

West Seneca Bee

Bee Editorial



DePaul Ebenezer Square



For seven years, DePaul Community Services has run DePaul Seneca Square, a Buffalo mental health residence with the cleanest record a facility could have.

With a stringent policy involving background checks of all residents, a 24-hour staff, a secure building at all times, quarterly checks of the apartments and no incidents with pedophiles, crimes against neighbors, drug arrests, assaults or theft in the community, or property damage, the Seneca Square property, and, by extension, DePaul Community Services, presents no red flags.

The facility has 30 full-time positions, 19 part-time positions and makes a point to hire from within the community.

From the evidence, the building, its occupants and the company are doing everything they can to be a benefit to the neighborhood

While DePaul Seneca Square is not established in a residential area, as would be DePaul Ebenezer Square, proposed for the property at 2400 Seneca St., it would seem to bode well that the company's existing facility has had no issues with its tenants that would cause concern. West Seneca residents living in proximity to the proposed DePaul Ebenezer Square property have the right to legitimate concerns for their own well-being and that of their families, but when viewing the track record of this company it's difficult to find any faults with its system. Residents' concerns regard what might happen if there is a facility in their backyards for people with a history of mental illness, but we believe the proposed project would greatly benefit the town.

The company is open to hiring from the community for 35 full-time positions and 26 part-time positions. The building of the facility would also provide 100 construction jobs. The demolition of the 124,000-square-foot building now on the site would rid the community of an eyesore and eliminate the growing rat problem around the property. Its replacement would be a 35,000-square-foot facility that provides a residence for those combating mental illness.

According to the company's research, the apartment complex would also raise property values in the town.

DePaul Community Services has no checkered past and in our opinion is performing an admirable service.

This property should receive the green light, not just for being another avenue to help those with mental illness, but for the overall benefit it can have to residents of the Town of West Seneca.