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## **Howard Place 'like a dream' to resident**

By RICK YENCER

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MUNCIE -- Norma Wheeldon always preferred living in the city.

And Wheeldon had lived in several Muncie neighborhoods -- Riverside, Neely and along McCullough Boulevard -- before she recently moved to Howard Square.

"There's such a homelike feeling here," said Wheeldon, who suffers from knee and joint problems. "And when I stood out on the balcony, it was like a dream being here."

Wheeldon, 62, is among the new residents of Howard Square, an affordable housing complex for seniors and people with disabilities.

Howard Square, part of the new Millennium neighborhood, is east of the Muncie YMCA and tucked along Jefferson Street in an area many downtown motorists could easily miss.

The 30 apartments opened last May and were occupied immediately. There is a standing waiting list.

Wheeldon lived in a big house while she raised her children but liked the thought of living downtown in an apartment as she grew close to retirement.

"Living alone in a home had become too much," she explained. "I have never lived in a place where everything is new."

Howard Square is a secure building with video surveillance and an on-site property manager.

Wheeldon likes the privacy of the building and the fact that neighbors look out for one another. She describes the one-bedroom apartments as "comfortable and worry free."

When Wheeldon was recently ill, a neighbor noticed her car was still in the parking lot during a time she normally works.

"She just called and asked if I was OK," Wheeldon noted.

Besides the convenience of apartment living, Wheeldon likes the closeness to the downtown and the proximity to the YMCA. She hopes that retail shops will open close to the new neighborhood soon.

"You have to like the trains to live here," said Wheeldon, alluding to busy railroad tracks just to the south of Howard Square.

\* Contact news reporter Rick Yencer at 213-5833.