



## Liberty Gardens breaks ground on new community center

Rome housing complex undergoing \$40M renovation

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**Observer-Dispatch**

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**What's this?**

Services Commissioner RoAnn Destito of Rome in pushing for the project. Previously, Destito served as state Assemblywoman for the 116th District.

Over the years, the apartments slowly fell into disrepair. Much of the renovation efforts focused on making the apartments energy efficient to keep tenants' bills as low as possible.

Destito recalled a tour of one woman's apartment she took three years ago.

"It was in the middle of winter and there was ice building up on the inside of her windows," she said. "There were clearly issues there."

Omni Housing Development will become the new management for the site, taking it off the hands of the city's housing authority.

The work at the project benefits not only residents in the complex but nearby residents and the local economy as well, said Councilwoman Ramona Smith.

"It's a stepping stone for a lot of residents," she said. "Many, not all of them will, but some will go on to use this leg up to become homeowners someday."

Smith, D-4, has represented the area for the past eight years. Bringing the project to fruition has been one of her major goals, she said.

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