

Senior housing project gets site plan approval

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The Cedars of Dexter, a 60-unit senior housing development on the Gordon Hall property in Dexter, got unanimous final site plan approval Monday night.

After postponing a decision two weeks ago, the Village Council was satisfied that all of its questions had been answered.

However, the developer, the [United Methodist Retirement Communities](#) (UMRC), must still meet six conditions, which include executing a development agreement with the village and a review of the signs for the development.

Kate Collins, director of special projects for UMRC, said 12 units had already been pre-sold that are situated close to the community center on the south side of the property near Gordon Hall.

"We've only been marketing this for seven weeks," she said, "And we anticipate it to go quickly."

John Thorhauer, president and CEO of UMRC has previously said that if sales are brisk, the development could be completed in about a year.

Neighbors in Island Hills Estates on the west side of the development where hundreds of trees were removed had hoped that buffer landscaping would be planted early in the process, but this is not likely to happen.

When asked by Council Member Shawn Keough if planned trees and shrubs along the western boundary could be planted quickly, Kate Bond, the engineer for the project said that she'd looked into that possibility, but she would advise UMRC against it. She said because of the care required of the trees, the developer should wait until there was staff on the site to maintain the landscaping.

That won't happen, she said, until the development is operational and the community center is complete.

"What the residents are seeing is a work in progress," Collins said, referring to neighbor's complaints about the number of trees that had been removed. When it is completed, she said, it will be a "beautifully built and beautifully landscaped project."