

A LANDMARK CELEBRATION

Roosevelt Apartments officially open

Roosevelt ribbon-cutting

BY JAKE MOSBACH

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CLINTON - After \$4.8 million of renovation and a process of brainstorming, designing and construction that took more than a year and a half, the Roosevelt School Apartments received its grand public opening Tuesday.

The 16-unit complex was formally introduced **CHI President Doug LaBounty addresses the crowd at the grand opening of the Roosevelt School Apartments. Clinton City Councilwoman Julie Allesee (second-to-right) also spoke at the event, commending CHI on**

SEE OPEN PAGE 2A their work with the building.



Community figures including Clinton Community School District Superintendent Deb Olson (front, center), CHI Chief Operation Officer Sam Erickson (front, second-to-right), and CHI President Doug LaBounty (front, right), participate in Tuesday's ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Roosevelt School Apartments. The \$4.8 million project created 16 residential units in the building at 600 S. Fourth St. that once served as Clinton High School, an elementary school and the CCSD administration building.

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CCSD Supt. Deb Olson FROM PAGE 1A

Tuesday with several public figures and Clinton- area dignitaries on hand to usher in the new era for the building at 600 S. Fourth St., built in 1888 to serve as Clinton High School. Since then, it's served as an elementary school, as well as the Clinton Community School District Administration building.

But after the CCSD left the building, it sat vacant. Now, new life will be brought to the historic structure. CCSD Superintendent Deb Olson, who once held an office in the building at a time when it was deteriorating, commented on its new pristine condition Tuesday.

"I can tell you, the transformation is incredible, " Olson said. "After being here for 10 years...I keep looking around, and it's incredible. When you think about where it had been, and where it is now, those of you that had been here before, you understand exactly what I'm talking about." The mixed-income units have a tentative move-in date of Nov. 1, according to Community Housing Initiatives Communication Director Matt Hauge.

Clinton City Councilwoman Julie Allesee has had her finger on the pulse of the project since its infancy. Upon completion, Allesee is extremely proud of what the building has become.

"When I saw Deb (Olson) here today, I thought maybe she might want to take the building back," Allesee joked. "We would not have been able to do this type of work without Community Housing Initiatives, and I can tell you for all the time I've had the privilege of working with them, they've been stellar." The Roosevelt complex is the fifth such project that CHI has completed in Clinton, along with Van Allen Apartments, Clinton Block Apartments, Armstrong Apartments, and West Heights Townhomes.

Olson reiterated the importance that the building has had on the community, and expressed gratitude

that it could be returned to its former late-19th Century glory, only this time to serve a completely different purpose.

"I take great pleasure and pride in this building every time I go by it," Olson said. "Our community dates well back to the origins of Iowa, and this building was and is a legacy testimony to the endurance and beauty of our community. I want to personally and on behalf of the Clinton School Board thank CHI for their work on this building, and recreating a focal point for our community today, and for generations to come."