

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Henrietta Post

ROCHESTER VIEW APARTMENTS

Apartments equipped for deaf residents receive state funding

Staff Reports

Funding has been awarded for the Rochester View Apartments, 60 apartments offering enhanced supports to accommodate tenants who may be deaf. In May, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced \$5.7 million dollars for the project through the New York State Housing and Community Renewal (NYSHCR) Unified Funding Application.

"We are very pleased to provide this much-needed affordable housing option for income-eligible individuals in our community," said Mark H. Fuller, President of DePaul.

A total of 33 projects were awarded a total of \$91 million in low-interest loans and tax



An artist's rendering of the Rochester View Apartments complex in development in Henrietta. The apartments will be specially equipped to accommodate deaf tenants. PHOTO PROVIDED

credits aimed at creating 2,060 units of affordable housing.

"We are elated that NY State has chosen to finance the Rochester View Apartments project," said Fellow and Researcher with the Department of Public Health Sciences and National Center for Deaf Health Research at the

University of Rochester Tamala David, Ph.D. "Rochester is the perfect place and now is the perfect time for the development of this 'deaf-friendly' residential community."

According to a recent report by the Rochester Institute of Technology, there are 43,000 deaf or hard-of-hearing

residents in the Rochester metro area, which is slightly above the national average.

Under the current design, the 60 one- and two-bedroom apartments will include open floor plans with high levels of visibility, strategic lighting, safety lights on the faucets and doorbells, video conferencing and calling, and pillows that vibrate during a fire alarm. The entire building has been designed to potentially accommodate persons who are deaf and hard of hearing and those using ASL.

Construction is expected to begin at 4365 W Henrietta Rd., between Calkins Road and Lehigh Station Road, in September. The project is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2014.