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## Houses of new Millennium going up

By Rick Yencer  
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The old Munsyana Homes will be replaced and torn down.

MUNCIE -- The row of homes along Monroe and Vine streets is the beginning of the new Millennium Place housing project. 'I watch them every day,' said Mike Privett, a Munsyana Homes resident and member of the Muncie Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. 'I also have been taking pictures, too.' The landscape of Munsyana Homes, built over 2 years beginning in 1939, is certainly changing in 2003.

The MHA this month received a \$12.3-million federal HOPE VI grant to completely tear down Munsyana and replace it with affordable housing. Work on that phase of the project could begin by next year. 'Our work toward the first project demonstrates that we have the capacity to deliver the project,' MHA Director Charles Weatherly said. Nearly 100 of the apartments -- housed in concrete-block buildings -- came down last year to make way for the first phase of Millennium Place, the mix of multi- and single-family housing for all incomes.

The Muncie Housing Authority, along with Flaherty & Collins Properties of Indianapolis, signed a \$2.5-million construction contract last fall to build 30 new units. 'We are trying to build a community here,' said Duane Miller, the Indianapolis company's vice president. The developer manages Concord Village in Indianapolis, which replaced an old public housing complex, and will also manage Millennium. 'We are 100-percent leased [at the Indianapolis facility], and the waiting list is pretty full,' Miller said. Weatherly said applications for Millennium Place would likely become available this spring. The toll-free number for inquiries is (888) 684-0338. Munsyana residents dislocated by the project could have the first choice of public housing units.

The development also includes the proposed Howard Square townhouses for seniors near the Muncie Family YMCA. 'This will have a great impact on property values,' Weatherly said. 'People in the surrounding neighborhood will want to improve their homes.' Weatherly said he hoped the new development would also help eliminate drug dealing and prostitution in the neighborhood.

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