



COMMERECE GARDENS: Tax credits approved for housing

<http://www.hutchpost.com/2014/06/02/tax-credits-approved-for-housing/>



HUTCHINSON, Kan. A section-8 housing complex has been approved for tax credits from the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation. The application from Investment Resources Corporation is for the complete rebuilding and renovation of Commerce Gardens on East 11th Avenue near the Hutchinson Mall.

The plan is to remove most of the current structures and replace them with 70-apartment units which would operate under a housing assistance contract. The redeveloped site will include multiple two story buildings with full lower level and upper level units, allowing the lower units to be accessible. The current configuration does not meet accessibility requirements with stairs to the entrance of the unit, as well as stairs within the units to the bedrooms and bathrooms.

They also plan to construct a new community building and amenities such as bar-b-cue grill areas, playground, bike racks, etc.

Developers will use a variety of funding sources including the housing tax credits to fund the project including a HUD insured loan, and other grant funds. They say the use of these funds will insure that the project will remain available to low and moderate income tenants and provide affordable housing for the existing and new residents of the community.

This is the second major proposal to be approved in Hutchinson in the past year. Last year, the Housing Resources Corporation approved similar credits for the Wiley Building as part of their \$17,000,000 dollar renovation.

Cosmosphere in the News

<http://www.cosmo.org/news.cfm>

COSMOSPHERE MOVES FORWARD WITH MAJOR REVITALIZATION

* Dr Ed Berger (retired pres of HCC) selected to spearhead revitalization initiatives, strategy, execution.



http://www.cosmo.org/newsroom/ne_nw_article.cfm?id=215

Cosmosphere launches Liberty Bell 7 on overseas mission

http://www.hutchnews.com/news/local_state_news/cosmosphere-launches-liberty-bell-on-overseas-mission/article_db4514f2-a36d-5e1e-ad43-b1a88a86eba2.html?mode=jqm



Cosmosphere launches Liberty Bell 7 on overseas mission

By Ken Stephens The Hutchinson News
kstephens@hutchnews.com Posted: 15 hours ago

Liberty Bell 7 flew again on Wednesday, even though it barely reached five feet above street level at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center.

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A crane from Belger Cartage lifted the Mercury space capsule out of a 15-foot-deep freight well at the southeast corner of the Cosmosphere and gently set it back down on a trailer for the first leg of its journey to Germany, where it will be on loan for an exhibit titled “Outer Space: The Space Between Art and Science,” in Bonn.

“We’re extremely excited to be partnered with the museum in Bonn,” said Cosmosphere President and Chief Operating Office Jim Remar. “There is a lot of interest in space exploration in Europe, especially related to the historical side. For us to share with Europe, especially in light of our announcement yesterday, will help increase our international presence.”

The Cosmosphere on Tuesday announced a five-year, \$15 million campaign to revitalize the Cosmosphere and increase its international reputation, with more interactive exhibits and a stronger emphasis on including STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education components.

Lifting Liberty Bell 7 out of a portal to the Cosmosphere’s basement on Tuesday took about 15 minutes, the same duration as astronaut Gus Grissom’s suborbital flight aboard the capsule in 1961.

From the Cosmosphere, Liberty Bell 7 was taken to the museum’s SpaceWorks division on Whiteside Street. SpaceWorks technicians will refurbish its display case with better lighting and a positive pressure component to help protect the capsule from the environment.

Liberty Bell 7 will then be crated up and placed on a truck for the Port of Houston on July 30. There it will be placed aboard a ship for the ocean journey to Germany. From a German port, it will be trucked to the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn. It is expected to arrive there on Aug. 29. SpaceWorks personnel will meet the Liberty Bell 7 to unpack it and prepare it for display in Bonn from Oct. 3 through Feb. 22.

After that show, Remar said it will take about a month for Liberty Bell 7, one of the Cosmosphere’s most valuable artifacts, to get back to Hutchinson. He expects that it will be back on display at the Cosmosphere sometime before Memorial Day 2015.

In the meantime, visitors will still be able to get a sense of what a Mercury space capsule was like. On Wednesday Belger Cartage also lowered a replica of the Friendship 7 Mercury capsule down into the basement.

Remar said the Germans asked for the Liberty Bell 7 because they fell in love with the story of its loss, recovery from the bottom of the ocean and restoration.

After it splashed down in the Atlantic Ocean in 1961, the explosive hatch release went off and the capsule began taking on water, prompting Grissom to scramble out into a life raft. The rescue helicopter was unable to lift the capsule because the water had doubled its weight, and the pilot had to disconnect the lift cable when alarms started going off in the helicopter.

The capsule sank 13,000 feet to the bottom of the ocean, where it remained for 38 years until it was recovered by an expedition financed by the Discovery Channel in 1999. SpaceWorks then spent the next six months restoring the spacecraft for a national tour. It has been at home in the Cosmosphere since September 2006.

