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## **Millennium project spreads out**

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**New homes will be scattered through inner-city neighborhoods.**

MUNCIE -- The new Millennium neighborhood will go farther than just replacing Munsyana Homes on South Madison Street. Over 40 new homes will be built in Industry, East Central, other inner-city neighborhoods as part of the Millennium development to encourage homeownership among low- and moderate-income residents. "Scattering mixed-income homes makes for great neighborhoods," said Lynn Thornburg, executive director of East Central Reinvestment Corp.

The Muncie Housing Authority board of commissioners heard an update Tuesday on the latest Millennium project that just received \$364,000 in rental housing tax credits from the Indiana Housing Finance Authority. The scattered site housing project is part of the Millennium development that replaces Munsyana with affordable housing. A \$12.3-million federal HOPE VI grant is paying a portion of the expense.

Penny Leach, MHA board president, said the one-mile radius from Munsyana to scatter new homes would help many neighborhoods. Leach, also executive director of the Muncie HOME Center, also will play a role in counseling and educating prospective homebuyers interested in Millennium homes. Flaherty & Collins, Indianapolis, developer and manager of Millennium, will continue its role with building and managing the neighborhood homes. Muncie's Community Development agency also will provide lots for the new homes.

Anthony Conley, Millennium project manager, said homebuilding effort would coincide with the second Millennium project, which includes 55 units of affordable housing that Munsyana. The MHA plans to demolish the rest of Munsyana this summer, with more construction beginning this fall. Leach asked MHA Director Charles Weatherly whether the Millennium project remained on schedule. "I do believe that," Weatherly replied.

The MHA is awaiting final approval of Millennium contracts with its developer and architect and an interlocal agreement with the city.

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