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University of Dayton

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NEWS



Thursday March 31, 2016

New Lowes Street Housing

The University of Dayton will take another step toward its goal of housing all undergraduates in University-owned housing when construction begins this summer on an \$11-million, four-story apartment building in the south student neighborhood.

"There is strong student demand for University-owned housing and the high-quality amenities, safety

features and service we provide," said Beth Keyes, vice president for facilities and campus operations. "Our student neighborhoods are true communities and the experience of learning and living in community is at the heart of a University of Dayton education."

Designed to complement the surrounding neighborhood, the townhouse-style building will add 96 living spaces equipped with the amenities today's students expect. Each of the two-bedroom, four-person apartments will feature brand-new appliances, including washers and dryers, solid surface countertops and wood-look ceramic tile.

The structure will be similar in design to the Caldwell Street apartments, with apartments for students on three floors. But 301 Lowes Street will feature ground-floor areas for the student services, meetings and worship space currently offered on the current site of the McGinnis Center. A final vote on the project will come at the board of trustees executive committee meeting in April.

The new building will be ready in August 2017 for students to move in for the fall semester, Keyes said. Construction will start in May when the center, a former Dayton public school purchased in 1984, is torn down.

The school was transformed into a multi-purpose center in the heart of the growing student neighborhood through a gift from Marie-Louise McGinnis, an honorary trustee of the University, in memory of her husband Edward. The University is planning an April 27 ceremony to honor and thank Mrs. McGinnis and her family for the gift, which has served University students' needs for more than 30 years.

While construction is underway, offices will be temporarily housed at Lawnview Apartments. Sunday night Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception until the new building is ready. The University will establish other facilities for services such as laundry.

The Lowes project is just the latest example of the University's continuous investments in student living. During the last decade more than \$150 million has been invested in new construction and renovations for more than 439 residential houses, duplexes, apartment buildings and residence halls.

A cluster of 10 new homes on Kiefaber Street currently under construction will add 50 student living spaces when finished in August.

The University also considers acquisition of privately owned properties in the student neighborhoods as they become available and if they fit into the overall housing strategy, Keyes said.

First- and second-year students are required to live in University housing and demand from upperclassmen is high for housing in the University's distinctive student neighborhoods. Roughly 90 percent of undergraduates live on campus in housing ranging from traditional residence halls and apartments to lofts and single-family homes with porches.

For more information, contact Cilla Shindell, director of media relations, at 937-229-3257 or shindell@udayton.edu.

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