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NEWS

JURUPA VALLEY: Low-income housing will cater to veterans

The development will provide access to services such as counseling and art therapy.

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BY SANDRA STOKLEY / STAFF WRITER

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COURTESY OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

WANTED: VETERANS

To apply for the veterans enriched neighborhood program, contact Lee Crisp at 951-787-6754, ext. 117, or lcrisp@habitatriverside.org

Construction is expected to begin this year on a housing development in Jurupa Valley that caters to veterans.

The project will consist of 26 or 27 single-family homes and a small park and will be built on 5 acres in the Glen Avon area, said Kathy Michalak, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Riverside, which is building the project in partnership with the California Department of Veterans Affairs, Jurupa Valley and Riverside County's Economic Development Agency.

Any low-income veteran with an honorable discharge who works or lives in Riverside County can apply to buy one of the homes, Michalak said. The homes will sell for about \$200,000.

"The homes are available to families of the fallen as well," she said.

A family of four with an annual income of \$48,000 is considered low-income.

According to figures, 6 percent of Riverside County's population is veterans. Veterans constitute 14.3 percent of Riverside County's homeless population.

Michalak said this is Habitat for Humanity's first effort in Riverside County to build a "veterans-enriched neighborhood."

A key element of the development is to provide veterans and their families with training and services to help them keep their homes.

FOUNDERS' DAY
Front Row Fireworks
On the 4th of July
 At the EVERGREEN MEMORIAL HISTORIC CEMETERY
 Corner of 14th & Pine Streets in downtown Riverside
The BEST SEATS in town!
5pm - 10 pm
 Many Free Activities for the Kids
 including Duck Drag Races, Food
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Required classes for families in the program include budget planning, saving for the future, managing credit and nutrition.

Services available include counseling for post-traumatic stress disorder, domestic-violence counseling and art workshops for trauma victims.

Michalak said the California Department of Veterans Affairs is providing construction and home loans.

The property belongs to Riverside County and will be deeded to Habitat for Humanity.

The typical floor plan will be a little more than 1,300 square feet and will have three bedrooms and two bathrooms. The homes are designed to be energy efficient.

Michalak said the goal is to break ground in November and to have the last family settled in their home by the end of 2015.

Veterans recruitment has started and six families have been selected that will probably qualify, Michalak said.

A second veterans-enriched community is planned in Riverside on Myers Street, off Magnolia Avenue.

Contact the writer: 951-368-9647 or sstokley@pe.com

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What's this?

Favorite snack to buy at a movie theater?

- ☐ Pretzel
- ☐ Just a soda
- ☐ Candy
- ☐ Popcorn
- ☐ Hot dog

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