

Fishkill welcomes tenants of new affordable complex

Liz Consavage Vilato • For the Poughkeepsie Journal • June 5, 2010

FISHKILL — Many communities say "not in my backyard" when it comes to affordable housing, but the Town of Fishkill on Friday said "welcome to your new home" to residents of a new rental complex off Route 52.

The Views at Rocky Glen, which officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Friday, was developed with public and private funding as an affordable, workforce-rental apartment complex.

"This isn't just low-income housing," said Larry Regan of Regan Development. There are different levels of income that qualify residents for Rocky Glen. Residents range from seniors, to people with special needs to those who make up to 90 percent of the median income in the area, he said.

April Aquino, 27, was one of the first to move into Rocky Glen when it first allowed tenants in August. Her family has grown since then, now that stepdaughters, Farrah, 11, and Alyssa, 9, moved in.

"The people here promised to get me into a three-bedroom," said Aquino, who now shares a two-bedroom apartment with the girls, her husband, Ramon, and sons, Gabriel, 5, and Christian, 7. The family will move into a bigger unit next month. "Not many people would do that for you," she added.

"We have a nice place that he can afford," said Aquino, whose husband works for Time Warner Cable and is the sole supporter of the family of six. "There are a lot of kids here. You'd think there would be a lot of ruckus, but there isn't. It's so nice and so clean and quiet. People watch out for each other's kids."

Sitting atop a hill, the apartments are surrounded by rocks and glens and provide a mountain view. Nearly all the units are rented at the site, which cost Ardsley-based Regan Development \$18.5 million to build.

In addition to town officials, representatives from the governor's office, state Division of Housing and

Community Renewal, Community Preservation Corp. and WNC & Associates, which provided private equity financing, were on hand for the ceremony.

"Not everyone is born into wealth," said Fishkill Town Supervisor Joan Pagonos. "But doesn't everyone in America deserve a beautiful place to live?"

Between the two-story buildings, there are two playgrounds and a shelter for children waiting for the school bus on Route 52. Each unit has high-speed Internet access, wood floors, and its own heating and air conditioning.

During a bad snowstorm, Aquino's husband and other residents helped older tenants who weren't able to shovel out their cars. Aquino moved to New York from North Carolina eight years ago and most recently lived off Route 9D in Wappingers Falls. Moving here, she said, "wasn't about the money. It's about the community."

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