



Habitat

Building homes, communities and hope.

Winter 2025



Building the Montana We Want to Live In

By **Jacob Kuntz**
Executive Director

Finding an affordable home is becoming harder every day. Many of us feel it firsthand, or see it in our friends, children, or elderly neighbors who are being priced out of the communities they love.

At Helena Area Habitat for Humanity, our mission has always been to partner with local

families to build homes they can afford. Since 1992, we have built 90 homes, each representing a family that achieved homeownership through hard work, sweat equity, and community support.

We are proud of that legacy, but we also know the need is growing. In 2021, we set an ambitious goal to build 30 homes each year by 2030. To reach it, we are taking bold steps forward—most notably through the continued development of Rose Hills in East Helena.

Over the past year, we have hosted trolley tours, community conversations, and listening sessions to gather feedback and ideas from our neighbors. Those discussions are shaping what Rose Hills will become, ensuring it reflects the values of the people who call Montana home.

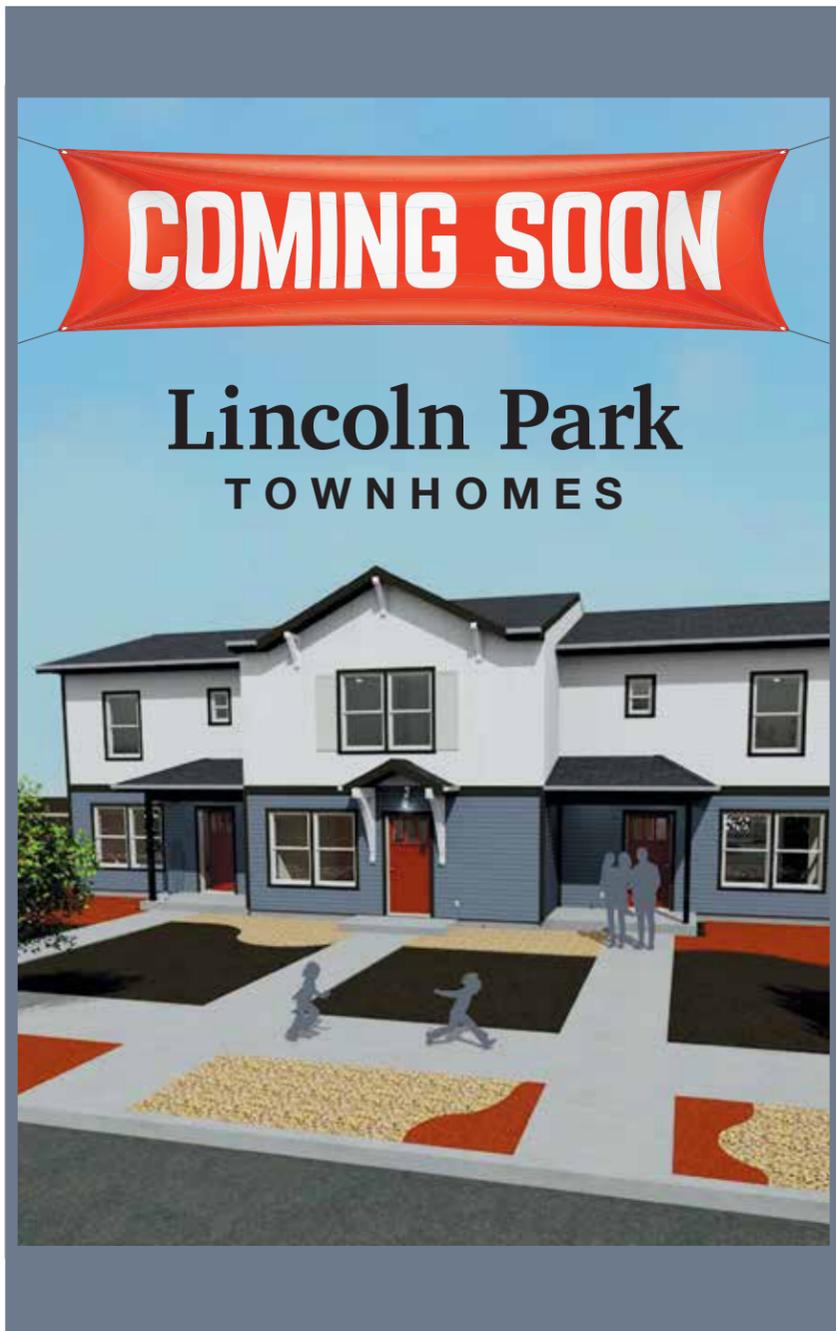
As we move into winter, we are energized by the progress being made and by the partnerships



that make it possible. Growth across our state is happening fast, and it is easy to feel like the Montana we know is slipping away. But together, we can build a future that honors our shared values, one where working families, young professionals, and

retirees all have a place to belong.

