

Local News

APPLICATIONS START MONDAY FOR 180 AFFORDABLE APARTMENTS IN BAY POINT

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STAFF WRITER

BAY POINT - It's first come, first served for 180 affordable apartments in the newly constructed DeAnza Gardens complex as county officials prepare to hand out applications Monday.

Members of the Housing Authority of Contra Costa County will give out applications for the one- to four-bedroom apartments that will make up DeAnza Gardens. Rentals will be offered to lower-income individuals and families who make 30 to 60 percent below the area median income, which is \$82,200 for families of four and about \$57,550 for a single person.

"I'm very glad because they're beautiful apartments . . . We've replaced a project that was drug-ridden and decrepit with brand-new apartments," said Gloria Magleby, a member of the Bay Point Municipal Advisory Council. "And just because they're for low-income people, that doesn't mean they're poor people."

The first units are expected to open in June. Construction will continue on the rest of the complex and will become available as completed. The last building should be completed by Nov. 30, county officials said.

Rents will vary between \$385 a month for smaller units to \$1,270 for the larger ones, county officials said. For those who fail to get in, their names will be placed on a waiting list.

Applications will be accepted via mail only, which should prevent an influx of people from fighting for a place in line, said Rudy Tamayo, deputy executive director of operations for the Contra Costa County Housing Authority.

The stamped date and time will indicate whose application comes first.

Located at Alves Lane and Medanos Avenue, DeAnza Gardens is comprised of eight distinctive floor plans with all the major amenities, including heat and air conditioning, refrigerators, dishwashers, garbage disposals and water heaters for every unit. They also offer washer/dryer hook-ups and storage facilities on balconies and patios.

A park landscape accentuates the complex and it is next to a Head Start Day Care, the Ambrose Recreation Center and adjacent to the Delta DeAnza recreational trail. Classes in computer skills and English as a second language will also be offered for free to residents. It is also close to the Pittsburg/Bay Point BART station.

"It's great, it provides an opportunity for affordable housing in the Bay Point community and that's something that the housing authority's been trying to develop for the county," said Rudy Tamayo, deputy executive director of operations for the Contra Costa County Housing Authority.

Though county officials tout the project as one more endeavor toward providing affordable housing, Magleby says Bay Point boasts its fair share of such homes. Still, she adds that DeAnza Gardens is an asset to the community.

"We don't need anymore affordable housing, we have all that we need, but even so, DeAnza Gardens is gorgeous for affordable housing," she said.

The \$39 million complex is being paid for by a combination of low-income housing tax credits, conventional financing and Housing Authority funds.

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DEANZA GARDENS

- **WHAT:** Applications for DeAnza Gardens apartments, an affordable housing complex for lower-income individuals.
- **WHERE:** Ambrose Recreation Center, 3105 Willow Pass Road, Bay Point.
- **WHEN:** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., April 12-16. applications available on site (205 Pueblo Ave.) and online, www.deanzahousing.org.
- **CALL:** 957-7009