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Alfred Diaz-Infante Apartments at East Garrison accepting pre-applications



The children's play area at the new Alfred Diaz-Infante apartment complex under construction in the East Garrison community in unincorporated Monterey County east of Marina. (CHISPA)

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MARINA – The Alfred Diaz-Infante Apartments, formerly known as the East Garrison Apartments, are now accepting pre-applications for occupancy in the new affordable housing complex through the end of June.



Diaz-Infante

The Alfred Diaz-Infante Apartments, in the East Garrison community in unincorporated Monterey County east of Marina, consists of 66 affordable apartments of varying sizes with one set aside as a manager’s unit and 43 of which are reserved for currently employed or retired agricultural workers. The complex also includes a community room for resident activities and 134 on-site parking spaces.

Dana Cleary, CHISPA Director of Real Estate Development, said that the original name was always a place holder, but after the Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association’s president and CEO Alfred Diaz-Infante died unexpectedly in 2021, the organization set its sites on permanently naming the apartment development after him.

“We wanted to name it after Alfred to honor him,” said Cleary. “It was something we always wanted to do after his death.”

Diaz-Infante grew up in Salinas and was the child of farmworker parents. He devoted most of his working life to providing affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households from all walks of life. According to Cleary, Diaz-Infante was part of CHISPA for over two decades.

“His leadership made CHISPA what it is today,” said Cleary, who added that Diaz-Infante left behind a legacy of hundreds of homes built through self-help or that were built by CHISPA and sold to low-income families.

They were for people who never would have owned homes in this area,” she said.

CHISPA is the largest private, nonprofit housing developer based in Monterey County, according to its website. Since its incorporation in 1980, it has built and renovated nearly 2,500 single-family homes and apartments for low- and moderate-income people in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties.

CHISPA manages its apartments through its subsidiary management company, CHISPA Housing Management, or CHMI, and the nonprofit constructs its apartment buildings and homes with its in-house general contractor, Central Coast Residential Builders.

Each of CHISPA's rental properties offer residents on-site educational and recreational programs through partnerships with local community organizations and individual instructors including the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of Monterey County, Read to Me Project, Alisal Percussion, Arts Council for Monterey County and Alliance on Aging.

Preliminary applications for the new Alfred Diaz-Infante Apartments in East Garrison are available now through June 30 and can be downloaded from the CHISPA website, in English or Spanish, at www.chispahousing.org. Printed copies of the applications can also be obtained from the CHISPA main office at 295 Main St., Suite 100, in Salinas, Junsay Oaks Senior Apartments at 3098 De Forest Ave., in Marina, Sea Garden Apartments at 10603 Axtell St., in Castroville and Castro Plaza Family Resource Center at 10601 McDougall St., in Castroville.

Completed applications must be turned into CHISPA's main office in Salinas at 295 Main St., Ste. 100, then sorted and reviewed.

"We'll have people in (Alfred Diaz-Infante Apartments in East Garrison) by the end of 2023 or early 2024," said Cleary.

Both sites of the apartment complex are approaching 90% completion, she said.



James Herrera | Reporter

James Herrera has been with The Herald for more than three decades, during which he has been an ad designer, staff artist, newsroom graphic artist, videographer and now a reporter. He covers business and the cities of Seaside, Marina, Sand City and Del Rey Oaks. Herrera can be reached via email at jherrera@montereyherald.com or by phone at 831-726-4344.

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