

## **Sycamore and Sunrise 2<sup>nd</sup> Press Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **CONTACT:**

Sycamore Project, Harper, KS – Tiffany Cooperrider, City Administrator 620.896.2511

[tcooperrider@cityofharper.com](mailto:tcooperrider@cityofharper.com)

Sunrise 2<sup>nd</sup> Project, Anthony, KS – Cyndra Kastens, City Administrator 620.842.5434

[ckastens@anthonykansas.org](mailto:ckastens@anthonykansas.org)

### **REVITALIZING RURAL HOUSING – SOUTHCENTRAL CITIES PARTNER TO BREAK GROUND ON NEW HOUSING/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS**

**Anthony & Harper, Kansas – Cities will hold a ceremony to commemorate the groundbreaking of the new Sycamore and Sunrise 2<sup>nd</sup> Development Projects on Wednesday, May 28, 2025.**

**What: Sycamore & Sunrise 2<sup>nd</sup> Groundbreaking Ceremonies**

**When: Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Where: 1:45 p.m. - Sycamore Development Located West of the Bank of Commerce (807 W 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Harper, KS 67058)**

**2:30 p.m. – Sunrise 2<sup>nd</sup> Development Located at the Intersection of Grace Lane and West Ave, Anthony, KS 67003 (West of Hwy K-2)**

The Cities of Harper and Anthony, Kansas, in collaboration with the Kansas Department of Commerce (KDC), will host a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Single-Family Residential Developments.

This collaboration signifies the success local governmental partnerships can have in enhancing rural housing inventories and greatly displays the commitment and prioritization the State of Kansas has dedicated to local housing initiatives and multi-community partnering as well.

In response to the need for more housing to recruit and retain employment and sustain economic development, the cities of Harper and Anthony were awarded a Rural Champions Grant from the KDC Office of Rural Prosperity to complete a local Housing Assessment. The results of this assessment, performed by local community members, ranked the need for more quality mid-price-range housing as the #1 local priority.

The cities of Harper and Anthony each had land for a potential housing development but needed financial assistance to install the street, gas, water, sewer, and electric infrastructure required. In 2022, the cities joined forces to leverage staff and resources, partnered with the Harper County Community Foundation (HCCF), and applied for a Kansas Department of Commerce BASE Grant to request financial assistance to help pay for the infrastructure required. On April 12, 2022, Governor Laura Kelly announced the approval of this BASE Grant award to the HCCF, citing this funding as being essential to local communities, positioning them to succeed and be in a place of economic growth.

This state level support strengthened the success of the local city partnership and brought to life the reality of the Sycamore and Sunrise 2<sup>nd</sup> developments. In support of local economic development initiatives, the BASE grant provided 74% infrastructure funding to construct the following:

Harper, KS – Business Park Apron, Airport Industrial Park Sewer Line, and Water, Sewer, Street, and Grading for 11 Single-Family Residential lots at the new Sycamore Development.

Anthony, KS – Water, Sewer, Street, Gas, Electric, and Grading for 5 Commercial, 6 Multi-Family, and 16 Single-Family Residential lots at the new Sunrise 2<sup>nd</sup> Development.

The local partnership of the City of Harper and the City of Anthony successfully completed the project under budget by capitalizing on the economies of scale from combining the projects, utilizing the same engineering firm - EBH Engineering of Pratt, KS, the same general contractor - MIES Construction of Wichita, KS, and partnering with local utilities such as SC Telcom, City of Anthony Electric, Wheatland Electric, Kansas Gas Service and Atmos Energy.

Gaining cooperative momentum, and continuing efforts to achieve the complete development of Sycamore and Sunrise, the cities joined forces to vet a project builder and selected Klausmeyer Construction of Wichita, KS, who participated

with the cities to apply through the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) for a Kansas Housing Investor Tax Credit (KHITC) award, which was approved in 2024. The cities also received support from the Harper County Commissioners, Unified School District #361, and Patterson Health Center to approve a Rural Investment Housing District (RHID) for the Sycamore and Sunrise 2<sup>nd</sup> Developments. These efforts combined with the continued dedication of the Governing Bodies of the Cities of Harper and Anthony have made possible the following development incentive package for the lots now available for construction:

- a. Free Lots
- b. No Special Assessments
- c. Ad Valorem Rebated for Five-Years (20%/yr step down)
- d. \$35,000 Investor Tax Credits Available per Lot (6 lots in Sycamore, 8 lots in Sunrise)

What you see here is a strong representation of not only what this project will signify to the long-term growth of the local economies in Harper County by providing housing solutions but also the success of what is possible when communities work together to solve local issues, and the state continues to recognize and provide support to those local efforts. This is a model, not only of future homes, which, thanks to the Department of Commerce, is now coming to Harper County, but also a model of what we can do together to strengthen rural America.