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Group Working to Bring Argentine Neighborhood Back to Life

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KANSAS CITY, KAN - One of the oldest neighborhoods in Wyandotte County is getting a fresh, new look as a neighborhood development association works to give the residents who live in the Argentine neighborhood a reason to be proud.

The Argentine Neighborhood Association says that they have already built seven new homes, and plans to break ground on nine more in the next 30 days. After many years of decline, officials with the association say that people who grew up in this neighborhood are now coming back to raise their families here.

"People are thrilled and excited now," said Ann Murguia of the Argentine Neighborhood Development Association. "There are also people who are scared. It's a whole new neighborhood, brand new housing is going up. (Residents) haven't seen brand new housing in over 80 years."

Murguia says that the improvements include new curbs and sidewalks, which along with the new solar-paneled homes are helping to both enhance the neighborhood and make the people in the neighborhood feel safe.

Murguia says kids use to ride their bikes in the street but now it's hard to find a sidewalk without bicycle tracks.

"Can you imagine if you are a senior citizen and you are a little bit shaking on your feet you couldn't walk around your neighborhood," said Murguia, pointing to broken sidewalks. "There was no way that could happen, if you are a little kid who wanted to ride his bicycle you couldn't ride your bicycle on this."

Murguia says that the association is now working to bring a grocery store to the neighborhood.

Argentine resident Elva Hernandez says that the improvements are helping residents to get to know one another, and its a deterrent to crime and blight. Hernandez, who has lived in the neighborhood for 28 years, says that she is excited to see the area come alive again..

"People are walking actually walking up and down our sidewalks," said Hernandez. "Before we didn't have it."

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