



Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Construction begins on student apartments

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Construction has begun on Oakland University's campus for new student apartments, which will be located on Meadow Brook Drive across from the upper playing fields and the George T. Matthews apartments.

In a design-build agreement with Capstone Development Corporation of Birmingham, Alabama, and Demerest & Associates Architects of Dallas, the apartments will comprise six Tudor-style buildings and a central clubhouse featuring a manager's office, lounge, two fireplaces, a game room and deck overlooking basketball and volleyball courts. Each of the 132 units will have single bedrooms for two or four residents with no more than two individuals per bathroom. The apartments will hold up to 459 residents and emphasize independent living with all the conveniences of living on campus.

A safety fence was erected around the construction site before fall classes began, but early September rains delayed construction. Site contouring, the process of grading the topsoil to establish a level foundation for each of the buildings, began Thursday, Sept. 27. The apartments will open in August 2002.

"Each of the building elevations will somewhat follow the natural contour of the land. But we have to level the ground to prepare the footprint for each of the six apartments and the clubhouse," said Rusty Postlewaite, associate vice president for facilities management. "After the foundation of each building has been established, the construction workers will start laying the underground utilities. The water and sewer lines will be cast into the concrete slab of each building then the vertical walls will be erected. The workers will put a temporary enclosure on the buildings so they can do interior work during the winter. At that time, they can finish framing, putting in floors and interior partitioning. They then can work on the interior utilities involving plumbing and electrical work."

The total project cost of about \$21 million is being financed by the issuance of general revenue bonds. Revenue generated by student rentals will cover the debt service.

Architectural renderings, floor plans and a description of the apartments are on display in the **Oakland Center**, next to the OC Reservations and Administration office.

Apartment applications will be available in January 2002 from the University Housing Office, 448 Hamlin Hall, (248) 370-3570. Upperclassmen who have previously lived in the residence halls will have first priority to live in the apartments.

SUMMARY

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