

Ribbon Cut on New Falls City Housing Development

Less than one year after ground was broken on the Wilderness Falls housing development at 31st and Barada in Falls City, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Tuesday to officially mark the completion of the project.

The ribbon was cut following a short program with remarks from several people who helped make the project possible. Falls City EDGE Executive Director Beckie Cromer welcomed the large crowd that gathered for the ceremony and gave a brief timeline of the project. (play audio :52)

Ground was broken on the project last July. Cromer says several local entities – public and private – helped complete the development. (play audio :28)

Wilderness Falls is a housing development for people age 55 and older. There are eight duplex units – 14 two-bedroom and two three-bedroom units. Cromer says interest has been high in the project from the beginning. (play audio :16)

Tuesday's speakers included representatives of funding partners who helped finance the project – including the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, Midwest Housing Equity Group, Horizon Bank, and FHA Bank of Topeka. Nebraska Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy, who spoke at the groundbreaking, also spoke Tuesday. He noted the project started during the heart of the national economic recession and was made possible thanks to wise investments that were made. (play audio :33)

Also in attendance Tuesday were representatives of project contractor Excel Development. Ralph Peters, who lives in an Excel development in Auburn and was instrumental in getting the company to build in Falls City, also spoke briefly. (play audio :48)

Tenants are now living in nine of the 16 duplexes, with seven more residents yet to move in. People who attended Tuesday's ribbon cutting also had the chance to tour one of the unoccupied duplex units. It's hoped that Wilderness Falls will be the first of a multi-phase housing development in the area located to the south of Community Medical Center.

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