Liberty Bell 7: Larry Burns, from Pickering, Ohio, takes pictures of the Liberty Bell 7 as it leaves the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center on Wednesday bound for a German museum. - Travis Morisse/The Hutchinson News



Liberty Bell 7: Mike Baker, of Belger Cartage Service, and Dale Capps, SpaceWorks employee, guide the Liberty Bell 7 onto a trailer Wednesday at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. - Travis Morisse/The Hutchinson News



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First on the block



BEFORE



AFTER

Wiley apartment finished, dressed, awaiting display

By **KEN STEPHENS**
The Hutchinson News
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Outside Wiley Plaza, the only clue are the mini-blinds in the windows of Apartment 205 in the southwest corner of the building.

But inside Apartment 205, is the first of 73 apartments in the 100-year-old building to be finished. Bathroom fixtures have been installed, cabinets hung, walls painted, carpeting and tile laid. And recently, the Sleep Shoppe and Furniture Gallery, a neighbor half a block away on Main Street, gave the model apartment the look of a home by comfortably furnishing it with a living room chair, couch, coffee table, small dining table with two chairs, breakfast bar with two chairs, bed, nightstand, dresser and some art for the walls. The only things missing are the appliances, which will arrive in a large shipment as the last of the apartments are nearing completion.

"We wanted to check the carpet

color, the wall color and trim," developer Jack Manske said of the model apartment. "This is the smallest unit in the building (675

square feet), but it would be perfect for a single person or an elderly

See **WILEY / A4**



Photos by Sandra J. Milburn/The Hutchinson News

Directly above: The bedroom inside of Wiley Plaza apartment 205 has been furnished by the Sleep Shoppe and Furniture Gallery. Above: Apartment 205 early in the renovation (top) and completed and furnished (bottom). The one-bedroom apartment, as seen Wednesday morning, is furnished to show people this fall.

Wiley

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couple that wants to downsize.”

Although about 100 people attending the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band benefit concert next door at the Historic Fox Theatre last week got to take a quick look at Apartment 205 last week, Manske said it won't be open to the general public for the next few months because of ongoing construction throughout the building and insurance liability issues.

But he said he hopes to have an open house sometime after Thanksgiving.

“We'll have to have the elevators in and certified before then,” Manske said. “That's what's holding up the date of the open house. We'll need the elevators for the upper floors.”

In the meantime, his company has launched a website, www.wileyplaza.com, where people can go to explore floor plans. Visitors to the site can pick a floor and then click on a specific apartment to open up a detailed floor plan.

Wiley Plaza will have 23 one-bedroom apartments, with six floor plans ranging in size from 675 to 856 square feet; 38 two-bedroom apartments with 10 floor plans ranging in size from 853 to 1,126 square feet;

and 12 three-bedroom apartments with seven floor plans ranging from 1,237 to 1,363 square feet.

The apartments are a mixture of affordable housing for low- to medium-income-qualified residents and market-rate apartments without income limits.

As of Wednesday morning, that waiting list has 173 names. Although there are only 73 apartments, Manske said he still encourages anyone who might be interested to get on the waiting list by calling (620) 662-4400 or emailing info@wileyplaza.com.

“A lot of factors affect the ultimate decision to move in, so we don't want anybody to be discouraged by the waiting list,” Manske said. “Our experience is that usually one out of three or one out of four eventually moves in, for a variety reasons. That's why we never discourage anyone from adding their name to the waiting list because eventually we will get to them.”

The Wiley Building, which once housed department stores on the first four floors and professional offices on the top four floors and penthouse, is undergoing an \$18 million makeover, including a connected parking garage just east of the Fox Theatre. In addition to the 73 apartments, Wiley Plaza will have 11,500 square feet of commercial



Photos by Sandra J. Milburn/The Hutchinson News

Above: The finished bathroom is seen in apartment 205 at the Wiley Plaza on Wednesday. Below: A one-bedroom apartment at the Wiley Plaza has been furnished as seen Wednesday morning to be able to show people later this fall during an open house.



space on the ground floor and mezzanine.

Manske said January 1 is the target date for occupancy for the apartments.

“We will have 150 to 200 people living here

eventually,” Manske said.

“That pales by comparison with the number of people who were working here at one time. It would have been a beehive of activity back in the day.”

www.wileyplaza.com: official web site w/Hx, up to date pics n also found below page.
Check it ALL Out!



WILEY PLAZA

Overview of Project

Introducing Wiley Plaza... a complete renovation of Hutchinson's historic Wiley Building. Located at the corner of 1st and Main in Hutchinson, Kansas, Wiley Plaza is a creative response to a growing demand for rental living in the area. In addition to approximately 11,500 square feet of retail space, Wiley Plaza is comprised of 73 one, two, and three bedroom apartments, with a mixture of affordable housing and market-rate units. We comply with the Fair Housing Act. Ask us about handicap accessibility. Water and sewer utilities, snow removal and refuse collection services are included in the rent.

