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## THESE NEW APARTMENTS IN LOCKPORT FILL A SPECIAL NICHE

By Kevin Jolly | May 3, 2018 @8:17 PM

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LOCKPORT, N.Y. — From the outside, Packet Boat Landing looks like just another upscale apartment building. And that's just what DePaul Group President Mark Fuller wanted.

"We've built about 60 different buildings and this is one of my all-time favorites: the size, the color and how it fits of the lot," said Fuller.

But this new apartment building on South Street fills a special niche in Lockport.

"It's set up for people who make 30 percent of the area average income which is about \$32,000. So, it's made for people who earn less than \$32,000 a year," said Fuller.

And that's not all.

"We have 20 apartments set aside for those that have some mental health issues and living in the community is very important to that population and we're also going to have ten apartments, if needed, for veterans," said Fuller.

In all, that's 60 affordable, one-bedroom apartments. State Sen. Rob Ortt says this new apartment building fills an important void in keeping people with mental health issues and veterans from falling through the cracks.

"If they don't have stable housing, then they're probably not getting the treatment they need, they're not getting to their doctors, they're not getting the services they need. They end up not taking their medication and very often they end up homeless, they end up coming into contact with law enforcement, ending up in jail, they end up in emergency rooms, or maybe dead," said Ortt.

Mayor Anne McCaffrey say the idea is to make people feel like they're part of the community.

"Really I think the goal is integration of people with disabilities in our community, as well as providing safe and affordable housing in really secure facility. I know that safety and cameras, and security guards are an important aspect here, so

the residents who live here will feel safe as well as the community beyond," said McCaffrey.

The \$17 million project was the result of a public-private partnership between DePaul Properties of Rochester, New York State Homes and Community Renewal, and the Niagara County Department of Mental Health.



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