

# FIFTH AVENUE LOFTS ATTRACTS ATTENTION

## KENOSHA NEWS

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Story by Kenosha News



KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY KEVIN POIRIER  
S.R. Mills of Bear Development gives a tour of the Fifth Avenue Lofts on Wednesday. Though the first phase of the apartment complex is not yet finished, Bear officials said two-thirds of the units have already been leased sight unseen.

## Fifth Avenue Lofts attract attention

### Most units already rented sight unseen

BY JAMES LAWSON  
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Kenosha's apartment shortage has become so dire that prospective renters are signing up for new apartment units even though some are still under construction.

While the first phase of Bear Development's \$13 million, 60-unit downtown Fifth Avenue Lofts won't be completed until the end of the month, two-thirds of the units are already leased, according to Bear officials. Some of the first tenants will have a Feb. 1 occupancy date. They are leasing the apartments sight unseen.

"We began getting inquiries right after the news stories appeared," said Bear's Amanda Stipek.

Bear officials are reviewing a waiting list for the remaining units in the first phase at 5815 Fifth Ave.

A 40-unit second phase is expected to be completed early next year. A third phase could come later. Developer S.R. Mills said groundbreaking for the second phase is scheduled for the end of this month.

While the first phase is an L-shaped, five-story building that offers a Lake Michigan view to those who select units



S.R. Mills of Bear Development points out some of the features of an apartment in the Fifth Avenue Lofts on Wednesday.

on the south side, the 40-unit second phase will be a rectangular building adjacent to the first.

The residential campus will feature indoor and outdoor parking, a community room, an exercise room and other common-area amenities. Each unit will have a private balcony.

Fifth Avenue Lofts will feature one-, two and three-bedroom units ranging from 1,100 square feet to 1,300 square feet and 13 different floor plans. Rents will range from \$900 to \$1,600 a month. Under a tax and financing arrange-

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## ACT scores reflect new mandate

### Wisconsin now requires all students to take exam

BY DENEEN SMITH  
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Last school year, for the first time, every public high school junior in Wisconsin took the ACT college entrance exam.

The test — in the past a voluntary exam for students planning to attend college — was adopted as a state-wide standardized test for public high school students.

Educators knew shifting the test from voluntary to mandatory would push down average scores.

Results from the statewide exam were released by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Wednesday. The composite score was 20.0, down from 22.2 the previous year when 73 percent of Wisconsin students voluntarily took the exam.

Results were also previously reported for the graduating class rather than the junior class, and many students took the test multiple times in an effort to get their best score.

All Kenosha County high schools, with the exception of Central High School and LakeView Technology Academy, scored below the state average. LakeView is unlike other public schools in the county in that most students must meet academic and behavior requirements to apply for enrollment.

In the Kenosha Unified School District, the composite score fell from 21.2 for the class of 2015 to 18.4.

At Wilmet High School, the score fell from 22.43 to 19.7.

At Central High School the score fell from 23.19 to 20.6. Individual students who

took the test last year received their scores over the summer.

Kris Keckler, Unified's executive director of information and accountability, said the districtwide test data gives Kenosha schools a baseline and a way to target areas that need improvement.

### Achievement gaps

For Unified, which is far more diverse than districts in western Kenosha County, the ACT results showed sharp gaps in the performance of different demographic groups.

For example, 41 percent of girls scored at the proficient or advanced level in English language arts, compared with 28.9 percent of boys. In math, the result was flipped, with just 19.9 percent of girls scoring at the proficient or advanced level, compared with 24 percent of boys.

Gaps in test performance between minority and white students, and between low-income students and their wealthier classmates, have been a persistent problem statewide and in Unified.

Although the achievement gap is a national problem, Wisconsin's achievement gap between white and black students was worse than anywhere else in the United States, according to national data reported last year.

### Stark differences

The gaps in ACT scores between black and white Unified students were stark.

Just 5.6 percent of Unified's black students scored at the proficient level in

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