

News

HOUSING PROJECT WELCOMES SENIORS TO THEIR NEW HOMES

By **Harley Becker**

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MANTECA - Almond Court, a just completed low-income senior housing project, will hold its grand opening at noon today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The featured speaker will be Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton.

The complex at 2030 N. Union Road has 40 units designed for independent-living seniors. The units already are filled, and a waiting list has been established.

The \$8.7 million project contains five residential buildings arranged around a central courtyard.

Each of the 560-square foot one-bedroom units features a living room, kitchen, dining area and private porch.

A walkway leads to the adjacent Almond Terrace, a 50-unit complex that opened in 2004.

The projects are joint ventures of nonprofit Eden Housing Inc., and the city of Manteca through its Redevelopment Agency.

In its 40 years of service throughout Northern California, Eden Housing has provided housing for more than 58,000 people. It has about 3,000 units in Northern California, and only 36 are vacant, according to Eden Housing Executive Director Linda Mandolini.

"Affordable housing is a critical, ongoing issue throughout the Central Valley, which has been deeply affected by the nation's housing crisis," Mandolini said. "Our public-private partnership with Manteca and the city's Redevelopment Agency represents a viable solution to providing dignified living choices for senior citizens."

In addition to the senior housing projects, Eden Housing operates the 68-unit Union Court complex at 940 S. Union Road. The organization was asked by the city to take over its operations in 2003. Union Court is for low-income families.

Eden Housing also is in the beginning stages of developing a senior housing complex in Lodi. The Lodi City Council on Wednesday approved a motion granting City Manager Blair King authority to negotiate with Eden Housing on a project at 2246 Tienda Drive on the west side of town, near Target.

While details are not finalized, the Lodi project will have 60 to 80 units, according to Mandolini.

To be eligible for the low-income senior housing, an individual cannot have an income over \$21,450 a year.

For a couple, the income limit is \$24,500 and for three people the limit is \$27,600.

Residents must be at least 62. They pay 30 percent of their income as rent.

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