



Flint Journal File Photo The former Durant Hotel located on Saginaw Street in downtown Flint that has converted its rooms into lofts and apartments with commercial space currently being constructed has been open one year and is full for the first time.

FLINT, Michigan — For the first time since it opened last year, The Durant housing complex is 100 percent full, developer Kevin Prater said.

Twenty percent of the 93-unit renovated historic hotel includes college student tenants, Prater said.

Several students from the University of Michigan-Flint, Kettering University and Michigan State University medical students who have residencies in the Flint area live there, he said.

The hotel's ballroom, which can fit 400 people, has also been the venue for nearly a dozen weddings since [the first one last year](#), a high school prom and is booked for events every weekend through Thanksgiving. A business has also expressed an interest in opening an office in the building, Prater said.

"What I find is the interest in living downtown is growing a great deal," Prater said. "I think there was a lot of skepticism in the beginning and people weren't sure about living downtown but now they're confident. All the activity and growth helps create more culture downtown, more hustle and bustle and much more energy."

The majority of [college students started moving into downtown](#) student housing facilities in Flint this week.