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Affordable housing available in Ridgefield

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RIDGEFIELD -- While Ridgefield is often cited as being a community of high-salaried professionals, a study done in 1999 showed that there are families here in need of affordable housing. To that end, an Affordable Housing Committee was formed and this month the fruits of that committee's labors has come about -- 20 affordable housing units are now available at Prospect Ridge.

"We did a study in 1999 that showed a need for affordable family housing in Ridgefield and through the work of a lot of people, this is actually coming to be," said David Goldenberg, chairman of the Affordable Housing Committee.

"This shows that affordable housing isn't just for and needed in cities," he said. "Suburban towns also have this need. It's just not as visible."

The units -- 12 two-bedroom and 8 three-bedroom -- are available on a points system to families earning 50 to 80 percent of the area's median income, or about \$66,000 annually.

The system gives points for aspects like whether the family is now living in substandard housing or if they are living in an overcrowded situation. Applicants do not have to live in Ridgefield to qualify.

"We've had applications from teachers teaching in Ridgefield and town employees," said Diana Burgos, executive director of the Ridgefield Housing Authority that oversees the units. "It's exciting to be able to provide housing for the town's work force."

The 2.5 acres the housing sits on was donated by the town and funding for the project came from a variety of sources, including Fairfield County Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, the state's Home Program and Connecticut Light & Power, which provided \$500,000 with tax credits.

The new units were built at Prospect Ridge, where the town's already existing 20 units of affordable housing are located.

"The town was undoubtedly behind this," said Philip Bergquist, chairman of the Ridgefield Housing Authority. "The Board of Selectmen always supported it. We're very excited that we're building this new housing to meet the needs of the public."

Applications have already been coming in for the new units and applications are still being accepted.

Rent is between \$970 and \$1,050 for two-bedroom units and \$1,100 to \$1,200 for three-bedroom units. Stove, refrigerator and hot water are supplied. Renters are responsible for their own electric and gas costs. The units are heated by gas.

To apply for one of these units, contact Burgos at (203) 431-9943 on weekdays.

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[Photo: Prospect Ridge affordable housing project is under construction in Ridgefield. The 20 units are available to families earning 50 to 80 percent of the area's median income, or about \\$66,000 annually.](#)