

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

‘I am living the dream’

Trineshia Carter to receive keys to her home Tuesday.

From staff reports

A dedication ceremony is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday for a house that was recently remodeled by Habitat for Humanity of Lake City/Columbia County Inc.

The event, to be held at 587 SE Monroe St., is designed to celebrate the agency's mission of ending poverty and substandard housing locally.

The keys to the house will be given to Trineshia Carter and her two children. For years, Carter has struggled living in an overcrowded two-bedroom apartment with 11-year-old Kyndrea and 7-year-old Tri-shawn.

“It is very hard,” said Carter, a certified nursing assistant who has worked at Haven Hospice for the last seven years. “Rent is expensive, and as my kids get older, there just isn't enough room for the three of us to grow in our small apartment.”

Carter said she loves her job and works hard to make a better life for herself and her children, but she admitted that it's a struggle as she lives from paycheck to paycheck.

“The government says I make too much money to receive any assistance,” she said. “I struggle to provide a better life for my family, as well as find affordable

housing that's right for the three of us.”

The single mom was at a crossroads and thought she would never be able to own her own home. Then, in early 2013, she learned about Habitat for Humanity.

“Habitat has really helped me a lot,” Carter said. “Without them, I would not be able to do it on my own — actually get a nice place, you know, for what I can afford.”

In order to qualify for the home, Carter had to demonstrate to Habitat she had a need for new housing, proof of a stable, monthly income, a decent credit rating and the ability to repay a no-interest 20-year mortgage.

She also had to be willing to partner with the local not-for-profit organization, volunteer 300 “sweat” equity hours assisting with the construction of new Habitat homes and complete 60 hours of additional community service.

“Habitat for Humanity is here to offer local families a chance to own their fair share of the American dream,” local chapter President Darrell Hunt said. “Tuesday's home dedication ceremony signifies a community coming together to offer Trineshia and her two children a hand up in life.”

Hunt said hundreds of local volunteers their Saturday mornings throughout the year to help the group provide affordable housing to



COURTESY

Trineshia Carter hammers nails into the framework of a home being built by Habitat for Humanity. In order to qualify for her new home, Carter had to demonstrate a need for housing and to invest 300 “sweat” equity hours into the building of Habitat homes for other residents. She was also required to complete 60 hours of community service.

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Habitat for Humanity dedication ceremony
- **When:** 10 a.m. Tuesday.
- **Where:** 587 SE Monroe St. in Lake City.
- **Info:** www.hfhlakecity.org/.

those who qualify.

The home Carter will be moving into is a 1,300-square-foot home that was remodeled to fit the needs of Carter's family.

“We didn't just give this wonderful family a new home,” Hunt said. “She demonstrated a need for housing and then worked very hard over the last two

years to help us give back to Lake City.”

The new homeowner said she just can't believe she is finally moving into a home she can call her own.

“I am a living the dream,” Carter said. “My monthly mortgage payment will be cheaper than the rent I currently pay, and my family will now have room to breathe. Living on top of each other in a small apartment has been tough. Most importantly, this is something I can leave my kids once I'm gone.”

To learn more on how you can get involved with Habitat for Humanity in Lake City, visit www.hfhlakecity.org/.

Former Lake City couple earns national recognition

Earl and Barbara Watts honored for work with daylily groups.

From staff reports

Earl and Barbara Watts, formerly of Lake City, received the Helen Field Fischer Gold Medal Award recently at the National Daylily Convention in Atlanta.

The award is the American Hemerocallis Society's highest honor for distinguished and meritorious service to the organization on the national level.

The Wattses spent most of their professional careers in Columbia County before moving to Hattiesburg, Miss. Earl Watts served many years as principal of the Kindergarten Center, and Barbara served as school food services director.

They now reside in Hattiesburg, Miss., where they maintain one of the most acclaimed daylily gardens in the state.

The national award is named for the founder of the American Hemerocallis Society.

Barbara and Earl Watts began their affiliation with AHS in the 1980s as members of the Suwanee Valley Daylily Society in Lake City. In 1991, they became lifetime members of AHS.

After they retired in June 1995, they moved home to Mississippi, where they joined the local Hattiesburg Area Daylily Society. Since then, they have continued to work for AHS on the national, regional and local level.

