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School renovation honored

Fifth District building for seniors

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COVINGTON - In the same month the 106-year-old former Fifth District School building's 26 new senior-citizen apartments were filled, the Academy Flats project received an award for the building's historic preservation.

"As of last week, the last person is in the final unit," said Robert Maly of Walnut Hills-based developer Model Group. "We've still got a waiting list as well, and we're really pleased with it.

"It's 100 percent occupied, and it looks like we've got a good little community forming."

ADVERTISEMENT Architects Piaskowy & Cooper designed the renovation.

"It's a beautiful project," said City Manager Jay Fossett. "They've left blackboards in place - all the things they had to do for historic federal tax credits have been done.

"It's a great adaptive reuse of an old school building in a neighborhood (Peaselburg) that's a really great neighborhood."

Four other Northern Kentucky projects also won awards from the Cincinnati Preservation Association. They were:

Corpus Christi Apartments in Newport's West End. A vacated Catholic church has become senior housing, with 20 units on three levels inside the former sanctuary, with the stained glass and original curving staircase still in place. The building's two-story atrium, which serves as the main entrance, kept the feel of the original "lofty space," preservationists found.

The Housing Authority of Newport was honored for this Hope VI project, which aims to redistribute subsidized housing throughout the city. Also winning praise for the work were Cole + Russell Architects, Steven Schaefer & Associates and Century Construction.

In another Newport project, the housing authority's own offices were renovated from a former bank and department store in the city's Monmouth Street Historic District. Damaged storefronts were restored as closely as possible, recreating ornamentation and restoring windows to their original locations. Aside from the housing authority, Hub & Weber Architects and Century Construction also were honored.

The Arthur Apartments in Covington's Licking Riverside Historic District. New owners installed new mechanical systems, upgraded kitchens and baths, and uncovered beamed ceilings, hardwood floors and other hidden architectural features. Grandin Properties, MFI Construction and Paula Grulee were applauded for their work.

Pike Street Lofts in the Covington Arts District. Two commercial buildings that were empty since 2001 and bore scars of long neglect had their storefronts restored and were turned into loft condominiums. Owners Tony Kreutzjans and Bob Carbon also removed a false wooden awning and re-created the original carriage doors and windows.

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