintenance and Development departments. These women fill administrative, physical, and leadership roles for the Agency.

Learning skills trades not only pays off in the job market, but can benefit your personal life as well. Additional skills and education can translate into improvements in your life and increase self-esteem. According to Donna Perez, RHA's Development Director, "Being a woman in the construction field is quite empowering and, when you have a strong command of your knowledge and abilities, you have consistent opportunities to meet and exceed expectations, sometimes with a level of surprise!"

Wake Tech has made both scholarships and apprenticeships available for RHA residents wishing to take advantage of this amazing opportunity. If you are open to taking a challenge, learning new

skills, and increasing your employment and income opportunities, [contact Ms. Dolores Cruz at \(919\) 508-1202 today to learn more.](#)

Authorized Pets

Residents are reminded that pets are a serious responsibility. Households should give significant consideration before bringing home a new pet. Property Managers must receive a pet request and issue approval *before* new pets are brought into the home.

RHA communities are animal friendly and the pet policy can be found in the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy. This policy details the types of pets allowed and the expectations for all resident pet owners. Pet deposits are due in accordance with this policy.

Ride United NC

The United Way, Lyft and other partners are now offering [free roundtrip rides to COVID-19 vaccination appointments](#) for some North Carolina residents. These free rides are being offered for a limited time. For more information residents should call 1-844-771-RIDE or visit the United Way website at: www.unitedwaytriangle.org/rideunitdnc/.

Coming Soon

NC Wildlife Foundation – RHA is working with the NC Wildlife Foundation to participate in the Trees4Trash program. The Foundation will be bringing new trees and pollinator gardens to some RHA communities in the fall. These communities will be seeking resident participation to learn more about native plants and help with the planting event. More information to come!