



Residents of Charlotte Harbortown Homes enjoy spectacular lake views.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE HARBORTOWN HOMES

A room with a *lake* view



Charlotte Harbortown has two locations, 4575 Lake Ave. and 60 River St., pictured above, offering town houses and a senior community for people 55 and older.

Charlotte Harbortown Homes completes a multi-million-dollar renovation to add shine to living near the water

By Sarah Pearlman

Residents of Charlotte Harbortown Homes' apartments and townhouses have always been drawn to the "lake breezes and spectacular views," says property manager Michele Addy. Now there's another reason to get excited: an \$8.8 million renovation that began in the fall of 2005 and will wrap up this spring.

Charlotte Harbortown has two



LEFT: Studios and one-bedroom properties are getting fresh paint jobs, brand-new kitchen appliances, and new roofs, carpeting and flooring — even new windows as needed.

BELOW: Residents of Charlotte Harbortown Homes can take in a movie in the theater room or relax with a book in the beautiful gazebo on the grounds.



locations, 4575 Lake Ave. and 60 River St., offering town houses and a senior community for people 55 and older. Most of the revamping is taking place in Harbortown's high-rise apartment buildings. The studio and one-bedroom properties are getting fresh paint jobs, brand-new kitchen appliances, and new roofs, carpeting and flooring — even new windows as needed.

While the facelift took place, Harbortown made it a priority to keep residents comfortable.

"They went all out and did a great job and worked around our schedule," said Joan Lopez, who lives in a one-bedroom apartment in the River Street high-rise.

Lopez was able to sleep in her apartment at night, but had to vacate during the day while renovations took place. So Harbortown provided occupants like Lopez with complimentary meals.

They "took care of coffee, breakfast, dinner," said Lopez, 65, who has lived in her apartment for seven years. "You could order out to Salvatore's [pizzeria] and they took care of the tab!"

Another reason why Lopez never plans on moving from her apartment is "the respect people gave me when I applied and when they helped me get the apartment." Lopez used a



government housing-assistance program, and Harbortown worked with her to get situated throughout the process. She also touts the conveniences the development provides to the senior community, such as all utilities included in the rent and a bus that picks them up twice a week and brings them to Wegmans to do their shopping.

Townhouses at Harbortown offer one- to four-bedroom floor plans. Debra Heffernan first lived in the townhomes with her family in 1975, just two years after the 480-to-1187-square-foot spaces were built. She left for a time, but she and her 17-year-old daughter have returned and have

now lived in their two-bedroom townhome for the last six years.

For Heffernan, it's the little things that keep her happy with her cozy abode.

"There's a sign in the driveway that says 'Have a Good Day' and 'Welcome Home' on the back. I've never seen that anywhere else," Heffernan said. But the main reason Heffernan brought her daughter back to Harbortown is simple.

"Because it's home," she said.

For more information on Charlotte Harbortown Homes, visit www.charlotteharbortown.com.