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Groundbreaking set for new assisted living facility

Monday, March 21 2011 | [Alan Smith \(/authors/alan-smith\)](/authors/alan-smith)

A ground breaking ceremony for the St. Francis Assisted Living Community, a St. Francis County Community Development Corporation (SFCCDC) project in the works since 2005, will be held on Thursday, March 31, at 2 p.m.

The 30,000-square-foot assisted living community will be located at 1001 Holiday Drive between the Social Security Office and the Chapel Ridge Apartments, according to a SFCCDC press release.

The release states the total cost of the project is \$6.5 million and the community will feature a lobby and living room area, a library and computer center, activity room, dining room serving three meals daily, coffee bar, game room, entertainment center, laundry service, beauty/barber shop, covered porches and a gazebo. It goes on to state that both studio and one bedroom apartments will be available that have kitchenettes, large closets and bathrooms with roll in showers. It adds that the St. Francis Assisted Living Community is designed to provide assisted living services for older adults needing help with tasks such as medication management, personal care services, memory care programs and health monitoring by the 24 hour staff.

André Stephens, Executive Director for SFCCDC, spoke about the project.

"We started all of our pre-development studies back in 2005," Stephens stated. "I'm absolutely pleased that the project has made it to this point."

Stephens listed some of the major sources of funding for the project.

"The major sources would be USDA Rural Development, the Arkansas Development Finance Authority, the Foundation for the Mid-South and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission," said Stephens. "We are going to have a very nice facility once it is finished."

Stephens stated that the construction is scheduled to begin on April 15, and the plan is for the facility to be open and serving clients by spring of 2012.

"Because we will be doing marketing during the construction, we will start moving people in as soon as the last brick is laid," joked Stephens. "I believe the demand for the service will be very high, so we should fill up quickly."

According to Stephens, the 40-unit facility will be divided into studio units and single-bedroom units, with single-bedroom units created for couples.

To R.S.V.P for the groundbreaking, contact Stephens at 870-635-0612 or astephensdev@gmail.com (<mailto:astephensdev@gmail.com>).

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