



**News
Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urban Renewal Authority Hosts Groundbreaking of Union Place

Join City staff, the North Fort Collins Business Association, and Merten, Inc. for the groundbreaking of Union Place, on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 3:00 p.m. Union Place is located on Willox Lane, west of N. College Ave. The public and media are invited to attend the ceremony and reception following.

Union Place is slated to be a LEED-New Development community. Using the New Urbanist concept, Union Place will consist of eighty housing units, including affordable housing, ten reclaimed homes and more than 15,000 sq.ft. of commercial space. The 10-acre site will use geothermal energy, water conserving irrigation and stormwater management, and recycle more than 85 percent of construction debris.

The City's Urban Renewal Authority (URA) will support the development through approximately \$2.2 million in tax-increment financing (TIF). The funding will allow Merten, Inc. to build public infrastructure improvements such as storm water, sidewalks and access to City maintained streets.

Merten, Inc., of Boulder, Colorado, chose Old Town Fort Collins as the site of an earlier development project, a straw bale home that earned the 2008 City of Fort Collins' Urban Design Award in the "Green Design" category.

The URA is a governing board of the City of Fort Collins that leverages private capital investment, using tax increment financing in private development projects and public improvement projects to improve blighted areas. The Urban Renewal Authority is supporting multiple projects in the area including an office building for the Rocky Mountain Innovation Initiative on Vine Drive and the North College Marketplace, a large grocery store and mixed retail development east of N. College Ave. on Willox Lane.

For more information on the Urban Renewal Authority visit www.renewfortcollins.com.
To learn more about improvements along North College Avenue, visit www.fcgov.com/northcollege.

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