History of Orness Plaza

Orness Plaza has been in the Mankato community for more than 40 years. The building is named for Gjorgen Orness, who was instrumental in starting the Mankato Housing Authority. He led the way in the planning and building of Orness Plaza, creating an affordable housing opportunity for those who qualify. Located on Mankato’s hilltop, Orness Plaza overlooks Franklin Rogers Park and is conveniently located near shopping and medical facilities.

About the updates

Orness Plaza has been remodeled for the future. The building’s 101 apartments, seven-story atrium space and other public areas have been completely renovated. Orness Plaza is designed to be green and energy-efficient to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) specifications. The building has also been upgraded to meet current codes, life safety standards and accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Resident input played an important part in the building’s overall redesign.

Updates were funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Competitive Capital Grant, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, as well as the Mankato Economic Development Authority, Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership and Greater Minnesota Housing Fund.

For more information, contact staff at 507-387-8623 or housing@city.mankato.mn.us.
www.ci.mankato.mn.us
Features of Orness Plaza

- Geothermal heating and cooling system is efficient and cost-effective in maintaining optimum building temperatures.
- Energy Star windows and additional insulation have been installed throughout the building to make it energy-efficient as well as aesthetically pleasing.
- Water conserving devices provide efficient use of water resources.
- Energy Star appliances have been installed throughout Orness Plaza, which use less energy, save costs and help protect the environment.
- Design elements were used to improve indoor air quality and may also help improve residents’ health. Orness Plaza is being used in a nationwide study to show positive environmental impacts on residents’ health.
- The atrium provides a scenic outdoor view in an indoor setting and includes a walking path and updated landscaping.
- The additions of the fitness center, walking track, enlarged lobby and additional seating areas are designed to promote health and socialization.
- New heavily insulated siding provides energy efficiencies and updates the building’s appearance.
- New furnishings enhance the look of the building and encourage socialization.