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# Property & Building briefs

## CHP receives Energy Star award

Community Housing Partners of Christiansburg has won a national award recognizing its efforts to provide energy-efficient housing to low-income residents.

CHP received the 2010 Energy Star Award for Excellence in Energy-efficient Affordable Housing from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

CHP is a nonprofit community development organization. In 2009, CHP weatherized 833 multifamily housing units, developed 180 units of affordable rental housing that were built to EarthCraft standards, and developed, designed, built and sold 11 single-family homes for EarthCraft or Energy Star qualification.

CHP also gives homebuyers and renters a manual that explains how to take care of the energy efficiency features of their homes and how to save on energy costs.

### **Lanford HQ earns LEED status**

Lanford Brothers, a specialty contractor based in Botetourt County, has achieved a silver LEED status for its renovated headquarters. The 8,800-square-foot facility has natural lighting, low-flow water fixtures and a roof with plants. It is the first building in Botetourt to earn this status and is one of four Roanoke Valley green-certified buildings.

The LEED rating system, created by the U.S. Green Building Council, gives buildings credit for incorporating environmentally friendly features. To be LEED certified, the building must satisfy specific requirements in six categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation in design.

Nationally, green buildings consume 26 percent less energy, have 13 percent lower maintenance costs, 27 percent higher occupant satisfaction and 33 percent fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Tech plans new arts center for Blacksburg**

Virginia Tech's board of visitors has approved plans to build a new 130,000-square-foot, \$89 million Center for the Arts in downtown Blacksburg. The new complex will include both new and renovated facilities at the intersection of North Main Street and Alumni Mall.

The center will include a performance hall with seating for 1,300 people, several visual arts galleries and the Center for Creative Technologies in the Arts.

Construction will begin this fall and is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2013. The architectural firm Snøhetta will work with several other companies on the project. Snøhetta also has designed a museum pavilion at the World Trade Center; the National Opera House in Oslo, Norway; the Alexandria Library in Egypt; and the Norwegian Embassy in Berlin.

### **Downtown Floyd project dedicated**

The Station, a retail and residential complex on South Locust Street in Floyd, was dedicated March 31.

The project includes nine residential units, 11 commercial units and the new Floyd Community Market. The market will open May 29 as a craft market on Fridays and a farmers market on Saturday mornings through October.

U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher D.-Abingdon was the keynote speaker at the dedication.

The Virginia Downtown Development Association recognized the Town of Floyd with the 2009 Award of Excellence for the downtown revitalization.