



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Birches At Saugerties Officially Opens

Becomes the second Birchez Associates affordable housing community to open in Ulster County in less than a year.

(Kingston, NY) June 23, 2006 --- US Congressman Maurice Hinchey, NYS Senator John Bonacic and Debra Devine, the regional director of the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal, will join a distinguished gathering of state & local officials, community leaders and residents, Monday June 26th at 10:00am for a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony at *The Birches At Saugerties*, the second affordable housing community developed by Birchez Associates LLC to open in Ulster County in less than a year.

The Birches At Saugerties is a pioneering senior citizen housing complex developed and built by Birchez Associates, LLC of Kingston, New York. The 60 unit complex continues Birchez' innovations in affordable housing, specifically designed for seniors to 'age in place' - fostering self-sufficiency while maintaining a safety net for the frail elderly.

Following the ribbon-cutting, there will be a formal dedication of *The Birches At Saugerties* Community Room, which will be named in memory of Joan Feldmann, one Ulster County's foremost advocates for affordable senior housing. Joan's longtime friend and colleague, Alice Tipp of Saugerties, NY, will lead the dedication.

The Joan Feldmann Community Room located in the Community Center building is a comfortable space for all tenants to meet and convene socially as well as to gain access to other community resources. Senior friendly amenities like public access computers and free wireless Internet connections allow for educational and communication opportunities, while the full kitchen provides everything needed to host a quaint get together or a large party. Tours of The Birches At Saugerties community and select apartments will begin following the dedication.

Building Ideas for Rural Community Housing

As with it's sister community Chambers Court, *The Birches At Saugerties* is distinctive in that each unit is handicapped-adaptable/accessible and can be quickly modified to meet the needs of residents as they progress through the aging process; the complex includes two-bedroom units to accommodate caregivers, family members and/or medical equipment; the cottage-style buildings were built with an inventive modular construction technique that cut construction time while boosting energy efficiency - features not found in traditional affordable senior housing:

- Grounds and common areas are monitored via state-of-the-art DVR surveillance cameras - remotely controlled via the Internet.
- Every unit is handicapped accessible or adaptable with state of the art emergency call system in each bedroom and bath.
- Attention to detail is evident from the location of the light switches to the height of the countertops - all designed with the senior and frail senior in mind.
- Each apartment is outfitted with the latest in energy efficient appliances, radiant heat and air conditioning units. Plenty of closet and onsite storage space.

The Birches At Saugerties affordable senior housing community is located at 2950 Route 9W in the Town of Saugerties, New York, just north of the Glasco Turnpike intersection. Office Telephone 845-246-7568.

Reminder: Ribbon Cutting is June 26th @ 10:00am

About Birchez Associates, LLC:

Birchez Associates LLC is a development, management, and construction company that is committed to providing affordable, quality housing for senior citizens, working families, single parents and veterans. Birchez is recognized for creating win-win public/private partnerships for building distinctive, superior-quality, affordable housing in communities where housing is in critical need. Founder Steven A. Aaron, sits on the Board of Directors of the *New York State Association for Affordable Housing* (NYSFAH), and is a member of the *Ulster County Housing Consortium* Executive Committee.

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