

HAWS opens new complex in old neighborhood



This sign welcomes people to the Cleveland Avenue Homes housing project.



On Friday, Nov. 6, the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem (HAWA) held a grand opening ceremony for Camden Station. The new apartment complex is located in East Winston.

HAWA CEO Larry Woods speaks to city officials and community members during the grand opening ceremony for Camden Station on Friday, Nov. 6.

Photos by Tevin Stinson

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

For over 30 years, the Cleveland Avenue neighborhood in East Winston has been filled with abandoned buildings, vacant lots and public housing.

The Housing Authority of Winston-Salem (HAWA) says it's making an effort to improve the neighborhood by building new housing.

But a number of people who live in the vicinity of the newest housing projects, Oaks at Tenth and Camden Station, say that although they are nice, they will never be seen as more than the projects.

"That space could have been used for something more productive and benefiting to the community," said one resident. "They tear down one apartment complex and build another one. I don't understand it."

HAWA held a grand opening ceremony last week for Camden Station, located off East 12th Street, near Cleveland Avenue. It is a "step-up" from other housing locations recently constructed by HAWA, the organization says.

Camden Station is built on the site of a previous apartment building that was known to breed criminal activity.

Each apartment comes complete with new kitchen appliances and wood-like floors.

During the Nov. 6 ceremony, Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke said she would look into getting a two-bedroom apartment at

Camden Station for herself.

"I would stay here," she said. "When people say there aren't any nice places to stay in East Winston, they are wrong, and Camden Station proves that."

With all that said, CEO Larry Woods said funding was the issue when asked about the next step in HAWA's redevelopment plan, which includes redeveloping Cleveland Avenue Apartment Homes and bringing businesses to the area.

"We are excited to be accepting applications for Camden Station as our plan to revitalize this area," Woods continued. "Our next step in our plan is to redevelop the Cleveland Avenue Apartments. We are now seeking funding for that project."

Just two years ago, Oaks at Tenth, another low-income housing development less than a stone's throw away from Camden Station, started accepting applications.

In 2012, the Housing Authority unveiled a four-year plan to revitalize the neighborhoods around Cleveland Avenue.

According to Woods, the plan would stimulate private investment and rebuild the entire community. The plan promised residents landscaping, new parks, an expanded library as well as retail shops.

The four-year plan is in year three, and local residents are waiting to see what the Housing Authority will do.

UNCSA hosts conference for teachers of singing statewide

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The state chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) will hold its fall conference and musical theatre student auditions on the campus of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA), Saturday, Nov. 14, on the campus at 1533 South Main St. in Winston-Salem.

UNCSA alumnus Jordan Brown will serve as master clinician. The conference is sponsored jointly by UNCSA's School of Drama and School of Music.

Local audiences will remember Brown, who graduated in 2007 from the School of Drama, as one of two Tonys in the School of the Arts' production of "West Side Story" in 2007.

Since graduation, Brown has appeared in major productions at Chicago's most prestigious theatres, and on network television in NBC's "Bobby and Iza" and "Crisis" and USA's "Sirens." The last five years, he has made his home in Chicago.

At the conference, he will listen to a select group

of singers, offering guidance on audition techniques and repertoire choices.

Brown said he advises performers to practice a song as a spoken monologue. "Vocal skill gets you part of the way, but the rest is critical if you want to communicate a story in a compelling and specific fashion," he said.

Brown said his training at UNCSA included techniques of singing, classical acting and movement, providing a solid foundation and confidence needed to audition and perform.

More than 300 teachers and students are expected to attend the conference, according to Janine Hawley, who teaches singing in UNCSA's School of Drama.

Students will audition in several categories including middle school, high school, college, and continuing education/graduate levels. Hawley said 27 UNCSA students will participate.

Those who receive the highest scores on their auditions have the opportunity to advance to regional auditions at the College of Charleston (S.C.) in March.

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