

Neighbors

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First building of Mather project ahead of schedule

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Evanston is experiencing an economic standstill on most new construction projects, but one high-profile building is bucking that trend and close to completion.

Officials from Mather LifeWays, a not-for-profit organization, gathered Nov. 20 to celebrate the "topping off" to its height of 11 floors the first of the senior living residences they plan to build as part of their expansion project.

The first building in The Mather project, located on Hinman Avenue just north of Davis Street, is three weeks ahead of schedule and expected to open in 2009, officials said.

"It's a festive occasion," said Mary Leary, president and CEO of Mather LifeWays, at the "topping off" ceremony at the "topping off" ceremony held as the temperature dipped below 20 degrees above zero.

Some of The Mather's features include a 10,000-square-foot, fully modern fitness center; seven dining areas, 24-hour concierge service; and "plant your own" garden plots. Prospective resi-

dents will choose from a variety of apartment homes (a one-bedroom unit begins at \$338,000) and more than 30 floor plans, officials said.

"We're 90 percent pre-sold," Leary said, "which in this economy I think is a testament to The Mather's fabulous location and the value we are providing in terms of all the services and amenities."

The north building is one of two residences under the project. Completion on the second building, an 11-story senior living high-rise replacing The Georgian, at 422 Davis St., is expected to be completed in 2011.

To this point, Mather LifeWays has paid more than \$1 million in permit fees for construction of The Mather. Residents, staff and others will be able to move between the two buildings via an underground corridor.

Joining Leary at the ceremony were representatives of Power Construction Co. LLC, as well as Joe Zajdel, vice president of business development for Mather LifeWays, and Michael Carney, director of construction management.

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The last bucket of concrete is hoisted up to the top of the new Mather senior living home, on Hinman Avenue just north of Davis Street. Scheduled to open in 2009, the building is three weeks ahead of schedule. A second senior living residence, to replace The Georgian at 422 Davis St., is scheduled for completion in 2011.



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Mather LifeWays president and chief executive officer Mary Leary (left) and Chris Goray, senior project manager for Power Construction Co., watch as the last bucket of concrete is hoisted up to the top of the new Mather senior living home in downtown Evanston.



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It's full speed ahead as one senior living residence is in its final stages and a second set to begin for Mather LifeWays. A drawing left up on the fence outside the construction project gives residents a glimpse of the future amenities at the two fully modern high-rises.