



**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**
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NOTE: AP ARTICLES APPEAR IN NUMEROUS EDITIONS

Canyon Square Village apartments open

Posted: Monday, December 19, 2011 9:40 am

Investment Builders Inc., an El Paso real estate investment, development and construction company, recently celebrated the grand opening of the Canyon Square Village Apartments, 8622 North Loop.

The opening made it possible for hundreds of El Paso families to move off the waiting lists for affordable, multi-family housing. Guests enjoyed tours of the apartments.

Officials say the project highlights how tax credits from the **Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs** helps the El Paso community by keeping rent affordable, while improving the quality of life for eligible families by providing the same amenities typically seen in market-rate apartments.

Tom Gouris, deputy executive director for the state department's housing programs, was a special guest.

"We are thrilled to build quality apartments for El Paso families and for TDHCA to see first-hand how meaningful the tax credit program is for our community," said Ike Monty, IBI president.

Monty said he was confident that since Gouris was able to see how the program works in El Paso, the area will see much more of the housing tax credit program and build many more apartments like Canyon Square to meet El Paso's future housing needs.

The complex close to Ysleta High School offers one, two, and three bedroom apartment with Energy Star appliances, a clubhouse and fitness center, playground area, swimming pool and more amenities.

Hunt, housing authority to partner on Eastside project

By El Paso Inc. staff | Posted: Monday, December 19, 2011 9:47 am

Hunt Companies Inc. and the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso will partner to develop a 14.5-acre mixed-use community in East El Paso.

To be called Eastside Crossings, the project will be built at North Zaragosa Road and Joe Battle Boulevard, one of the busiest intersections in El Paso.

The community will have 188 units, including LEED Silver-equivalent public housing, as well as affordable housing, and market-rate units.

The partners will go after a 9-percent competitive tax credit, available through the **Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs**.

"This partnership enables both HACEP and Hunt to leverage our collective strengths to develop high-quality affordable housing for families in need, while helping El Paso meet its goal of becoming the home to safe, walkable and sustainable neighborhoods," said Gerald Cichon, the housing authority's CEO.

There are already 10 affordable single-family homes on the 75-lot subdivision that is to be developed, and streets and infrastructure are complete. The 10 Energy Star-rated homes were built by Zia Homes two years ago as part of the Alamito revitalization project.

The property will feature 64 public housing units, 79 affordable housing units, and 45 market-rate units. The partners say one of their goals is to build public and affordable housing that can't be distinguished from market-rate units throughout the development, and to fit families of various sizes.

"One of our goals for this project is to create a sustainable community that features a mix of uses including family and senior housing, residential, retail and commercial uses," said Robin Vaughn, Hunt's executive vice president.

The community will have amenities like connecting trails, community building and local retail, he said.

Once the state housing department approves the 9-percent tax credit, construction is expected to begin next year, with completion in late 2013.

Star-Telegram

Oregon officials shut down Arlington-based company

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BY DARREN BARBEE

dbarbee@star-telegram.com

An Arlington-based company took \$500,000 in deposits for manufactured homes it never built and has been shut down by Oregon officials for defrauding customers, according to the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services.

In one case, Fuqua Homes told a customer it would give him a discount if he paid for the home in full before production. The customer lost nearly \$137,000 for a structure that was never built, according to the department.

Jeff Morris, another accuser of the company, said in an interview that he was defrauded out of \$160,000.

"They tricked us out of our money," he said. "I think it should be known to the people of Texas not to do business with Fuqua."

At least 26 deposits were put down for homes from October 2008 through August 2011, and the consumer department has heard from other people who say that they were victims, spokeswoman Melanie Mesaros said.

The company was hit with a \$155,000 fine for 26 violations for failing to deliver on purchased homes or refund deposits to customers, and five violations of fraud for lying to customers about the reasons their homes were being delayed, court documents say.

However, Mesaros said that pursuing compensation for victims isn't in the department's jurisdiction.

"We can stop them from scamming people, but as far as folks getting money, they're going to have to get attorney and file a lawsuit," she said.

She was unsure whether the Oregon Justice Department or federal prosecutors would take up the case.

The company, Fuqua Homes, is not manufacturing in Texas, authorities here said. However, the Better Business Bureau shows its address as 7100 S. Cooper St. in Arlington. Messages left for President and owner Phillip R. Daniels at the company's local number and his home were not returned.

Daniels was been barred in Oregon for five years from obtaining a license as a manufactured-structure dealer or from working in an administrative or managerial capacity for any manufactured-structure dealer.

Last week, the Oregon department revoked the license of Fuqua Homes of Bend, Ore., to sell manufactured homes. The company had a factory in the area since the 1970s. The state's Building Codes Division also decertified the company from producing homes.

Beginning in February, Fuqua closed its factory in Missouri. In July Fuqua closed its factory in Bend, and an associated company closed its manufactured-structure dealerships in Coburg, Ore. and Eugene, Ore.

Consumer complaints led to the investigation. The department's Division of Finance and Corporate Securities found that though the company had closed its factories in February, it was still accepting customers' deposits for home purchases.

"This is a reminder that consumers should investigate a company before making a major financial purchase," David Tatman, administrator of the Oregon department, said in a written statement.

Records at the [Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs](#), which regulates manufactured housing, show that the company appears to have stopped doing any form of retailing and manufacturing in Texas since 1992.

The agency could find no records that Daniels is licensed for the manufactured-housing industry in Texas. "Additionally, it cannot find any evidence that this situation exists due to regulatory or disciplinary action taken by TDHCA against Mr. Daniels," spokesman Gordon Anderson said.

Online: Oregon order, www.dfcs.oregon.gov/securities/enf/orders/MSD-11-0110.pdf

Darren Barbee, 817-390-7126

Twitter: @DarrenBarbee

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