

Cedars of Dexter OK'd

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- John Thorhauer, president and CEO of UMRC.

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The [Dexter Village Council](#) finally approved a development agreement with [United Methodist Retirement Communities](#) on Monday night, one of the last major steps leading to construction of a 60-unit senior housing development on the historic Gordon Hall site.

After several postponements in recent months, the council was satisfied Monday that the \$210,000 UMRC agreed to pay into a village tree replacement program was sufficient to cover the cost of about 2,000 trees that were removed from the site when it was cleared last year to make way for the retirement complex.

One obstacle remains before construction can start: the village's available sewer and water capacity. This is something that must be worked out with the [Michigan Department of Environmental Quality](#) before construction permits will be issued, said John Thorhauer, president and CEO of UMRC.

The tree replacement agreement approved Monday will pay for about 1,943 trees, according to a work sheet prepared by Council Member Joe Semifero, who calculated that the village could plant 51 trees per year for 38 years. In addition, according to the site plan, about 600 trees will be replaced on the Gordon Hall property.

"The \$210,000 contribution to the tree replacement program will fulfill a long-term goal of the village to establish a self-sustaining tree program," said Council Member Jim Carson.

"We are extremely excited to get started," said Thorhauer. "We're pleased that the Village of Dexter is working with us on this."

UMRC's Cedars of Dexter will have 60 housing units, an 8,000-square-foot community center and a caretaker's house on about 15 acres. Thorhauer said UMRC will wait until it has deposits for 36 units before beginning construction on the housing.

Once the sewer and water issues are worked out, he said, UMRC hopes to begin construction "in the next month or so" on two model units for the project. The model units will be built on the left side of the new entrance to the senior housing community off Island Lake Road.

Thorhauer said two models built for UMRC's Chelsea Retirement Community drew about 1,000 people to view them.

While the two models are being built, utilities and roads for the entire development will be constructed, he said.

The square footage available for the units ranges from 1,566 square feet to 1,912 square feet.

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