



## Stanislaus School apartments open

Rutland Herald

Lucia Suarez - October 31, 2011

WEST RUTLAND — John Wasik was a member of the 1932 eighth-grade graduating class of St. Stanislaus School and Convent, the first class to graduate from the historic Polish Catholic school. He never went to high school or college, entering the workforce after graduation.

Wasik, now 95, visited his old school Friday as the Housing Trust of Rutland County celebrated the opening of new affordable housing units at the historic school in West Rutland.

“I went to school in this house. I can tell you a lot of stories,” Wasik said to a crowd of about 40 at the ribbon-cutting.

Elisabeth Kulas, housing trust executive director, said the affordable housing project began as a pilot project for historic preservation and energy efficiency but became a model for what can be done to make historic buildings throughout the state and the country energy-efficient.

“What we did here will be the standard for the projects we will continue to do,” she said. “This building sat for 30 years unutilized and the convent was not used at all.”

The historic St. Stanislaus School was built in 1924.

Today, both buildings house 17 affordable apartments boasting top-of-the-line energy efficiency with solar panels for domestic hot water, a biomass boiler, heat recovery ventilation and “mega insulation,” as Kulas called it.

“We are hoping to reduce the building’s carbon footprint by 80 percent,” she said.

Kathy Reynolds, of Efficiency Vermont, said the apartment buildings are one of the most — if not the most — energy-efficient multi-unit buildings Efficiency Vermont has rated.



The new tenants began moving into the buildings during the end of July, and only three units are still available.

Bronwen Warner and her 5-year-old son are new residents in the building. During the open house, Warner opened her apartment for people to visit. She said they are loving the new apartment, especially that it is in a historic building.

“There is a lot of character here,” Warner said.

This article was originally printed in the [Rutland Herald](#).