

Economic Development

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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Roanoke County and Vinton Celebrate The Billy Byrd Opening

Roanoke County, VA—(October 10, 2019) – Leaders from Roanoke County, the Town of Vinton and Waukeshaw Development Inc jointly celebrated the grand opening of the newly renovated historic William Byrd High School building in the Town of Vinton. Newly christened as The Billy Byrd, the three-story former school represents a \$12 million investment, bringing 82 new apartments to the community.

Roanoke County Board of Supervisors Chairman Phil North stated, “Leveraging public facilities for redevelopment projects is a winning proposition for the community and the developer. This project represents nearly \$30 million in new investments for four (4) new and redeveloped public facilities within the Town of Vinton over the past 5 years. We are pleased with this track record of success and the partnerships that have been formed to achieve this positive outcome.”

“This project demonstrates continued economic expansion in Roanoke County and confirms the market demand for new multi-family housing,” said Vinton Supervisor Jason Peters. “The Billy Byrd transforms a historic and iconic building that will serve as a catalyst for new economic development opportunities in the Vinton area in the future.”

“We’re thrilled to open the Billy Byrd and begin to move in our first residents. This is a special property with an important community history, and we are excited to see it come back to life,” said Dave McCormack, President of Waukeshaw Development and owner of the property.

“The completion of the Billy Byrd is the latest noteworthy milestone for the Town of Vinton and Eastern Roanoke County with regards to the repurposing of a significant, although underutilized historic property”, stated Brad Grose, Town of Vinton Mayor. “The positive momentum and volume of redevelopment activity that our community continues to experience is truly remarkable. We are very thankful to Roanoke County for their efforts to recruit this project to the former William Byrd School and are particularly pleased with Mr. McCormack’s substantial investment in our community. We look forward to welcoming new residents to the Town over the next few months as they begin to move into the building.”

Construction of The Billy Byrd project began in 2017, with occupancy expected by the end of the year. The school was built in 1930 and remained in use until 2010. Waukeshaw Development purchased the building in 2017 and began work to transform the building into 82 market rate apartments, including studios, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units. Waukeshaw preserved and restored many elements of the original building, including repurposing old bleachers into bookcases, keeping chalk boards wherever possible, and preserving the gymnasium floor. Local group Hall & Associates will serve as the property manager. Additional information is available at thebillybyrd.com.

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