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TOWNHOUSE PARK APARTMENTS

Providing energy efficiency to residents

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Townhouse Park Apartments, located at 8th and Santa Fe, provide residents with top notch housing facilities. In fact, the apartments are in the process of becoming very energy efficient and more comfortable for those living in them. These renovations have been brought to the Townhouse Park Apartments because of financial aid from two generous companies, Energy Outreach Colorado and Source Gas. Pam Packer, long-term energy solutions director from Energy Outreach Colorado, and Paul Smith, a manager from Source Gas, visited the Townhouse Park Apartments Tuesday afternoon to see the affects of their funding.

"Basically Source Gas partnered with Energy Outreach Colorado and funded a grant to install new sliding glass doors and windows in the every apartment. We also partially funded the installation of high efficiency furnaces," noted Packer.

Accompanying Packer and Smith were representatives of La Junta Housing Authority, Reyes Hernandez, Tony Mascaranas and Diane McAtee. The group discussed the progress of the furnace installation after viewing a recently installed furnace in one of the apart-

ments and concluded that the furnace installation will be half done by the end of the week.

"Our companies are non-profit," said Packer, "and we provide funding for housing projects. We encourage the hiring of local companies for installation."

Packer also explained that through the process of making improvements to apartments, an auditor comes in and examines every building and how it functions. They will then make recommendations as to what should be done to improve the living quality and energy efficiency of the building. In the case of Townhouse Park Apartments, new windows, doors and furnaces were in order. The previous windows were single paned, according to Mascaranas, which initiated a safety issue. In addition, these windows provided no insulation.

"New sliding glass doors changed the sound quality in the apartments," said Mascaranas, "nothing passes through them."

As for the furnaces, there was no question that they needed improving from their 50 percent efficiency. The furnaces being installed will offer residents 93.5 percent efficiency. Mascaranas noted that the residents of Townhouse Park Apartments will find that they will use less energy to heat their apart-

ments. The savings from the decrease in energy consumption will greatly benefit the building. According to Mascaranas, the savings will go directly back into upgrading the apartments. Upgrades will include new floor coverings, cabinets, painting the front doors and replacing some sets of stairs.

Dolores Vialpando was born here in La Junta and has found the Townhouse Park Apartments to be her home for a number of years. Vialpando has found the new windows and door, which were installed around March, a wonderful addition.

"I love the new windows!" she said. "They are tight, but at the same time very easy to open. The windows have helped with the heat during the summer because the cool air stays outside. The wind never gets in. The new sliding glass doors also lock very good. I love them!"

Vialpando is still waiting on her new furnace, which should be installed in the coming weeks.

Energy Outreach Colorado provides many opportunities for home energy. The company works to help people pay their energy bills throughout Colorado. More information can be obtained from their website: www.energyoutreach.org





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Representatives from Source Gas and Energy Outreach Colorado met with representatives from the La Junta Housing Authority Tuesday afternoon at Townhouse Park Apartments. Source Gas and Energy Outreach Colorado provided funding for the apartments to install new windows, sliding glass doors and more efficient furnaces. Pictured here are (front, left to right) Source Gas Manager Paul Smith, Energy Outreach Colorado long-term energy solutions director Pam Packer, La Junta Housing Authority Representative Diane McAtee. In the back row, from left are La Junta Housing Authority representatives Reyes Hernandez and Tony Mascaranas.



Dolores Vialpando, left, is a resident at Townhouse Park Apartments and is shown with La Junta Housing Authority representative Reyes Hernandez in front of her newly installed windows. She is very pleased with the new installations in her apartment, made possible by funding from Source Gas and Energy Outreach Colorado.