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Construction under way for Schenectady affordable housing

Mosaic Apartments is being built in the city's Mont Pleasant neighborhood

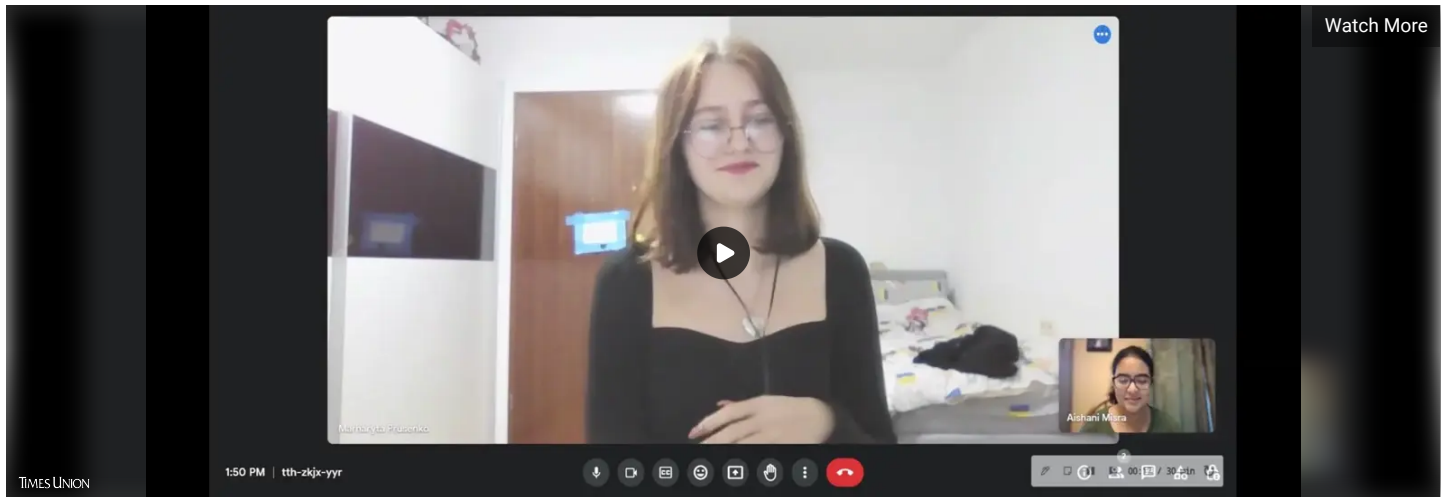
By **Andy Tsubasa Field**
Nov 30, 2023



Signs are seen on a construction fence during a ground breaking celebration for the Mosaic Apartments at the Mont Pleasant Branch Library, which is near the future apartments in Schenectady, N.Y. on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023. (Lori Van Buren/Times Union)

Lori Van Buren/Times Union

SCHENECTADY — A new affordable housing for option for homeless residents, senior citizens and those battling mental illness is being built near a Schenectady public library.



Construction for Mosaic Apartments, at 918 Crane St., began in September and is expected to finish in 2025. Out of the 60-unit apartments, half will be for homeless residents, with 25 units allocated to individuals experiencing homelessness and mental illness, and five units designated for seniors facing housing insecurity. The upcoming \$27 million project is part of Gov. Kathy Hochul's five-year plan to [create or maintain 10,000 units of supportive housing, which combines affordable housing with services](#). As part of the \$25 billion plan, supportive housing projects receive annual funding of up to \$25,000 per unit for services and operating costs.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [more than 20 percent of U.S. adults live with mental illness and a similar percentage of individuals ages 13 to 18 have faced severe debilitating mental health conditions](#).

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"Fortunately, there is a widespread recognition though that investing in the mental health infrastructure is crucial and beneficial to all New Yorkers," Julie Duncan, director of housing at the state Office of Mental Health, said at an event Wednesday. Once the apartment building is operational, her state agency plans to allocate about \$750,000 annually for support services, she said.

DePaul, a Rochester-based nonprofit, will offer services for seniors, people dealing with addiction and those with mental illness, and will manage the apartment. Senior Program Director Chris Tolhurst said Mosaic Apartments will have a 24-hour front desk, a dedicated housing specialist assisting residents, along with additional full-time staff.

"Generally, the first things we link people to are primary care, dental, medical," Tolhurst said, adding that staff will also teach residents to maintain a clean apartment and fulfill lease responsibilities, including rent payments.

DePaul manages the Joseph L. Allen Apartments in Schenectady, among other affordable housing units statewide, including in Albany and Amsterdam. Tolhurst said Mosaic Apartments' site near Mont Pleasant Branch Library is in an area the city is attempting to improve. He also pointed to how a branch of the Boys & Girls Club youth development group is only a two-minute drive away, offering a chance to help the tenants' children.

"There's school enrichment, activities, community integration," Tolhurst said. "Schenectady wants to get some synergy of moving a bunch of services into this area and we are really happy to be a part of that."

Nov 30, 2023

By Andy Tsubasa Field

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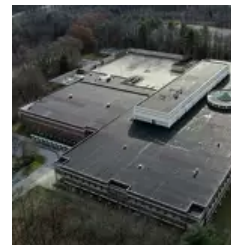
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