



A backhoe sits idle across the street from an NEMCAA construction site on Wednesday.

NMCAA constructs houses

BY JASON QUALLS
for the Index

The doors to two new houses for low-income families soon will open.

The Northeast Missouri Community Action Agency will build the two three-bedroom houses in the Kirksville community for needy families to rent.

The project came to fruition last December when the Missouri Housing Development Commission approved the NMCAA's proposal to build houses for needy families in the community.

NMCAA Executive Director Penny Miles said the homes will include appliances and central air and heating and one will have a garage.

"We want the homes to blend into the neighborhoods they're in," Miles said.

Amy Summers, NMCAA Program Supervisor, said it will cost about \$331,700 to complete both homes, with each costing roughly half of that figure.

The funding comes from the

Missouri Housing Development Commission, which has provided nearly \$4 billion for rental housing developments in the state, according to its Web site.

The NMCAA took bids for construction during the summer. Although there were no local bidders, mason contractors from Milan, Mo., offered the lowest bid, which the NMCAA readily accepted.

The contractors will build the houses throughout the next several months, and the project should be completed in April.

The houses are located on Wabash and Porter streets. The city of Kirksville donated the lots to the NMCAA last year. Kirksville's gift to the NMCAA was a way to enhance the project by linking it to the community and helped in the proposal to the MHDC.

"This has been a close collaboration of the NMCAA, the MHDC, and the city of Kirksville," Summers said.

City Manager Mari Macomber said the city had owned

the pieces of property for a few years after buying them for \$437 and \$587 on the courthouse steps. The city acquired the properties in 2004 when the city condemned the houses on the properties and the owners failed to pay taxes.

The city also paid for the demolition of the condemned houses, which cost \$5,500.

"It's our way of participating and showing our support for [the NMCAA]," Macomber said. "If the Council opposed it, they wouldn't be giving out property."

Macomber said the city administration offers its support to help give the NMCAA the opportunity to add to the Kirksville community.

Miles said the NMCAA welcomes such support from the community because needy families deserve this support.

"We're really pleased to be doing this for the community and to be receiving this donation from the city," Miles said.

Other Northeast Missouri communities soon will work with

the NMCAA. The agency will build one house in Lancaster, one in Edina and two houses in Kahoka.

Families interested in living in the new houses may fill out an application with the NMCAA as the houses' completion approaches in the early spring, Miles said. She said the first-come, first-serve application process will require each family that applies to undergo a background check.

Miles said the rental properties will provide opportunities for needy families to make homes for themselves in the long term.

"We hope to work with families to go on to build or buy their own homes after awhile," Miles said.

She said it often is difficult for families in need to find adequate housing in the community.

"Landlords in the community can charge hundreds of dollars a month for rent to students who think it's no big deal," Miles said.

"Low-income families can't compete with that."

Fire destroys building on Thanksgiving Day

BY JOHN FLEMING
Staff Reporter

While most University students were away for the holiday, a fire erupted at the Baker Outdoor Advertising Company in Kirksville.

Last Thursday afternoon, a fire ravaged through land owned by the company at 810 Green St., less than one mile away from the Truman campus. One of the three buildings on the property was destroyed in the blaze.

Firefighters from the Kirksville Fire Department arrived on the scene at 2:14 p.m., but the fire's rapid expansion called for more firefighters than had been expected when the fire first was reported.

"Five firefighters were initially dispatched by the department," Kirksville Fire Chief Randy Behrens said. "An additional nine were brought to the scene on the second alarm."

Firefighters were able to get the blaze under control at about 3:14 p.m., an hour after the fire began, Behrens said.

Baker Outdoor Advertising Company is a locally owned and operated business specializing in electric sign manufacturing and billboard design. The destroyed building was one of three buildings owned by the company. The roof of the building was destroyed completely in the blaze.

Although the fire did not lead to the building's total destruction, the damage required the company to take action.

"The damage to the building was so extensive that the building had to be completely gutted," said Terry Baker, owner of Baker Outdoor Advertising Company.

Baker said the building was so damaged by the fire that it would not be possible to make the significant repairs that would be necessary for reopening it.

