

Below: Mayor Donald Hartill (left) of the Village of Lansing and Better Housing for Tompkins County Executive Director, John Spence compare notes.



## Better Housing for Tompkins County

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### **News Release**

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### **Better Housing for Tompkins County proposes 80-unit affordable apartments project for Village of Lansing**

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In response to county and municipal housing needs, Better Housing for Tompkins County (BHTC) Executive Director John Spence announced Tuesday that BHTC has partnered with the NRP Group to submit a funding application for a \$9 million development of 80 affordable family apartments in the Village of Lansing.

Spence spoke to a room filled with local government and business leaders at a BHTC-sponsored event, "Affordable Housing: A Tompkins County Challenge."

Other speakers included Tompkins County Legislature Chair Martha Robertson,

Tompkins County Area Development Vice President Martha Armstrong, Ithaca College President Thomas R. Rochon and Cornell University President David Skorton.

The Lansing Reserves application also included letters of support from the Village of Lansing, the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce, Tompkins County Area Development (TCAD), United Way of Tompkins County, the Tompkins County Planning Department, Assemblyman Barbara Lifton (D) and State Sen. Mike Nozzolio (R).

"The tax-credit funding we are going after will provide the lion's share of the funding, and the project will have little debt load, making it possible to keep rents affordable," Spence said Tuesday. "Funding sources will insist that the project remain affordable to folks earning 80 percent of the Area Median Income for at least 20 years. Because Better Housing will be the owner/manager, it is safe to say that the apartments will remain affordable for the foreseeable future."

The project will also address needs articulated in the following documents:

- \* the County's Affordable Housing Needs Assessment published in 2006, which stated the need for the construction of 4,000 new housing units, of all kinds, over the next ten (now six) years to meet non-student demand;

- \* TCAD's Strategic Plan, also published in 2006, also points to the availability of affordable housing as being one of the top three requirements for Tompkins County to remain economically vibrant in the years ahead;

- \* the Village of Lansing's Comprehensive Plan recognizes the desirability of clustering housing to protect open green spaces and accessible walking paths.

"Our project will provide affordable housing in a location that is within walking distance of shopping and services, and within easy commuting distance to area employers," said Spence. "We will also incorporate open green space into its design, and it will be energy efficient to ensure long-term affordability."