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Guests, officials help celebrate American Wire rehab project



The exterior of the former American Insulated Wire mill, which has been converted into 143 residential units and 40,000 square feet of commercial space at 413 Central Ave.

PAWTUCKET - Developers, guests and city officials last Thursday celebrated the mixed-use conversion of nearly 300,000 square feet of former mill space during a ribbon-cutting event at the former American Insulated Wire facility at 413 Central Ave.

Now known as American Wire, the project includes about 40,000 square feet of commercial space and 143 residential rental units of one, two or three bedrooms.

The project, a joint private partnership of Starr Development and Brady Sullivan Properties, which also redeveloped the Slater Cotton Mill for residences, used federal and state historic tax credits that partner Chris Starr said were crucial to its success.

The rental units at American Wire Mill will not be marketed for low- or moderate-income tenants, according to representatives from American Wire. Rents range from \$995 to \$2,500 a month, but are subject to change.

With 65 percent of the units now leased, the event was held "to say thank you to as many people as possible and celebrate the end of a great project," said Starr. "This project, probably more than any project we've ever done, really brings you back to the mill yard feel."



Starr credited Mayor Donald Grebien as "a great supporter of the project" from the outset, and said state historic planning and city planning and zoning officials as well as the City Council were all important contributors to its success.

"The city has been absolutely terrific to work with and we hope we can find another (Pawtucket) mill building to tackle soon," said Starr, who also praised Teknor Apex and other neighbors for their patience during construction.

"We're truly committed to support you any way we can and hope to work with you again," said Grebien, who was a supply chain manager for American Insulated Wire where he worked for 16 years.

Among numerous other guests was Virginia Hesse, principal historical architect for the state Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission who worked with the developers on the project. The architect for the project was Pawtucket firm Architectura, Inc.