"The level of damage to the building could be described simply as total," Baker said.

Usually open for business Thursdays, the entire Baker Outdoor Advertising Company complex was closed at the time of the fire, Baker said.

"Luckily, nobody was in the building when the fire erupted," Baker said. "We were closed at the time for the Thanksgiving holiday."

In spite of the extensive damage done to the building at Baker Outdoor Advertising Company, no other buildings were affected by the blaze.

"There were several other buildings close by that were in danger," Behrens said. "But we protected them with water while we were extinguishing the fire at the building."

The other two buildings owned by the Company suffered minimal damage, and

"The damage to the building was so extensive that the building had to be completely gutted."

Terry Baker
Owner of Baker Outdoor Advertising Company



These are the remnants of the Baker outdoor advertisement building, which caught fire this weekend. The cause of the fire still is under investigation.

Baker said Outdoor Advertising Company intends to continue operations with its other two buildings.

"Right now, we are just going to move on with our two undamaged buildings," Baker said.

Currently, Baker Outdoor

Advertising Company does not have plans for rebuilding or renovating the dismantled building in the near future, Baker said.

Behrens said it has not yet been determined as to how the fire began, but an investigation is taking place to determine the cause.

Captain Kenneth Lambert of the Kirksville Fire Department said he is pessimistic that an explanation for the cause of the fire will be determined.

"There was too much damage in the area of origin to determine the cause," Lambert said.

Index Classifieds

Rates:

- On-Campus: \$3 per ad per issue. Fewer than 25 words.
- Off-Campus: \$5 per ad per issue. Fewer than 25 words.

660-785-4319

Deadline: Monday by 5 p.m.

For Rent

For Rent: Behrman Rentals is offering a selection of two-, three- and four-bedroom houses close to Truman campus. All homes offer off-street parking, washer and dryers, and many have central air. These are well-maintained rentals and are available for May 2008. Call Jeff Behrman, owner-agent at 660-626-7598 or visit housesinkirksville.com.

For Rent: One-, two-, three-, four-, five-, and six-bedroom apartments and houses for the 2008 school year. Call 660-216-1179.

For Rent: Three-bedroom house. Refrigerator, laundry, dishwasher. Close to campus, 90-plus furnace, central. Very nice inside—check it out! Call 815-519-6509 or 970-252-7181. Only in town for a while, CALL NOW!

For Rent: Several nice one-, two-, and three-bedroom units in the Boardwalk, Water Works, Park Place, States Avenue, St. James, and New York Avenue complexes. Call Four Horizons Realty, 660-665-3400. 703 N. Marion.

For Rent: Three-bedroom, two-bathroom, Pottery Barn look close to campus. Available June 1, 2008. Loaded with nice appliances, including washer/dryer. Currently rented by TSU students. This won't last. Also available: extremely nice four-bedroom, two-bathroom house close to campus with all appliances. Very clean and spacious. A great place to live. Call Tracy at 660-665-5678. Ask for SBR properties.

For Rent: Two-bedroom, includes dishwasher, washer/dryer, stove and refrigerator, garbage disposal. One walk-in closet, central air, off-street parking, outside storage shed. Call 660-665-2796.

For Rent: HUGE, four-plus bedroom apartment. Remodeled with hardwood floors, new kitchen, dishwasher. Washer/dryer included. Water/trash paid. Four blocks from TSU campus. Rent \$1,100 plus deposit. Available May 2008. Call 660-216-8608.

For Rent

For Rent: Now accepting applications for the 2008-09 school year. One- to seven-bedroom apartments, duplexes, and houses. Call 660-341-5184 or 660-341-1805.

For Rent: Attention, professional students: Multiple high-quality two- and three-bedroom modern apartments with countless amenities currently available for May 2008 and August 2008 leases. Locations are all in established safe residential/rental progressive areas of the city. These beautiful complexes are all electric (no gas price fluctuation or asphyxiation worries) and are geared for professional conscientious individuals who place a high emphasis on safety, privacy, and an attractive surrounding less than a five minute commute from campus. Please call 626-7695 for details. Student references gladly given on request.

