

# Burlington County Times



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By Sean Patrick Murphy Staff Writer

## New school apartments get ribbon cutting ceremony in Burlington

BURLINGTON TOWNSHIP — Moorestown Ecumenical Neighborhood Development and Conifer Realty held a ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday to celebrate the opening of Springside School Apartments, a new affordable rental housing community.

The senior housing is on the former site of the historic Springside Elementary School on Burlington-Mount Holly Road near Fountain Avenue.

Matthew Reilly, president and CEO of MEND, was excited by the completion of the project.

“This is just a wonderful, wonderful day to celebrate the completion of something that’s very much needed in this community and throughout the state,” Reilly said. “We are thrilled to be able to help out and get something like this done.”

Charles Lewis, senior vice president at Conifer, felt the same way.

“I’m really excited,” he said, noting the project took about three years to complete.

He also said there was a joint cooperative effort with the state housing finance agency, county, township and the school district.

“There are a lot of moving parts, and a lot of pieces had to be put together,” Lewis said. “A lot of people had to coordinate their efforts.”

The 75-unit senior housing complex features units for low- and moderate- income senior citizens and adults with special needs.

The first tenant moved in November and 60 apartments are now occupied, officials said.

Some of the new apartments are housed in the existing and completely renovated Springside Elementary School building, which was built in 1871 as a one-room schoolhouse known as the Mitchell School at Springside.

The building is designated as a National and State Historic Landmark building. The remaining units are in a new two-story addition that is attached to the rear of the former school.

The community was funded by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency and the Burlington County HOME Program, together with Burlington Township Municipal Housing trust funds, TD Bank and Red Stone Equity Partners.

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