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Paterson opens Crosswinds housing

By PARRY TEASDALE



Governor David Paterson speaks at the official opening of the Crosswinds project in Hudson Tuesday. Behind him (l-r) are Hudson Mayor Rick Scalera, Assemblyman Marc Molinaro and state Senator Steve Saland. Photo by Kristen Jones.

HUDSON--Governor David Paterson cut the ribbon Tuesday morning, July 22, at an event marking the official opening of Crosswinds at Hudson, the first workforce housing project in the city.

The townhouse project on Harry Howard Avenue has 71 units, with one, two or three bedrooms. It was built by Bruce Levine of 3d Development Group with federal and state funds. Some of the units are already occupied. Mr. Levine's company has built other housing projects around the county.

A crowd of about 100 officials, media people and residents gathered at Crosswinds on a humid morning, with many trying to find pockets of shade away from the bright sunshine. About 50 students from the Hudson Middle School next door also turned out.

The governor, who arrived 20 minutes late, exchanged praise and bear hugs with politicians of both parties, then stepped to the podium in the center of the parking lot and introduced himself, saying that he had recently had cataract surgery and his doctors had told him he could return to work if he stayed out of the bright sunlight.

Mr. Paterson said he was particularly pleased that 11 of the units at Crosswinds were specifically designed for people with physical disabilities. The governor is legally blind.

Hudson Mayor Rick Scalera, a Democrat, introduced the governor, saying that rising prices for rental units meant "many working families [are] being priced right out of Hudson."

The governor picked up on that theme in his remarks, when he said the state does not want working families in Hudson displaced by gentrification. He also said the state has assembled needs assessment studies for housing in both the Hudson Valley and the Capital Region, although he did not elaborate on what those studies reveal.

State Senator Steve Saland (R-41st), who represents all of Columbia County, praised Mr. Paterson and Mr. Levine, saying the project was a good example of "smart growth."

Mr. Saland also had kind words for the governor, because of Mr. Paterson's decision to keep the Hudson Correctional Facility open after officials in the Spitzer administration announced that the prison would close.

"The governor is a great friend of Columbia County and a great friend of the City of Hudson," said Senator Saland.

Mr. Levine said one of the ideas behind this type of housing is to give people a place to live where they are close to their workplace and to stores and other services.

"Crosswinds is the product of government supporting the private sector," he said.

The last speaker of the day was Stacy Hingle, a Crosswinds resident along with her mother.

She works at Dunkin' Donuts and said she and her mother were unable to find an apartment in the city they could afford. She said her mother has arthritis, and the layout of their new home makes it possible for her to live comfortably. "She is happy here," said Ms. Hingle.

The 3d Development Group website, www.3ddevelopment.com, says one-bedroom units at Crosswinds rent for \$575 a month. Two- and three-bedroom units are \$660 and \$765, respectively. Tenants at Crosswinds must meet certain income requirements.

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