

Whiting breaks ground on upscale apartments



13 HOURS AGO • [ROB EARNSHAW](#)
ROB.EARNSHAW@NWI.COM, (219) 933-3241

WHITING | Ground was broken Tuesday on the first new mixed-use development to be built in the city in more than 60 years.

The four-story building at 1518 119th St., across from the post office, will contain 24 high-end two bedroom, two bath apartments and about 6,000 square feet of service commercial and retail space on the ground floor.

"It's a huge project for us," Mayor Joseph Stahura

said.

"This is really the first big project where private money followed ... we're ecstatic about it."

Rental offices will open in September and will be accepting applications for 2015 summer occupancies. Yearly or multiple yearly leases will be available for conventional apartments.

The developers, MVP Builders LLC, of Chicago, also may offer a few apartments to include upscale furniture.

"We're extremely excited to be doing this project in Whiting," said Enrico Plati, of MVP. "There is tremendous potential for growth and development here that we'd like to be part of."

The building was designed by the Whiting architectural firm of Vavrek Architects. The city is slating the apartments as one of many new developments, including the already-constructed Oil City Stadium, the \$50 million Whiting Lakefront Park improvement project and other civic facilities included in the Whiting Development Plan.

Stahura also said the city has begun the request for proposal process for a new restaurant being built out of the former Gun Club building on the lakefront.

He said the city hopes to have it completely designed with construction documents ready to go Aug. 1.

"By next spring, early summer we should have a new restaurant," he said. "We have multiple people calling with interest. It shouldn't be too hard to find someone to be on Lake Michigan as a restaurant operator."