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## **Millennium moving on to its next phase**

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MUNCIE -- The next development in the new Millennium neighborhood begins in June. Construction of Howard Square, a 30-unit apartment building for seniors, will begin next month. It will be in the old 'mystery district' east of the Muncie YMCA at Elm and Howard streets. The Muncie Housing Authority board of commissioners discussed progress Tuesday on the next phase of Millennium, the demolition of Munsyana Homes and Howard Square. North American Co., Zionsville, received a \$315,000 contract Tuesday to demolish the rest of Munsyana after relocation is finished next month.

The old public housing complex, built in 1939-41, is being replaced with new affordable housing with a \$12.3-million federal HOPE VI grant. Demolition will begin this summer. Duane Miller, vice president of Flaherty & Collins, Indianapolis, developer of Millennium and Howard Square, said financing on the senior citizens complex would close soon with construction starting next month. About \$2.5 million will be spent on the two-story structure and renovation of two older apartment buildings on Elm. The financing is a mix of rental housing tax credits, federal HOME dollars and other funds.

A drive through the neighborhood shows abandonment of older housing and commercial buildings, according to Penny Leach, MHA board president. 'Once we begin groundbreaking and development, that will be a focal point coming across the tracks,' Leach said. Anthony Conley, project manager for Millennium, agreed. 'You are going to see an overall improvement in the neighborhood,' he said.

The need for elderly housing is great, according to a 2004 comprehensive plan for spending federal Community Development funds. More than 1,500 units of senior housing for low- and moderate-income residents is needed, says Sue Peden, deputy director of Community Development.

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