

The Davis Enterprise » By Dell Richards | March 14, 2012

## New Harmony framing up along freeway

Because it's visible from Interstate 80, passing motorists may be wondering what the construction is along Cowell Boulevard near the intersection with Chiles Road.

Framing on New Harmony Mutual Housing Community is nearly complete; the roof will be going on next. Construction began this winter and should be finished in December.

The project has preserved more than 200 jobs and created nearly 30 new ones.

"Construction projects like this help keep the economy going," said Donny Lieberman, president of Sunseri Construction Inc. "Because of this development, we are putting people back to work."

Sunseri has hired more than 40 subcontractors, numerous vendors and suppliers for the project. Teichert and Syar Industries are supplying concrete. Waldeck Wright and Associates are providing new doors and hardware. Morrow Surveying, KO Construction, BJ's Heating and Air as well as Hibbert Lumber and Davis Waste Removal also are working on the yearlong project.

Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing staff are expecting to get 199 or 200 Build



**The New Harmony mutual housing community takes shape along Interstate 80 in South Davis. Donny Lieberman/Courtesy photo**

It Green points for the energy-efficient development, more than twice the 70 required for such projects in Davis.

"Our goal of 200 points is really unique for multi-family projects, not just in Davis, but across California," said Vanessa Guerra, New Harmony project manager.

Build It Green is similar to LEED certification, but adapted more to residential developments.

New Harmony also will have a solar-powered community building that will house a financial education classroom and a study hall as well as an event and

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meeting space. The photovoltaic system is being installed by Everyday Energy through the California Solar Initiative Program, administered locally by PG&E.

When completed, each of the 69 apartments will have environmentally friendly building materials and finishes, high-quality indoor air filters and energy-efficient appliances.

“Because of the energy-efficiency that has been built into the apartments, residents will have minimal utility bills,” said Rachel Iskow, Mutual Housing’s executive director. “For people of modest means, this can sometimes make a difference between putting food on the table or buying school supplies for their children.”

The city of Davis has produced more than 1,700 units of affordable housing since 1987. For New Harmony, the city used federal HOME funds and money from the local redevelopment agency as well as land from local inclusionary requirements.

Funding also came from the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, Merritt Community Capital Corporation, Bank of America and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. NeighborWorks America and the Home Depot Foundation also assisted with funding.

Sacramento-based Kuchman Architects PC is the architect. Chico-based Sunseri is the general contractor.

The 18th Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing Association community will have one-, two- and three-bedroom flats for families of modest means, wheelchair-accessible or adaptable. To get on the housing list for potential residency, call (888) 453-8404 Ext. 226.

Founded in 1988, the rental communities developed by Sacramento/Yolo Mutual Housing Association house 2,750 residents, half of whom are children.

For more information, visit [www.mutualhousing.com](http://www.mutualhousing.com).



**Checking out progress on the New Harmony mutual housing community, under construction in South Davis, are, from left, Bernard Keck, Sunseri Construction senior project manager; Vanessa Guerra, Mutual Housing Association project manager; and Fernando Cibrian, Mutual Housing lead organizer. Josh Sunseri, Sunseri Construction Inc./Courtesy photo**