



March 21, 2010

New life

Salvation Army's Booth Towers due renovation

To the Editor:

Cumberland Times-News



Self

— Since the mid-1970s, the Salvation Army has operated Booth Towers, a high-rise residential building that has been a landmark in the Mapleside area of Cumberland. Now, residents are going to see a major change as the building gets a new lease on life.

The property has been sold to The Hampstead Companies for \$3.3 million. The firm will put another \$5 million into the building in an extensive remodeling project.

The upgrade includes installation of a new boiler system, a community room with kitchen, media room with large television for showing of movies, a media room with library and installation of some computers in common areas for residents who do not have personal computers. The building is also equipped with free wireless access for all residents.

In addition, a vegetable garden will be located on the property for residents to grow vegetables and a green roof will be constructed on the roof of the building with planting of flowers and greenery that will be accessible to the residents.

The renovation project will also include installation of new entrance doors and relocation of the main entrance to the rear of the building that will include a carport.

Energy-efficient light fixtures and appliances are being installed along with replacement of windows in 36 units. Windows of the rest of the units were previously replaced. New paint, carpeting and improvements to kitchens and bathrooms are also part of the improvement project that is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Jeff Jallo, principal with The Hampstead Companies in San Diego, told the Times-News he is excited about purchasing the property and undertaking the remodeling. Given the scope of the improvements, we bet Booth Towers residents are just as excited as they await these major changes.