



The Arlington Advocate

COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER
COMPONENT
A WORLD WIDE COMPANY

SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF ARLINGTON SINCE 1872

64 PAGES • 3 SECTIONS

www.arlingtonadvocate.com

Affordable housing effort must continue

For those who support the need for more affordable housing in Arlington, the recent developments on Sherborn Street is cause for celebration.

At a two-family, owned by the Housing Corporation of Arlington, volunteers recently spent a week-end removing cabinets, patching walls and scraping wallpaper so others could have a place to call home. They will continue their work by painting the home during another work weekend.

In this community that becomes more pricey with each year, work by groups like the HCA and Housing Authority is more critical than ever.

In order for teachers, firefighters and Department of Public Works employees to remain in their hometown, these groups need to thrive. Town Meeting saw the need for greater affordable housing when it approved the Inclusionary Zoning bylaw in 2001, which requires developers of six or more units to set aside 15 percent for affordable housing. The Board of Selectmen has also earmarked Community Development Block Grant money to the Housing Corporation.

Residents, many of whom live in homes they would not be able to afford today, could turn their backs on those struggling to stay in Arlington. But they have put out a welcome mat for those in the middle and lower tax brackets by volunteering their time and giving freely to the Housing Corporation.

There is not a greater community effort than affordable housing — so many are pulling in the same direction and creating units each year.

It's a long process, but the town has added more than two dozen units over the past two-plus years. There is also hope on the horizon with the Symmes project, which could add 52 more units to the town's affordable stock.

The process is slow and often times frustrating, but the community must continue the mission to keep a place at the table for those from all economic classes.