For Rent: Three-bedroom house, close to campus. \$550/month plus deposit and lease. Call 660-341-7529

For Rent: Four-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment. New kitchen & bathrooms. New paint & carpet. Stove fridge, dishwasher & washer/dryer included. \$800/month plus deposit & lease. 660-988-2087.

For Rent: Enjoy living on your own in this spacious three-bedroom house. New beautiful cabinetry, new appliances, new bathrooms, washer/dryer. LARGE bedrooms. Deposit holds. 660-665-3779.

For Rent: Looking for lots of space? Here's a six- to seven-bedroom building. All new cabinetry, new appliances, new bathrooms, washer/dryer and walking distance to campus. Deposit holds. 660-665-3779.

For Rent: Super nice four- and five-bedroom houses. New cabinetry, new appliances, beautiful bathrooms, large bedrooms, washer/dryer, nice flooring too. Deposit holds. 660-665-3779.

For Rent

For Rent: Very nice one- and two-bedroom houses and apartments. Extra nice kitchens with new appliances, carpeting, renovated bathrooms. Pets welcome upon approval. Deposit holds. 660-665-3779.

For Rent: New one-, two-, three-bedroom apartments. June & August contracts. All with washers, dryers, central heat & air, and private parking. Other two- to four-bedroom houses available all within two blocks of campus. 660-627-5437 or 660-341-5538.

For Rent: 901 S. Haliburton, three-, to four-bedroom, central heat, loft electric heat, window a/c, stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer. One block from campus. Available June 1. \$750/month. 660-349-8552

For Rent: Four-bedroom house, 712 E. Orchard. Two blocks from Truman. Fenced backyard, pets welcome. Washer/dryer included. Good neighborhood. Available now or May/June. Call 988-1701.

For Rent: One-bedroom furnished apt. available Jan. 1, with washer / dryer, walk-in closet, AC, off-street parking and two blocks from TSU. No pets. Also leases available for May and August. Call 660-488-6465.

For Rent: Now renting for 2008-09. "White Apartments" (across from O.P.) and other great locations. Nice one-, two-, and three-bedrooms. Call 627-2060 for information and appointment.

For Rent: Newly remodeled, well maintained four- and five-bedroom houses. Close to campus. Washer/dryer. Off-street parking. Call 660-216-6618. Available May & August leases.

For Sale

For Sale: Like-new Gateway laptop with HP Deskjet printer and carrying case. 1.6 GHz Intel dual-core mobile processor, 100 GB HD, 15.4" widescreen ultrabright display, wire-

Now Hiring

less card and DVD-RW drive. Also includes Windows Vista, Spy Sweeper and Trend Micro Antivirus 2007. Purchased in May for \$1200. Only asking for \$850. Call Jean Richardson, 665-8255.

Now Hiring: Market research interviewers. Part-time work, flexible scheduling, \$7.50/hr starting wage, employees meeting quality standards could earn up to \$9.75 within 90 days. Interviewing at the Missouri Career Center (MACC campus), Mondays 9 a.m. to noon and Wednesdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For further info., call 660-626-1500.

Wanted

Wanted: Free room and board in exchange for part-time big brother or sister for my son, age 11. I work rotating shifts. Contact Sgt. Crouse KPD 660-341-1817 or 660-785-6945, ext 19.

Wanted: Disabled person NEEDS personal computer; requests DONATION (unable to afford a computer). James, 516 E. Jefferson, Apt. C, Kirksville, Missouri.

Wanted: Two to three subleasees for apartment in Vista Heights spring '08. Two-bedroom, one bath, clean and spacious, new carpeting. Rent negotiable. cpr902@truman.edu or 816-225-1236.

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous: Can We Know God? "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." John 17:3 Lake Road Chapel 22963 Potter Trail Sun. 10 a.m., Wed. 7 p.m. lakeroadchapel.org. Call 660-349-0766.

Miscellaneous: FREE GARDASIL at Planned Parenthood. Be one less life affected by cervical cancer. Call 1-800-230-PLAN or www.plannedparenthood.org/trpp. Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.