

STAR-GAZETTE

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Mansfield University to Build New Dorm

Staff Report

Mansfield University on Tuesday announced plans to build a new residence hall on campus, with an opening scheduled for the fall 2011 semester.

The dorm, which will be built on a spot occupied now by a tennis court and parking lot off Morris Drive, is projected to cost \$40 million. It will house about 600 students.

Construction is expected to begin in July, marking the first phase of a planned three-phase project to replace all campus residence halls.

"The first thing I saw when I came on campus as a new president (in July of 2006) was the condition of our residence halls, and I felt our students deserved better than that," Mansfield University President Maravene Loeschke said in a prepared statement. "I felt it would help us with enrollment and retention, and if we were truly going to be a living, learning community -- helping the students with success -- we had to have something better for them."

A public presentation on the project is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Mansfield Fire Hall, according to a news release announcing the project.

Mansfield Auxiliary Corp., a non-profit made up of Mansfield area business leaders and members of the university administration, selected Allen & O'Hara Development Co. LLC as the developer. Allen & O'Hara will use WTW Architects, H. F. Lenz Co., Morgan Keegan, and Massero Corp. to design, arrange financing and build the dorm, the release said.