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Maple Furriers Building Demolition to Begin

Crews began erecting a construction perimeter Monday along the north side of the 1100 block of Lake Street as demolition of the former Maple Furrier store gets underway later this week.

Demolition and excavation of the site are the first steps in a project that will combine a 45,000-square-foot Multiplex wellness center and health club, 44 condominiums with underground parking and 20,400 square feet of new retail space in a seven-story building on some 35,000 square feet of property about midway between Harlem Avenue and Marion Street. Construction is expected to take about 15 months.

Included in the project by RSC & Associates, L.L.C. of Chicago is the design and construction of a landscaped auto and pedestrian access way to the Holley Court Garage from Lake Street, and preservation of the Drechsler Building to the east of the new structure. RSC will be required to accurately restore the historic features of the Drechsler Building identified in a report prepared by the Oak Park Historic Preservation Commission.

Access to stores on either side of the site should not be affected during construction. The sidewalk along the north side of Lake Street will remain open throughout the project, protected by a covered structure that is expected to include ports so pedestrians can view the work underway. Pedestrian access to the Holley Court Garage from Lake Street also will be maintained during construction.

To minimize the impact on traffic flow in the busy downtown area, construction vehicles will be routed from Harlem Avenue along Prairie Court, which runs behind the site. Exiting vehicles will be routed west on Lake Street back to Harlem Avenue.

The Village also has created a staff committee to meet regularly with representatives of Downtown Oak Park (DTOP) to keep business operators up to date on the work progress and solve construction issues that may arise.

One of six proposals submitted in response to a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the Village, RSC was the only respondent to propose completely restoring the Drechsler Building, which is one of Oak Park's oldest commercial structures.

For more information, call 358.5640 or email devsvcs@oak-park.us.

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