

# THE DAVIS ENTERPRISE

## Affordable housing project aims to be even greener: Home Depot grant helps

By Claire St. John March 24, 2009

**W**hat's now green grass at the corner of Drummond Avenue and Cowell Boulevard in South Davis will soon be a green housing community known as New Harmony.

A \$75,000 grant from Home Depot will help boost the environmental features in the affordable housing project.

An affordable housing project in South Davis that received a lot of attention because of its proximity to the freeway is hoping to be known instead for its commitment to the environment.

All new Davis developments are subject to the city's green building ordinance, and New Harmony is no exception, said City Planner Eric Lee.

But New Harmony, with a \$75,000 grant from Home Depot, wants to go beyond Davis' 70 required green points and aim for at least 100 and possibly 110. Points are granted for each aspect of the project that saves energy or water, improves air quality and makes access to public transportation easy.

'With onsite programs at New Harmony, (Mutual Housing Association) resident organizers and on-site management staff will be able to engage individual residents in the upkeep and maintenance of their home's green features,' said Wendy Carter, Sacramento-Yolo Mutual Housing Association project manager.

Part of the Home Depot Foundation grant will be used to evaluate the costs and

benefits of various green building options, Carter said.

New Harmony will house 69 low-income families in South Davis at the corner of Cowell Boulevard and Drummond Avenue.

The Sacramento-Yolo Mutual Housing Association will use the information and experience of building New Harmony and pass it on to other for- and nonprofit developers, elected officials, lenders and community members at a series of community forums and meetings to discuss current information and community response.

This will result in a series of guidelines that the mutual housing association will share with other developers, Carter said.

The Davis City Council approved New Harmony in early March after conducting extensive research of the air quality at the site, which is only a few hundred feet from Interstate 80.



Sacramento Mutual Housing Association develops housing that is affordable to a diversity of households. Our housing builds strong and stable communities through resident participation and leadership development.

For more information, call (916) 453-8400 or visit our website at [mutualhousing.com](http://mutualhousing.com).