

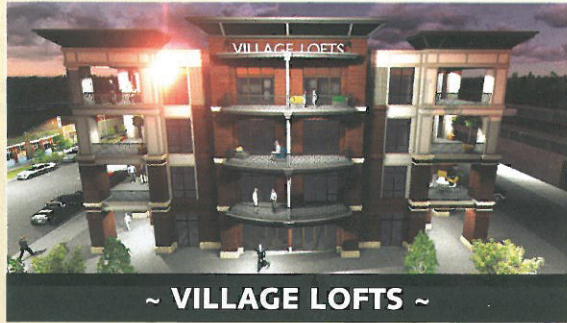
# Downtown housing is in demand

*Scott Olson*

In 2007, the "15 in 5 Housing Task Force Report" emphasized the need for more Downtown housing. This was highlighted at the time by the development of Water Tower Place and Bottleworks. Since the flood, all comprehensive plans for our city's core have ranked housing as the number one priority.

To that end, the Downtown housing group of the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance has been working to promote Downtown living opportunities through the following:

- "Urban Living Events." The next one is May 12, 2015.
- Recruiting developers
- Development of a housing web site of existing/proposed options
- Developing incentives to make office-to-housing projects more feasible



The results of the above efforts are coming to reality with over a dozen projects under construction or starting in 2015. Many new units will be created to add to the existing 1000 units in the Kingston, Downtown, MedQuarter, NewBo and Czech Village areas. Based on some recent state housing grants just awarded to six Cedar Rapids projects, several more projects will be starting in late 2015 or early 2016. The recently updated Maxfield Research Comprehensive Housing Analysis estimates a demand for approximately 125 ownership/rental units a year in the Downtown.

This influx of new and varied housing options will add to the vitality of our city's core, plus provide the base for more amenities and services such as a grocery store. This is an exciting time to call Cedar Rapids your home.



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