

The News-Gazette

SERVING EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

BROWSE THE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Find a business:



be revitalized

at home

IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Find inspiration in beautiful area homes and gardens, home improvement ideas, restoration and conservation, cooking, shopping, entertainment and more. Call 217-351-5284 for your subscription today.

Home

60-year-old housing complexes to be torn down

Wed, 03/23/2011 - 9:00am | Don Dodson

CHAMPAIGN -- Two low-income housing complexes in Champaign-Urbana will be torn down possibly as soon as next winter to make way for new housing.

Slated to be demolished are Joann Dorsey Homes, a 67-unit complex at Bradley and McKinley avenues in Champaign, and Dunbar Court, a 26-unit complex at 1208 N. Wright St., U.



Photo by: The News-Gazette

The Housing Authority of Champaign County which owns both properties recently received approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to redevelop the 60-year-old properties.

Tenants of both complexes were told last summer they'll have to move out while the buildings are being demolished and rebuilt.

"We're hoping that everyone will find a place to move by Sept. 30," said Patty Smith, the housing authority's department manager for capital programs.

Residents will be given Section 8 rental-assistance vouchers they can use to find housing elsewhere. The vouchers will be good nationwide, she said.

Smith said she hopes redevelopment of both properties can be completed by December 2014 at the latest.

Edward Bland, the housing authority's executive director, said the cost of demolition and redevelopment of both properties could be in the \$20 million to \$25 million range, though he added the actual figure could be higher or lower.

Six private developers expressed interest in being development partners with the housing authority, and four made the short list:

Northbrook-based Brinshore Development.

Miami-based Carlisle Development Group.

The Benoit Group, headquartered in Atlanta.

Gorman & Co., based in Oregon, Wis.

Search News Stories

Your Illini Sports Headquarters

First Place

General Excellence in Online News Services

2010 New Frontier Awards

"The site takes full advantage of interactivity with detailed blogs, podcasts and hours of video, audio and photo galleries."

- New Frontier Awards Judge

More Like This

- UI archaeologist wants 109-year-old house looking Sharp again
- 37-year-old independent is 4th candidate for Urbana mayor
- 14-year-old held in stabbing of 16-year-old
- 14-year-old faces charges in 16-year-old's stabbing
- 15-year-old sentenced in sex assault of 6-year-old
- Public housing complexes may get replacements in Champaign-Urbana
- 54-year-old Burch Village starts coming down today

News by Date

March 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Garcia's Pizza In A Pan

Brinshore Development has previous experience locally, having developed Douglass Square in Champaign and Crystal View Townhomes in Urbana.

The prospective development partners are scheduled to be interviewed April 11, with the housing authority board slated to consider staff recommendations April 28.

Smith said a lot of weight will be given to whether developers have not only financing plans, but also back-up plans in case their first plan doesn't come together.

Herrera and Associates of Charleston, S.C., has been the housing authority's consultant for the redevelopment.

Alfred Anderson, who chairs the housing authority's board of commissioners, said he's glad to proceed with both projects, but is particularly happy about the redevelopment of Dunbar Court.

"Dunbar Court is probably in the worst condition," he said. "If it were up to me, I'd target that one first."

Smith agreed, noting that Joann Dorsey Homes was gutted and remodeled in 1990. "The walls in Dunbar Court hardly have an area that hasn't been damaged in some way by a plumbing or roofing leak," she said.

Plus, none of the units there is accessible to the disabled, and Dunbar Court has no bathrooms on the main floor, she said.

Unlike Douglass Square and Crystal View Townhomes, the new developments will include public housing units, as well as units with market-rate rents, Smith said.

They will be considered "mixed-income" developments, with units available for low-, moderate- and middle-income residents.

"We want these to be places where people want to live and can afford to live," Smith said. "There's not enough quality affordable housing in Champaign County."

Login or register to post comments



Categories (5): **News, Housing, Politics and Government, Social Services, Business**

Location (4): **Champaign County, Champaign, Local, Urbana**

Comments

News-Gazette.com embraces discussion of both community and world issues. We welcome you to contribute your ideas, opinions and comments, but we ask that you avoid personal attacks, vulgarity and hate speech. News-Gazette.com reserves the right to remove any comment at its discretion, and we will block repeat offenders' accounts. To post comments, you must first be a registered user, and your username will appear with any comment you post. Happy posting.

Login or register to post comments



be revitalized

at home
IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Find inspiration in beautiful area homes and gardens, home improvement ideas, restoration and conservation, cooking, shopping, entertainment and more. Call 217-351-5284 for your subscription today.

Sections

- News
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Community

Services

- Subscriber services
- General services
- Advertising services
- Reader services

Other Websites

- IlliniHQ
- Business Directory
- WDVS
- WHMS

Search



Social Networks:

Buy a \$25.00 certificate for only \$12.50



(Updated every 5 minutes)