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## UNH housing crunch

By News Channel 8's Jamie Muro  
Posted March 24, 2008  
10:25 PM

New Haven (WTNH) \_ A housing crunch has the University of New Haven looking to send some of its undergrads into New Haven's Westville neighborhood. But, some people aren't on board with the plan -- especially those who already live there.

When "Wintergreen at Westville" apartments were built in New Haven, surrounding neighbors say they were promised one thing -- it would not become student housing.

But there is the possibility that 200 undergraduate students from the University of New Haven could spend one year of their school life there. With increased enrollment starting next fall, and underclassmen living on campus, juniors and seniors need a place to live.

"We're in the process of finishing the design of a 400 bed residence hall that will open summer, but in order to bridge this year, we need housing," Dr. Steven Kaplan, UNH President, said.

Monday night, in a community forum at Beecher School in New Haven, residents expressed concerns. One fear: if the Board of Alderman approve a temporary amendment to allow student housing here, it could set a precedent for future student apartments at Westville.

"Undergrads are undergrads, it wasn't what we as a community agreed to when they made this whole thing happen," Gar Waterman, a Westville resident, said.

Prior use is a very strong legal argument for a number of things. The other fear is that college kids equal parties. But both the university and apartment officials stress that will not be a problem.

"The biggest complaint we had last year was from a homeowner that a couple of students have crossed over the corner of his lawn instead of walking around it," Kate Bradley, a Westville resident, said.

"I want you guys to understand we have zero tolerance for noise and for issues," Sandra Vescera, Wintergreen Property Manager, said.

People who live in Westville have no anger towards the school -- they are just worried about what they were promised and what the future could hold. "I really think the community has the right to be upset," Vescera noted.



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