

BUILDING DESIGN DRAWS RAVES

Mather project moves forward

90 percent of apartment homes presold on north building, nearing completion

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Mather LifeWays is moving ahead with phase two of its plan to build two fully modern senior living residences on each side of Davis Street at Hinman Avenue, seeing strong sales despite a down economy, officials said.

Mather LifeWays reported that 90 percent of the apartment homes are presold on the North building (formerly Mather Gardens), which is about six weeks from completion.

The first building, with its clean lines, brick and stone, Juliet balconies, is drawing comments as a classy addition to the city's architecture.

"Just the other day someone said it looks like a five-star hotel," said Mary Leary, the president and chief executive officer of Mather LifeWays, standing with other Mather LifeWays officials outside the building last week.

The 10-story, 141-unit apartment building at 425 Davis St., will be connected to a second building, to be built on the south side of Davis (where The Georgian now stands), through a corridor that travels underneath Davis.

Officials kicked off sales in June for the 101 apartment homes in the south building, also 10 stories tall, and received 29 sales over the first 30 days, they said. That building is scheduled to open in 2011.

Despite a down economy, "we are bucking the economic and real estate trends in the industry," said Leary.

"I think the location can't be beat," she said. "I think it's the best location in all of Chicagoland. People love to be close to the lake, close to Northwestern, and on the edge of downtown. And people are telling their friends."

The two complexes are to feature a 10,000-square-foot fitness center, including a 20-meter in-



Sara McVey (from left), vice-president/experience director, Joe Zajdel, vice-president of business development, and Mary Leary, president/CEO, stand in front of the new Mather LifeWays building that is set to open in October.

door lap pool, whirlpool, sauna, steam showers and day spa; seven dining venues and lounges, including rooftop dining; 24-hour concierge service; and "plant your own garden plots as part of nearly two acres of gardens," Mather LifeWays official said in a release.

At the residences — which range in price from \$339,000 to more than \$1 million — Mather LifeWays is offering a full continuum of service, from inde-

pendent living through skilled nursing care.

Besides lending new vitality to downtown, Mather also will hire new employees as part of the new buildings project, Leary said.

Mather LifeWays officials are anticipating adding more than 100 full- and part-time employees to the city's work place over the next six to nine months.

The positions will include both salaried and hourly jobs rang-

ing from building services, dining and food service, to human resources and accounting staff, Mather LifeWays officials said.

"Mather LifeWays' commitment to serving older adults is equated only by our dedication to attracting and retaining valued employees," said Sara McVey, vice president and experience director of The Mather.

Construction on the second building is slated to be completed in 2011.

The building, Mather South, will feature 101 apartment homes and more than 18 floor plans.

Mather LifeWays is pursuing Gold Leadership Energy and Environmental Design status for the Mather South.

"Mather LifeWays is committed to implementing sustainable environmental programs and practices throughout The Mather," Leary said.

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