

The Recorder

In the works in Amsterdam: \$21 million Veddersburg Apartments

By Ashley Onyon | Jul 22, 2021 | Featured, Local News, News, The Recorder, Top Stories | 0



AMSTERDAM — After months spent removing deteriorating and largely vacant buildings across a block of East Main Street, an official groundbreaking on the construction of a \$21 million affordable and supportive housing project took place Thursday.

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“Once this project is built, it is going to have not only removed blight from this neighborhood, but it’s going to put the whole neighborhood on a track for revitalization,” said Darren Scott, upstate east director of development at state Homes and Community Renewal.

State officials suggested the city to DePaul Properties as a possible site for an affordable and supportive housing project several years ago, according to DePaul President Mark Fuller.

A tour of the city led the non-profit to believe the area was ripe for a supportive housing project. Support from local leaders only hardened the agency’s resolve to follow through.

“We felt we could make a real difference not only to this site but the east end of Amsterdam,” Fuller said.

Work on the project began in May with the demolition of multiple crumbling buildings across the project site that spans 10 parcels acquired by DePaul. Asbestos abatement was required on several of the structures.

The three-story Veddersburg Apartments developed by DePaul Properties will have 62 affordable apartments, with 31 reserved for residents in need of support services. The modern building will be located on East Main Street between John and Lark streets, stretching halfway back along each of the side streets.

State and local leaders gathered for a ceremonial groundbreaking on Thursday celebrating the beginning of what officials are hoping will offer residents and the neighborhood a fresh start.

Mayor Michael Cinquanti recounted living near the project site in his youth and regularly visiting thriving businesses in the neighborhood that was full of families.

“A neighborhood back then was your world. You were able to live, work, shop, play, socialize, learn and worship without ever leaving it,” Cinquanti said.

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"People want to live in the neighborhood that permits them to enjoy a decent quality of life. A neighborhood where they can feel supported, safe and proud of their home," Cinquanti said. "At this time, in this city, on this spot, we couldn't ask for a more suitable project or a better partner."

Cinquanti noted that the city is working on several projects around the area, pointing to the \$21 million housing project as the beginning of a wave of redevelopment activity eyed for the east end.

HCR will provide \$14.5 million in equity and \$5.6 million in subsidy state and federal low-income housing tax credits for the project. DePaul also secured \$11.2 million in construction financing from the Community Preservation Corporation and Chase.

Additional financing includes a \$263,000 Project Development Grant from the state Office of Mental Health, \$57,000 from the state Energy Research and Development Authority and \$50,000 from the Capital Region Land Bank.

"This is going to be a beautiful building, but actually it's going to be a beautiful home for individuals," said Moira Tashjian, associate commissioner of the state Office of Mental Health.

Units at Veddersburg Apartments will be affordable to households with incomes at or below 60% of the area median income.

"We all need affordable housing. We might need it at different price points, some of us might have some more choice than others, but at the end of the day all of us need affordable housing," Scott said. "New Yorkers regardless of age, income or ability deserve to live securely in decent housing that they can afford."

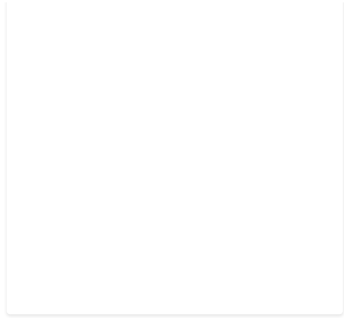
Tenants in half of the units will be aided by DePaul's onsite services supporting medical and mental health case management.

"Integrated supportive housing is a proven strategy for ending the cycle of homelessness that too often plagues people with mental health issues. Really it's a platform for those folks to live independently within their own community and that's priceless," Scott said.

Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, D-Rotterdam, said the project will allow families to stay in the area while providing essential supports to individuals facing mental health struggles.

"A number of supports and services that can be provided right in the housing. That is a combination that should have been there all along and this project is including them," Santabarbara said.

As the assembled state and local leaders hefted shovels full of dirt to signal the official start of construction that was years in the making, Fuller expressed excitement over welcoming officials back to



UPCOMING EVENTS

There are no upcoming events.

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