Apartment Amenities Include:

- attached parking garage
- elevator access
- new energy-efficient appliances and lighting
- cable, internet and telephone capabilities
- furnished washer and dryer in each unit
- all electric central heat and air-conditioning
- electric range with microwave and self-cleaning oven
- frost-free refrigerator
- built-in dishwasher
- garbage disposal
- carpet and laminate flooring
- bathtub with shower or walk-in shower
- high ceilings
- large combination windows with blinds
- community room with full kitchen available to all residents

23 One-Bedroom Apartments

675 to 856 Square Feet
Monthly Rents Starting at \$395

38 Two-Bedroom Apartments

853 to 1,126 Square Feet
Monthly Rents Starting at \$440

12 Three-Bedroom Apartments

1,237 to 1,363 Square Feet
Monthly Rents Starting at \$465

For Additional Information Contact:

Wiley Plaza
C/O Manske & Associates, L.L.C.
8918 East Bradford Court
Wichita, Kansas 67206

Telephone: 620.662.4400
Email: info@wileyplaza.com

Steve Stout:

Steve shared this pic that his company Liberty Hardware made this donation. He was proud to show his company donation. ... "We (Liberty Hardware) bought \$5,000 of food from Costco for children who are missing their school lunches this summer.



Local attention to community garden grows

The thriving tomatoes, zucchini and petunias all began with the spark of an idea to turn a barren patch of earth into a garden for the Hutchinson neighborhood.

Standing inside the fence at the Tenth Avenue Community Garden admiring the raised beds with Rosalie Waters, we watched a driver stop her car in the street to chat.

"I've been seeing those boxes," said Ellen Smiley. She wanted to know about the garden and commented on the pretty petunias.

Although it has been several years in the planning, this is the first summer for the garden to really take off,

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

By Kathy Hanks

and people are noticing.

While the garden is on the Hutchinson Public Library property west of Main Street, the gardeners are neighbors like Rosalie Waters. She can't come into the space without pulling some weeds. It's a collaborative effort. She painted the sign that just went up which identifies the garden.

The plan is for neighbors to rent a box, or raised garden, and plant in the space. Currently there are 10 raised beds, but the plan is for more.

"The purpose is to get



Kathy Hanks/The Hutchinson News

Rosalie Waters pulls weeds by the tomato plants at the Tenth Avenue Community Garden.

the neighbors out and together," said Waters.

The plot is an example of what people can do when they try to make things

better. But it didn't happen overnight, or even in one season.

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Garden

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The seeds were planted several years ago when Marie Moses wanted to do something for her 10th Avenue neighborhood as she worked toward a master's degree in environmental science from Friends University. The 33-year-old bought a duplex on the street where her parents, Boyce and Pam Moses, still live.

Growing up in the neighborhood, she ran freely along the sidewalks where everyone looked out for each other. Even as an adult she wanted to stay in the neighborhood. For several decades there was an abandoned house on the property next to her parents. Back in 2012 the house burned it and the city bulldozed it. That's

approached the library to see if they could use some of its vacant land. Gregg Wamsley, the library's director, was thrilled to see the big rectangle spot, which was always in need of mowing, be turned into something useful. Through neighborhood revitalization grants, handled through Interfaith Housing and volunteers, they were able to get water to the property, build the raised beds and build a fence.

Another project that brought the neighbors together was a spring cleanup that focused on the back alleys. Waters was amazed at all the people who helped. Afterward they had a big neighborhood picnic. They offered to paint house numbers in the alley. And they handed out flashlights to all the neighbors to encourage keeping their porch lights on at night, to deter crime.

Les Hilton, who lives

the city bulldozed it. That's when Marie saw a community garden coming together.

She and her parents went to work tilling the soil and planting. Anyone curious was encouraged to get involved. When Marie went to the city to get a fence permit, she learned about the revitalization program the city was working on in the middle of Hutchinson. She and her mother headed off to a Neighbor Works conference. That's where they listened to several presentations about community gardens.

When they returned, they

Les Hilton, who lives across from the garden, stopped by and said he was going to garden in the plot next year.

"It's pretty cool," Hilton said. "I love looking out the window at all of this."

In your neighborhood

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HutchCC's Dragon's Tale Magazine is published three times a year, by students and for students. Staff members learn the basics of magazine production including journalism, photography, and graphic design. Student Courtney Carlton said, "Being a part of the Dragon's Tale Magazine staff has made my experience at HutchCC

better. http://issuu.com/dragonstalemagazine/docs/dt_spring_2013_sm-fa

FB Pg.: <https://www.facebook.com/hutchcc?fref=nf>