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Transforming what affordable housing looks like in Buford

Buford Housing Authority plans to replace 70-year-old public housing units in Buford

BUFORD, Ga.,-In the next two years the Buford Housing Authority in partnership with the City of Buford will transform what public housing looks like in the city.

The Buford City Planning and Zoning Board recently approved a rezoning request that will allow The Paces Foundation to begin construction on new communities which will relocate current Buford Housing Authority units.

Forty-five of the seventy-three units located on New Street and East Park Street will be relocated one mile south to South Street. An additional 10 apartments are planned for the existing Housing Authority property off of Circle View Drive. Twenty new apartments are planned on New Street at Arnold Street.

According to Executive Director of the Buford Housing Authority, Kevin Jones, keeping residents inside the Buford City limits was vital. "It was very important to the Housing Authority and HUD that the residents were able to remain in the downtown Buford area as many of them have family, doctors, and community in the area."

Currently, the Buford Housing Authority manages 189 public housing units in Gwinnett and Hall Counties. One hundred and forty-three of these units are located inside the city limits of Buford.

Staying in line with the mission of the Buford Housing Authority, and with the financial backing of a federal funding program, forty-four new quadruplex units and one triplex are planned for South Street as a 55 and older community.

Jones says the Buford Housing Authority has been thinking for some time now about renovating and possibly replacing its oldest apartments that were built 70 years ago off of East Park and New Street.

“When Public Housing was built back in the 1950’s it was considered a quality product and exceeded many of the current standards of the day.” Said Jones.

Through the Rental Assistance Demonstration program, the housing authority will be able to use funding in a more equitable way, to make significant improvements and modernize the properties.



The community planned at Elliott and

South Street will be named Handsel Morgan Village after the Housing Authority’s founder. Over time, these apartments will become a 55 plus community.

The new family-oriented community on Arnold Street will be named, Mary Alice Place, after longtime employee and first female Executive Director of the Buford Housing Authority, Mary Alice Beard.

The 10 units built off of Circle View Drive and Trail View Drive will be on a new road called Hill View Drive.

In addition to these new apartments, there will be a new community building and playground built at this location and all seventy existing apartments will be fully renovated both internally and externally.

All of the improvements and renovations are being made possible by the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program in culmination with the Rental Assistance Demonstration Program (RAD) which is a HUD program that allows

Public Housing Authorities to leverage public and private debt to preserve and improve their properties.

Jones said, "The Buford Housing Authority is excited about the plans to relocate the families that currently live on East Park Street and New Street to these new and modern homes and will also help address the need for affordable housing for the senior community in the city."

The Buford Housing Authority is committed to transforming the look of quality affordable housing. Another important commitment for the organization is to promote the financial self-sufficiency of their residents towards homeownership and partner with the city to encourage community-minded neighborhood redevelopment.

For more information on affordable public housing visit The Department of Housing and Urban Development website at www.hud.gov