

**Article appearing in:** **The Star Press**  
**Date of article:** September 29, 2004  
**Page:** News, 3A  
**Written by:** Rick Yencer

Copyright (c) The Star Press. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.

---

## **Millennium to have computer lab**

By Rick Yencer  
ryencer@thestarpress.com

The digital technology lab is part of a \$1-million rebuild of the Muncie Housing Authority offices.

MUNCIE -- The new Millennium neighborhood will have a neighborhood network center that includes a digital technology lab for residents. The five-station computer lab is part of a \$1-million rebuild of Muncie Housing Authority offices at 409 E. First St. "This will give residents access to today's technology" for job training, social services and other help, said MHA Director Charles Weatherly. The MHA received a \$250,000 grant this month to include the new computer lab in expanded offices. Office space built in 1991 will double to more than 10,000-square feet.

The MHA board of commissioners heard about the latest Millennium project Tuesday along with an update on demolishing the rest of Munsyana Homes. The next Millennium project, with 55 new homes, should begin by summer of 2005. Dave West, a former Munsyana resident, recalled putting down a computer lab as a resident need in a survey for improving the former public housing complex. "I think it is a good idea," he said. Internet access also will help residents find employment, obtain education and access health care benefits, according to Jacey Frazier, community and supportive services coordinator for the HOPE VI-funded Millennium development.

Weatherly said he believed the cost of the office rebuild would be under \$1 million. The \$12.3-million federal HOPE VI grant could leverage another \$40-million in private and public funds into the Millennium neighborhood. The MHA recently signed a developer agreement with Flaherty & Collins, Indianapolis, to continue the Millennium neighborhood. And F&C recently negotiated a contract with J.G. Case Construction to begin sewer and other infrastructure work. Case was the general contractor on the first Millennium project.

The rest of Munsyana on South Madison Street is expected to be demolished this fall. Besides 55 more new homes, a linear park will be built, and South Madison Street will be widened.

Contact news reporter Rick Yencer at 213-5833.