At Habitat, we are not waiting for things to go back to the way they were. We are digging in and getting to work to build the Montana we want to live in.




WHAT'S HAPPENING

There's always something happening at Helena Area Habitat for Humanity, and we'd love for you to be part of it. Check out our **Winter Calendar**

- December 2, 2025
Giving Tuesday
- December 4, 2025
East Helena Christmas Stroll
East Helena City Hall
- December 24, 2025 – January 1, 2026
ReStore and Admin Offices are closed
- January 19, 2025
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

For more information, please contact Mindie:
(406) 204-5602 or MindieM@HelenaHabitat.org

Creating Foundations for the Future

For three Helena-area families, the journey toward homeownership represents more than simply finding a place to live. It's about reclaiming stability, creating security, and building a foundation for the future.

Julane Fihre and her six children are ready for peace after years of uncertainty. Their journey has taken them across Montana, from a small acreage filled with 4-H animals to a series of temporary rentals. Each move was made in search of stability and belonging. After years of unsafe and unstable housing, Julane knows how much a steady home means for her family. "I cannot tell you how much it would mean to us to have a home again," she said. "I have a hard time even imagining the sense of stability and security



For Julane and her six children, homeownership means security and a fresh start.

that my children will have, having their own home, their own place to belong to and that belongs to them."

For Jenna Kavajecz and her two children, home represents

strength and healing. Jenna has worked tirelessly to create safety for her family while helping others find affordable housing through her job with the Helena Housing Authority. "A Habitat

for Humanity home would mean more than just a roof over our heads," she shared. "It would mean peace of mind, a place to heal, a foundation for my children to grow, and a chance to break generational cycles."

Siblings Darian and Deandre Fine know firsthand how difficult it can be to find secure housing. Both work for RMDC Head Start, nurturing young minds in our community while navigating rising rents and poor living conditions of their own. "A home from Habitat for Humanity would provide the stability, security, and foundation we need to thrive," they said. "More than just a roof over our heads, it would mean a stable, long-term home for now and for our future."

Each of these families reminds us that a home is more than a place to live—it is the foundation for stability, dignity, and future opportunity. When a family has permanent, affordable housing, they are able to plan ahead, participate fully in the community, and build a secure future for the next generation.

Habitat's approach is rooted in partnership and accountability. Homebuyers contribute sweat equity, complete financial preparation, and purchase their homes with affordable mortgages. This model ensures long-term success while strengthening neighborhoods and the local economy.

Our work is about more than building houses. It is about creating pathways for Montanans to thrive. With every home built, we move closer to a community where more people have the opportunity to put down roots, grow, and build a future with confidence."



Jenna and her two children are ready to put down roots in their new Habitat home.



Siblings Darian and Deandre are building stability and a future they can count on.

