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Construction begins on senior living complex in downtown Bethesda

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Construction began this week on a \$43.6 million assisted living community in downtown Bethesda's Woodmont Triangle.

Brightview Senior Living is building the eight-story tower on Rugby Avenue to offer 112 private and semiprivate apartments for seniors who need assisted living, as well as a specialized area for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

The project, in the northeast corner of Rugby Avenue and Glenbrook Road, will have studios and one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. Its amenities will include rooftop dining topping a theater, fitness area, salon and spa services, and an activity room for residents. It was formerly the site of a single-story commercial building.

Brightview officials said they wanted the development to offer an innovative community for seniors in an urban setting with access to downtown-type amenities, according to planning documents filed with Montgomery County. The company is part of a community rental model to allow residents to manage their expenses during a "transitional time in their lives."

The 90-foot-tall building was approved to have 89,780 square feet for assisted living use, 28,623 square feet for office use and 3,125 square feet for nonresidential uses. It was approved for 47 parking spots.

The project faced some pushback last year from residents of a nearby building who said the new tower would cause a large shadow to fall on their property. But Bethesda Magazine reported that planners ultimately gave Brightview the OK to move forward anyway.



COURTESY IMAGE

The planned Brightview Senior Living community is under construction in downtown Bethesda, near the corner of Rugby Avenue and Glenbrook Road.

The project was financed by SunTrust Bank (NYSE: STI) through SunTrust's Aging Services practice group. The architect for the project is Hord Coplan Macht in Alexandria. The general contractor is The Donohoe Companies Inc.

Construction is expected to be completed by summer 2019.

The development is one of 40 properties owned and managed by Baltimore-based Brightview in eight states, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia. Brightview also has communities in Annandale and Great Falls, as well as Rockville and three locations in Anne Arundel County. It's planning another community in Rockville and two more in Anne Arundel.

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