



Lillie Mae Woods and daughter Mayvice Canty Woods are joined by Stockbridge and Henry County officials during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for her renovated home Feb. 15. (Special Photos)

NEW LIFE

Homes in Tye Street area of Stockbridge get upgrades via grant

By ASIA ASHLEY
aashley@henryherald.com



Lillie Mae Woods' 60-year-old home on Carrie Mae Lane in Stockbridge now has new life, thanks to upgrades funded through the Henry County Community Development Block Grant Home Owner Assistance Program.

STOCKBRIDGE — Lillie Mae Woods' 60-year-old home on Carrie Mae Lane in Stockbridge now has new life, thanks to upgrades funded through the Henry County Community Development Block Grant Home Owner Assistance Program.

Woods, 91, was the first beneficiary of the program, which allowed for several improvements to her home including asbestos remediation, energy efficiency upgrades such as new windows, insulation in the crawl space and attic, replacement of an existing electrical system to correct code violations and other safety improvements. The house also received bathroom and kitchen upgrades for improved safety and function.

"Homeowner rehabilitation programs result in safe and affordable homes that improve the homeowner's quality of

life and help seniors to age in place. Housing rehab activities benefit the community by stabilizing neighborhoods, preserving and creating affordable housing, removing unsafe or unhealthy property conditions, and encouraging homeowners to stay and invest in their homes," Shannan Sagnot, director of Henry County's

Community Development Department, said in a press release from the city of Stockbridge.

The project was carried out by CDBG sub-recipient Synergy Real Estate Group LLC, which was awarded \$500,000 of CDBG funding to assist in the rehabilitation of homes occupied by low-to-moderate income homeowners in the Tye

Street community in Stockbridge.

Former Stockbridge City Council member Alphonso Thomas recommended the Tye Street area to the CDBG program due its aging homes and elderly population.

"CDBG funds has always been available, and the city of Stockbridge has never really done anything with it," Thomas said. "This project has a positive impact on homeowners."

Thomas said Synergy was his choice to carry out the grant because of its location in Stockbridge and so the funds would not be dispersed throughout the county as the grant typically is. Other homeowners in the Tye Street area have received upgrades through the program, but Woods' renovation has been the most extensive, Thomas said.

Thomas said other homeowners in the area are being