

Gateway interior nears completion

By Glen Gabriel / Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, October 3, 2011 12:00 am

As construction continues on the Gateway Transit Village, project managers are watching the inner layout of the structure come to life.

The New Brunswick Development Corporation (DEVCO) manages the Gateway building on Somerset Street, which consists of 190 units total, said Jean Holtz, DEVCO vice president. DEVCO officials will open a sales office within the building to manage the building's initial affairs.

Organizers considered convenience a top priority when sculpting the building's interior design, especially when deciding where to place the residential units and the bookstore in proximity to nearby restaurants, Holtz said.

Most floors of the building consist of 14 living units, nine of which are two-bedroom living spaces and five of which are one-bedroom living spaces. The two-bedroom condominiums are also equipped with two full bathrooms.

Rooms in each unit will be equipped with the latest household technology, said DEVCO Development Associate Robin Iantosca.

"We've given the rooms a clean look with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops," Iantosca said. "Our goal was to leave a blank palate for the condo owners. We want people to be able to add their own flare to where they're going to live."

P-Tech heating and air conditioning units will regulate each of the rooms, and condo owners will have the ability to cool and heat rooms, Iantosca said.

Workers installed an escalator to the basement of the Gateway building, which will house the University bookstore that is set to open in the fall of 2012. An elevator also leads customers to the third floor, which includes a glass reading area that overlooks College Avenue.

"On a clear day you can see the outline of New York City. The views from this building are breathtaking, there's no other word to describe it," she said.

The side of the bookstore will include a 700-space parking garage for customers using the Gateway facilities.

"I'm happy there's going to be a parking deck to go with the bookstore, that was always the biggest problem with where it currently is, no parking," said Thomas Leahy, a School of Arts and Sciences senior.

There will be a taxi stand within the building, as well as a path leading onto the train platform that runs parallel with the structure.

A lobby will also be available for those living in the building — a bay of three elevators will accompany two separate elevators on the business space levels.

While a few residents have voiced their disapproval of the Gateway Transit Village and its size, Holtz said, on behalf of DEVCO, the building's grandeur is actually a positive.

"Anyway you cut it, this is an impressive building," Holtz said. "Its large scale allows it to not only house dozens of individuals, but to also serve as office space for several businesses."

Levels three through seven will serve as office space to University and outside businesses alike. The New Brunswick Parking Authority and University Press will each occupy a floor, Iantosca said.

Condos in the building will be offered at "workforce" prices, which will be lower than market value to accommodate the people of New Brunswick, Holtz said.

"Our job here at DEVCO is to make sure there's a place for everyone that works and lives in New Brunswick, regardless of income," she said.