

SOURCE: Bergen (NJ) Record
AUDIENCE: 431,575 [provided by Nielsen//NetRatings]
DATE: 09-05-2009
HEADLINE: Construction to begin on special needs housing in Allendale

Source Website

Saturday, September 5, 2009

BY ALLISON PRIES

The Record

STAFF WRITER

ALLENDALE " Shovels will hit the ground this month on a project to build special needs housing at Orchard Commons.

The borough transferred ownership Friday of the half-acre portion of the site that will be built upon to Allendale Housing Inc.

"It's been a long road and one big step is now complete," Mayor Vince Barra said after the closing.

Background

The non-profit will manage the site and, in partnership with the **Bergen County United Way** and Madeline Corp., erect six apartments for developmentally disabled adults " four two-bedroom and two one-bedroom units.

The borough is getting bonus affordable housing credits " two credits per bed for the borough's Round 3 obligation for the Council on Affordable Housing " because the units are for special needs. Allendale will receive 20 COAH credits for 10 beds, Barra said.

What does it mean?

Housing for the developmentally disabled is for people who were either born with a developmental disability or suffered from one shortly after birth. For example, it applies to persons with Down syndrome or autism, or those who may have suffered brain damage from a lack of oxygen at birth.

Who's paying for it?

There will be no cost to the borough of Allendale, Barra said.

The \$2.173 million project will be paid for primarily with grants from the state's Housing and Mortgage Financing Agency.

HMFA will contribute \$500,000 toward the acquisition of the property and an additional \$1.6 million that will go toward the construction.

The borough also received a \$300,000 grant from **Bergen County's** Home Grant Program that will cover

architects, engineers and developers fees.

What's next?

A ceremonial groundbreaking is expected to occur later this month.

The Bergen **United Way** will handle marketing and finding tenants for the property.

The estimated date of completion is the end of April, with residents moving in May 1.

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Four two-bedroom and two one-bedroom apartments will be built on the site.

There are no current comments at this time. Be the first to post one!

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Highlights: Bergen County, United Way, Bergen County's