



Durant Hotel developer says tenants will start moving in this month

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Ron Fonger | Flint Journal



(Cassi Alexandra | The Flint Journal)

Aaron Allen, 35, right, of Flushing and Jamie Carmode, 32, of Grand Blanc work on an elevator in The Durant Hotel on Wednesday August 4, 2010.

FLINT -- Workers are still putting the finishing touches on the renovation of the **Durant Hotel** and tenants will start moving in later this month.

"This year, there will be residents waving out their windows at (Crim Festival of Races participants)," said Daniel T. Kildee, co-founder and president of the **Center for Community Progress**. That's the first year that will have ever happened, marking a turning point in the city's history, he added.

"We're here to bring the community back into this building," Kildee said from inside the hotel lobby today. "The first time I was here I hardly imagined this day would come.

"(This is) the biggest symbol of Flint's bright future."

About one-third of the 93 apartments in the Durant have been pre-leased, said developer Richard Karp. About one-half of the apartments have been leased to students at the University of Michigan-Flint while professionals from Hurley Medical Center and elsewhere make up the balance.

Rent ranges from \$475 to \$960 per month and rooms have washer/dryer units, marble counter tops and other accents, tile and carpeted floors, and 10 1/2-foot ceilings.

Discussions are ongoing with parties interested in commercial space on the ground floor of the building, Karp said.

Flint Mayor Dayne Walling said the success of the Durant has the potential to ignite more development in the city.



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Apartments at the newly renovated Durant building feature washer/dryer units, marble counter tops and 10 1/2-foot ceilings.

"This is about expanding the energy from downtown into every part of the community," Walling said. "It's spreading out in all directions from downtown.

"People will soon be moving in to stay to live and work and pay taxes in this community," he said. "This is a real anchor for this community."

Interior demolition started two years ago at the Durant, a landmark Flint building that had been vacant since 1973. The cost of the redevelopment has been estimated at \$23-\$30 million.

Built in the 1920s, the eight-story building was named for William C. Durant, the founder of General Motors. The building was redveloped after it was purchased by the Genesee County Land Bank while Kildee was centrally involved in the organization as county treasurer.

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