

# Life & Style Two

TODAY: YOUR HEALTH

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## New ideas in homes for the elderly

SOME COLUMBIA-AREA retirement homes got to strut their stuff for a group of island visitors this week.

Rice Home, The Haven, Wildewood Downs, Alterra Sterling House and Traditions Elder Day Care Center were among those that opened their doors to officials from the British Virgin Islands. The visitors were in town to observe how the homes are laid out and operated, and

adapt some of the strategies to the upgrading of a government-run home for the elderly and the creation of a modern facility by 2008.

"I really applaud their efforts in trying to provide quality care that our older adults in the British Virgin Islands deserve," said Denice Halley, director of social services at Rice Home in northeast Columbia, and who hails from the British Virgin

Islands. The visitors took advantage of the link with Halley to make the trip to South Carolina. "We know that America has some of the very best systems that can be found in the world," said Sheila Brathwaite, permanent secretary in the British Virgin Islands' Ministry of Health and Social Development.

Some of the things that impressed Brathwaite were building layouts such as the one at

Rice, with separate wings for different categories of people — those who live independently, those who need regular assistance and those who need more nursing care. Brathwaite took notice of details such as the beige walls, light-green floor and other features that she said gave the place a homey feeling but also the air of a well-kept, well-run hotel.

— Czerne M. Reid