

# Senior citizens fill new complex

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Drake Apartments is not a nursing home, stressed Robert McQuaid, Baptist Manor's executive director, rather it is retirement living for people age 62 or older.

"It's independent living, not a nursing home," McQuaid said. "It's an apartment-building for retirees, and they must be able to maintain themselves."

"We have no nursing care, or even medium care. There's no meal service or house-keeping, nothing of that kind."

There is an income limit, established by HUD, for residents whose income must be certified annually, McQuaid said. Residents sign one-year leases and pay 30 percent of their income as rent.

Detroit Baptist Manor was initiated by the Southeastern Area of American Baptist Churches in 1983. A non-profit corporation, its sole purpose is "to provide housing and related services to seniors," according to McQuaid.

"It had its beginnings with Baptists," he said. "And the board of directors is composed of laypersons from Baptist churches in the southeastern (Michigan) area."

"It's totally non-sectarian, however, in its policies and procedures. There are no religious qualifications or tests of any kind for admittance. There are religious opportunities offered in the building, but they're completely voluntary."

AT THE PRESENT time, most of the Drake Apartments residents are widows. "Women outlive their husbands," Adams explained.



A filled parking lot is a sign that the new Baptist Manor senior citizen structure is open for business at the corner of Drake and Freedom.

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