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Open House

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By Kristin Kent
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BRILLION HOUSING AUTHORITY

BRILLION WISCONSIN

The Brillion Housing Authority (BHA) in Brillion, Wisconsin operates three senior citizen facilities on behalf of the Brillion City Council. Garrow Villa is an Assisted Living facility, Parkview Apartments and Heritage Apartments are low income, subsidized rent housing facilities for the elderly or handicapped.

The BHA was awarded a Stimulus Grant last March and is just completing a \$3 million remodeling project at Heritage Apartments, to bring the facility up to like new condition and meeting all recent codes for serving the elderly and handicapped. Two major highlights of this project are the installation of a geo-thermal field laid under the entire adjacent Heritage Park using over three miles of tubing to gather heating and cooling capability for the entire building. This is just beginning to show significantly lower energy costs for the entire building. This tubing is buried at depths of 15-20 feet to gain maximum effectiveness from the constant temperature of the earth at that depth.

A second major effort at installing energy services are 40 photo-voltaic solar panels to draw energy from the sun, The electricity generated from these panels is sold to Wisconsin Public Service. The project also worked closely with "I Can Conserve" and "Focus on Energy-Wisconsin" to search out ways to save energy costs in lighting and appliances throughout the building. New high energy efficient appliances and windows were installed throughout the building along with another emphasis on water conservation in all the plumbing fixtures and faucets. Page -1-

New carpeting and floor tile has been installed. An exercise facility has been installed in both ends of the building with new equipment for use of the residents. There is also new laundry facilities installed in both ends of the building.

A new commons area in the center of the building has a completely new kitchen, dining area, a four season's room and living room area with a very large television with "surround sound" and computers for use by the residents. The residents will be able to install their own email service on the community computers. A beauty shop for serving male and female customers is also staffed on an appointment basis every week. The building is completely secured with electric door openers, a security system so the residents can control access through the main door for their visitors. A building security system has been installed so that residents can access the police, fire and ambulance services if they are needed. All residents will be provided a security bracelet so they can call for emergency service 24 hours a day.

An "Open House" for the public to view this newly completed facility has been set for November 14, 2010 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

The members of the Brillion Housing Authority (BHA) are: Marlis Trochta, Executive Director; Gaylord Unbehaun, Chairperson; Robert Mathiebe, Co-Chairperson; Carol Zander, Mae Goodearle and Heather Gruett are Directors. Tracy Roth is the manager of Garrow Villa.