



Northeastern Illinois University
Frequently Asked Questions about Student Housing
February 2016

What are the most recent developments in the University's effort to provide housing for its students?

- As of January, all of the properties on the 3400 block of Bryn Mawr (between Kimball and Bernard) belong to the University. This completes a legal process that began in August 2014.
- The University continues to make progress on the construction of the first phase of its plan to build residence halls. The first hall, named The Nest, is located on Northeastern's Main Campus just south of its Parking Facility. It is on schedule to open its doors to its inaugural group of student residents this August.

What happens to the property owners on that block who were impacted? When will they leave?

- The University will comply with its statutory obligation to provide relocation assistance.
- The businesses on the 3400 block of Bryn Mawr have been provided the option to continue business operations for at least a year.

Now that the University owns all eight properties when will you start building the residence hall?

- The University's timeline for construction of student residence hall on the 3400 block of Bryn Mawr has not yet been established. Construction will not take place until after Northeastern's first residence hall is completed this fall.

Why did the convenience store on the corner of Bryn Mawr and Kimball stop selling liquor and alcohol?

- Under state law, Northeastern Illinois University is prohibited from selling alcohol on University property. Once the University acquired the 7-11, located on the corner of Kimball and Bryn Mawr, the convenience store discontinued its sale of wine, beer and liquor.

Which retailers can we expect to see in the street-level portion of the Bryn Mawr residence hall?

- The businesses that will occupy that first floor of the residence hall are still unknown at this very early stage of development. The University has a strong interest in identifying retailers and businesses that will serve the needs of its students and the surrounding community. There will be no retail at The Nest, the residence hall that will open in August 2016.

Will neighbors be able to offer their preferences for consideration?

- Yes. The University is very interested in the preferences of all those who will benefit from the new retail opportunities, especially from its neighbors. When the time is appropriate the University will find a way to solicit feedback from all members of the community.

We need a Trader Joe's in the area. Can we get them?

- At the appropriate time, the University will collect all preferences and take them into consideration. Please note that the retail occupants will be determined in part by a variety of

factors, some of which can include market forces, the retailer's own interest and feasibility study, suitability for the community, overall space availability, etc.

Remind me again why this is a good thing for the community.

- While the primary reasons for providing a residential life component to Northeastern students are to enrich the student experience, improve retention/graduation rates and increase University enrollment, we believe the planned residence hall on the 3400 block of Bryn Mawr will bolster economic development to the surrounding neighborhoods.

Because of the current state budget impasse, aren't all capital projects at the University on hold?

- The planned residence halls at Northeastern are not capital projects. They are being financed through an alternative arrangement with the nonprofit development partnership of Collegiate Housing Foundation and American Campus Communities.

Now that the University owns the Bryn Mawr block, will it attempt to acquire my house next?

- The University has no further plans for additional expansion beyond the Bryn Mawr block. President Sharon Hahs has stated numerous times in the past that Northeastern has no interest in acquiring residential properties either near its Main Campus or elsewhere.

For the time being, how can I make my opinions known to the University?

- There are a variety of ways to provide feedback. You may email neighbor@neiu.edu, submit it via a webform that is available at www.neiu.edu/neighbors, or share your views with the appropriate representative on the Northeastern Neighborhood Network (the list of participating groups is available in the Neighbor Archive of the aforementioned Northeastern Neighbors website), which is a group that is entering its third year and works with the University to share information, facilitate collaboration and discuss community concerns.

How can I stay up to date on the University's plans?

- The University regularly provides information that is of neighborhood interest on its Northeastern Neighbors website at www.neiu.edu/neighbors. On that website, you may also subscribe to an newsletter that provides monthly updates from the University.