

## **North Omaha Shows Signs Of Economic Development**

### ***Concept House, Senior Living, Businesses Under Construction***

**OMAHA, Neb.** -- The city of Omaha is breaking a lot of ground in north Omaha as it launches two revitalization projects.

A first-in-the-nation project called a Path Concept Home will be built with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at 25th and Parker streets. It must be sold to a minority or low-income family, and is a prototype home that will be environmentally sensitive, efficient and unusually flexible.

"This means the room, the walls, the cabinetry, the electrical can all reconfigure to accommodate whatever you want," said Fernando Pages of Brighton Homes.

Ken Johnson of the city planning department said it hopes to use the same elements in other homes. The concept homeowner will be able to move the interior walls. A water heater in the home only heats the water being used at that moment.

Brighton Homes will eventually put up Web cameras so the public can monitor the progress. The home will also be put on display for awhile after it's finished.

The sale price will be \$140,000.

A representative of HUD said that north Omaha was chosen as the site of the concept home because of the city's push for revitalization.

Johnson said there's much more development in the works.

"This along with other projects in the making will help prove to the broader community that north Omaha is a place to live and to do business and prosperity is on the way," he said.

Land at 34th and Lake streets will be developed into a 51-unit senior living complex. Ground was broken on that project on Wednesday.

New homes are popping up all over the neighborhood, such as the new structures going up near 25th and Decatur streets. At 32nd and Ohio streets, homeowners are building top-of-the-line houses worth between \$250,000 and \$500,000. New businesses are going in at 24th and Hamilton streets.

North Omaha community leaders said they hope these signs send a message to the rest of the city.

"There are positive things going on in this part of the city," said the Rev. Dr. Selwyn Bachus of Salem Baptist Church "And we want to make sure the city knows that we are looking forward to great things happening in north Omaha."

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