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## **Sustainable Fellwood opens to promise of a new day in west Savannah**

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The project known as Sustainable Fellwood was hailed Thursday as "a new beginning" for public housing in Savannah.

"We can no longer be ashamed of being in public housing," Charlena Brown, chair of the Housing Authority of Savannah, told a sun-drenched crowd at the ribbon cutting for the first 110 apartments.

"Public housing is different," she said.

Gone are the days when public housing was "considered to be concentrated pockets of poverty," she told the group.

The new neighborhood replaces the 1940's Fellwood Homes as part of the housing authority's remaking of the westside neighborhood off Bay Street.

View more photos of the new and old Fellwood [1].

The first nine families have already moved in.

Immediately after cutting the ribbon, housing authority Executive Director Earline Wesley Davis walked across the street and led a groundbreaking for Phase II, which includes another 110 apartments.

"I wanted this to be special because I grew up here," said Davis, whose family lived across West Street from Fellwood.

Savannah Alderman Van Johnson praised Phase I as "only the beginning."

"There are great things happening in Savannah," Johnson said.

And Denis Blackburne with project developer Melaver Inc. noted the work being celebrated was just Phase I of the development.

"The community has been involved from the start," he said.

Women and minorities represented 42 percent of the construction, and half of the workforce came from Chatham County, he said.

"It has been a great ride," he said.

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