ROSE HILLS

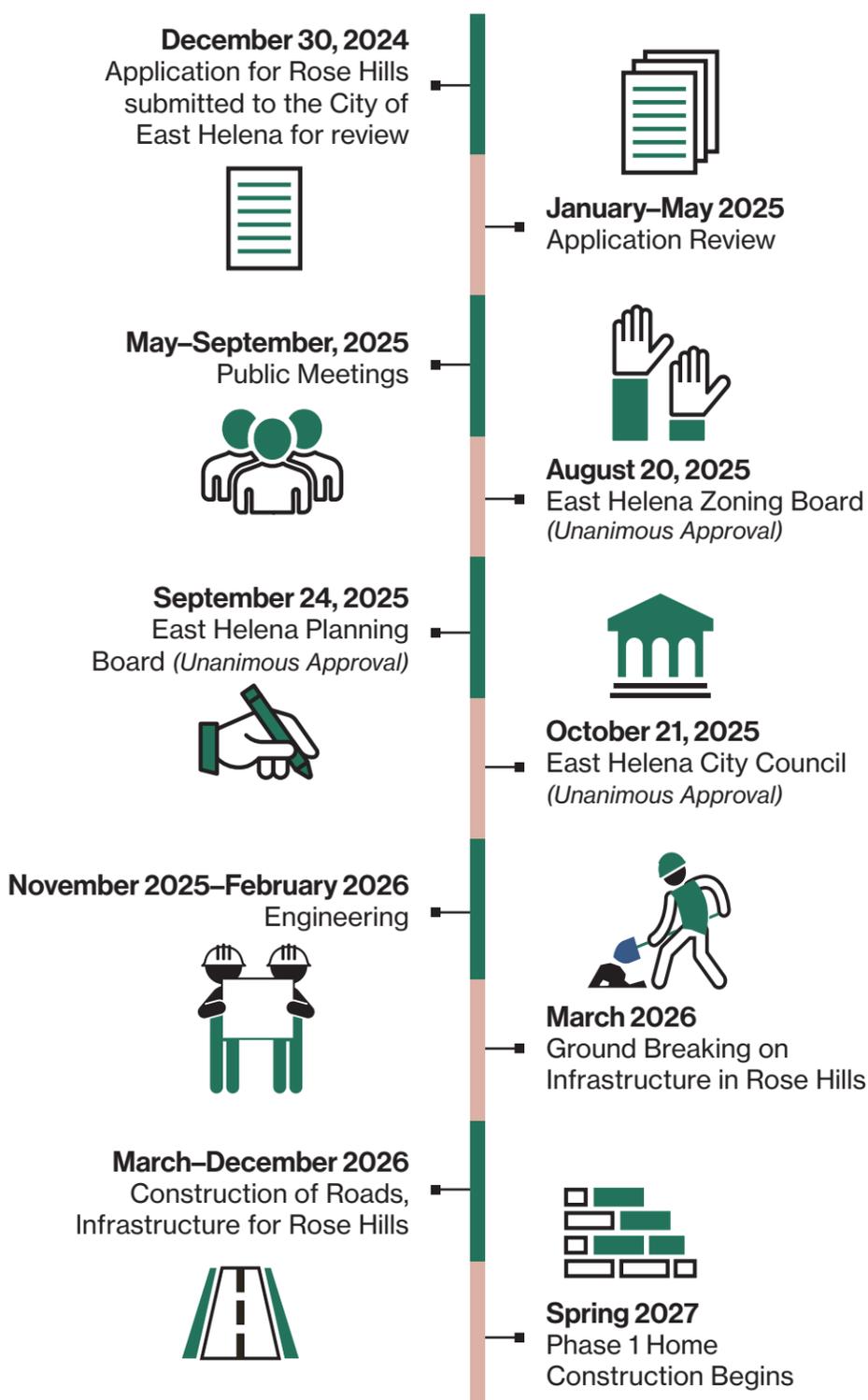


EST. 2025

— Update —

For the past eleven months, we have been working through the application process for Rose Hills with the City of East Helena. With the neighborhood now approved by the City Commission as of October, we are moving into the engineering phase and planning to break ground on infrastructure including streets, parks, and utilities in the spring of 2026. We anticipate infrastructure work to continue through 2026, with home construction beginning by spring 2027.

Rose Hills Timeline



Phase 1 Rose Hills

The first phase of homes in Rose Hills will include 101 building lots with plans for more than 170 homes. When fully built, Rose Hills will feature nearly 1,500 homes across 250 acres. The first phase will focus on the types of housing most needed in today’s market, including apartments, small cottage homes under 750 square feet, townhomes, and small single-family homes. Construction on these homes is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2027.

Rose Hills will Include a Variety of Home Styles

Cottage Homes



Single Family Homes



4-Plex

6-Plex



Townhomes



Phase 1 Plat



Want to get involved? Volunteer with Helena Habitat!

From swinging hammers on a build site to sorting treasures at the ReStore, our volunteers make Helena Area Habitat's mission possible.



Learn More at HelenaHabitat.org/Volunteer

Helena Area Habitat for Humanity

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Habitat

The Newsletter of Helena Area Habitat for Humanity

Ready for What's Next

Another home built by



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