Barbara Watts



COURTESY

Earl and Barbara Watts of Hattiesburg, Miss., formerly of Lake City, are pictured at the National Daylily Convention in Atlanta recently, where they received the Helen Field Fischer Gold Medal Award.

served on the national AHS board of directors from 2002 to 2007, and she and her husband have served as active exhibition judges and attended every national convention from 1992 through 2010.

Earl Watts served as vice president of Region 14 from 1997 to 2000. He visited every club in the region and helped organize six new clubs. He won the Region 14 Service Award in 2002, and his wife won it in 2010.

In Hattiesburg, the couple helped build membership in the Hattiesburg Area Daylily Society to the largest in the region.

They convinced the Hattiesburg organization to host its first show in 1996. Since then, the annual event has become one of the nation's largest shows, featuring plant sales and seminars.

The Wattses also led the campaign in 2008 to have the daylily named as Hattiesburg's official flower and received the Shining Star Award from Hattiesburg area tourism organizations.

REUNIONS

Cannon reunion

The annual Cannon reunion will be held Friday at the Hart Springs Pavilion. All descendants of William Jackson and Henrietta (Aunt Hett) Clementine Townsend Cannon are invited. Bring a covered dish, goodies and lawn chairs. All paper products, silverware, cups and ice will be furnished. The meeting begins at noon, and lunch starts at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call Rose Williamson at 352-463-7320 or Miles Prescott at 904-708-3399.

CHS Class of 1995

The Columbia High School Class of 1995 is planning a reunion July 18. Activities include a family picnic from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Alligator Lake and an evening gala at Lake City Country Club from 7 to 11 p.m. featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The dress code for the evening is dressy casual. The cost to attend the day's events is one payment of \$25 per class member and \$10 per guest. To register, include your name (with

maiden name, if applicable), address, phone number and names of guests (with children's ages for those attending the picnic). Make checks payable to CHS Class of '95, P.O. Box 1546, Lake City, FL 32056. Payment is due Wednesday.

RHS Alumni Roundup

The Richardson High School Alumni Roundup 2015 will be held July 24-26 at the Richardson Community Center.

The event is for anyone who attended Richardson High School.

Cost for the event is \$50 per person in advance. Deadline for participation is Tuesday.

For more information, contact Ann Anderson Allen at 752-7812 or Ervin Fleming at 961-9770.

CHS Class of 1975

Columbia High School Class of 1975 will have its 40-year reunion July 17-18.

Classmates may send their addresses and/or requests for infor-

mation to Clara Hair Crews, P.O. Box 3161, Lake City, FL 32056 or email classof1975chs@gmail.com.

Details are also available on Facebook (look for CHS SeventyFive or Clara Hair Crews).

CHS Class of 1985

The CHS Class of 1985 will hold its class reunion on July 25 from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Holiday Inn, 213 SW Commerce Drive in Lake City.

The cost is \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. Pre-payments were due on Thursday. Cost at the door is \$50 per ticket.

Payments can be made on PayPal via Facebook link on CHS Class of 1985 30th Class Reunion page.

Send questions to Kelli Colson at kelkar21@aol.com.

Tell us about your reunion. Send via email to eransburg@lakecityreporter.com or via US mail to Eleanor Ransburg, 180 E. Duval St., Lake City, FL 32055. Call 754-0424.

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WATERCOLOR

Instructor: Wally Reichert

July 15th - 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
July 27th - 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

WOODCARVING

Instructor: Charles Kime

July 18th - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
continued to

July 25th - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

TURKISH MARBLING

Instructor: Del Porter

July 8th - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

DRAWING

Instructor: Debra Laughlin

July 1st - Landscape 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
July 8th - Still Life 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
July 15th - Beginners 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
July 22nd - Portrait 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ACRYLICS - WATERCOLOR

Instructor: Jeanne Van Arsdall

Girls Night Out
July 23rd - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PERSPECTIVE DRAWING

Instructor: Ron Baughn

July 7th - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
June 14th - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

ACRYLICS

Instructor: Dottie List

July 9th - 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
July 16th - 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Call Gallery for information, availability and schedules.
Most classes are \$30.00 for the day, supplies included.
Woodcarving is an exception, classes are \$55 for 2 days.

Call for Details

386-752-5229

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