

Ed Linnebur takes on New Assignment

Ed Linnebur joined the City Vision staff on June 4th 2006 as the Director of Real Estate Development. In this role Ed brought leadership and positive energy to several development projects including the Kansan PressRoom Studios, 5th East Town homes and the Wheat State Pizza building rehabilitation on Strawberry Hill. But a new assignment now awaits Ed's energetic leadership in 2009.

City Vision has recently been awarded the management services and staffing contract for the Downtown Shareholders and will be managing all of the Downtown Shareholders programs and services to its membership as well as developing new programs to this growing organization. As part of this exciting agreement between the two organizations, Ed will now be serving as Program Director for the Shareholders effective January 1,



2009. In this new position Ed will be working with the Downtown Shareholder's Board of Directors to grow and improve such programs as the façade improvement program, Second Friday Follow the Dotte art walks and special events such as the Big 11 Bar-B-Que.

Ed also will be focused on developing new service areas for downtown businesses. Of most importance will be implementing the new "Clean and Safe" program of the Self Supporting Municipal Improvement District (SSMID) that was fully approved last year by the Unified Government with broad support of downtown property owners. This \$400,000 program is expected to be launched in June and will concentrate on improving safety services and trash and litter cleaning services for new and existing businesses within the district. ■

Downtown Shareholders Installs New Banners

With a grant from State Farm Insurance through the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) the Downtown Shareholders kicks off 2009 with the installation of 130 colorful banners in the downtown area. The large street banners will be displayed on alternating poles along Minnesota and State Avenues from roughly 5th Street on the east, to 18th Street on the west. Banners also will be displayed along 6th and 7th Streets, from Washington to Sandusky, as well as the 700 block of Armstrong and Big 11 Lake.

"These banners help build a cohesive identity and image for our downtown and celebrate the progress our downtown is making including the launching of a Self-Supporting Municipal Improvement District (SSMID) later this spring," commented Danielle Westcott, project coordinator. The colorful image on the banners as well as the Downtown Shareholder's logo was adapted from the Victorian clock located in the 700 Block of Minnesota Avenue in the heart of the downtown district. The old Victorian clock, known as the Winkler's Jewelry Store Clock, has long been an icon in the downtown, is a Kansas Historic Landmark and has been placed on the National Register of



Historic Places.

The street banners will be continuously displayed over the next several years. Top level membership sponsors of the Downtown Shareholders also will receive a banner to display in their offices. ■

Vintage Homes Renovated on Strawberry Hill

The housing economy may be down but things are looking up for the Victorian era Strawberry Hill neighborhood. As a follow-up to developing new townhomes in the community, City Vision also has begun buying and renovating formerly vacant houses and preparing them for resale or, in some cases, for lease. Three homes have already been completed including the recent renovation and sale of the home at **501 Thompson** which was sold to a couple who were renting just down the street.

Many passers-by may have noticed City Vision's newest project, the home at **706 N.**

5th street, undergoing a complete renovation. The home had sat vacant and forlorn at the corner of 5th and Barnett for many, many years. While contractors were removing old plaster walls, part of a newspaper was discovered behind the wall dated 1894! The paper will be framed and displayed at the open house being planned for later this spring as proof of the home's age.

The total make-over of the 3 bedroom, 2 bath home will retain much of its Victorian character yet will sport new and modern conveniences such as a new modern

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Creative Partnership Assists Strawberry Hill Homeowner

Much of the Strawberry Hill Neighborhood, located just south of downtown Kansas City, Kansas, was built around or prior to the turn of the 20th century. Though stately and well built, 100 years of wear and tear presents a daunting task of upkeep for many of the neighborhood's retirement age residents. With her home suffering from a bad roof, deteriorated siding and in sore need of painting, Florence Eimer had no idea how she was going to make the expensive improvements needed to keep her Strawberry Hill home from serious deterioration. But a contact with the Unified Government's Community Development Department led to a partnership between

local government, volunteers from the EPA and City Vision that provided the resources to repair the home.

With grant funding from the H&R Block Foundation, City Vision was able to tackle the project and install new vinyl siding, guttering and a new hot water heater. Additional resources from the city's Community Development Department resulted in the installation of a complete new roof and smoke detectors and volunteers from the EPA rounded out the project by scraping and painting the wood trim and porch. Florence's home now is another beautiful example of the quality vintage homes on Strawberry Hill and is a home that will last her for many, many years. ■

kitchen complete with work island and built-in appliances, all new bathrooms and larger closet spaces. The renovation also is being designed with an eye toward energy efficiency and will include such energy saving components as new thermal pane windows, highly efficient heating and air conditioning units and a high end insulation package that envelops the entire exterior wall and ceiling space. Target date for completion is April 1st with a Community Open House planned for later in the spring. For purchase information contact Evelyn Hudson at 913.371.5200. ■



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