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## Elevations Lofts condos finished

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Business Writer

WILKES-BARRE – The Elevations Lofts at University Corners went so well, there could be other similar projects in the works, said the principals involved in the project.

The last of 21 condominiums in the downtown theater complex were completed last week and nearly two-thirds of them are sold, said Philip W. Briddell, project manager with developer Susquehanna Real Estate LP.

"It's a great example of a product waiting for a place to happen. Downtown Wilkes-Barre is great for this," Briddell said Wednesday during a tour of the lofts.

He has ideas for other places and has been looking around. "There are so many spaces that can be transformed," Briddell said.

The York-based Susquehanna signed on to construct the lofts that occupy the second and third floors of the nearly \$31 million theater complex that was developed by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry. The combined entertainment, retail and residential uses make the project unique not only in the downtown, but also in the region. However, it has been a struggle to fill the street-level storefronts with shops and restaurants.

Still the response to the lofts encouraged Todd Vonderheid, president of the chamber. So many people doubted the condominiums would be built and bought, he said, adding they aren't for everyone.

"It's such a unique product," he said.

Tenants have been living in the lofts since February, he said, and the residents include established professionals and recent college graduates as well as people who wanted to move back to Wilkes-Barre.

Separate from preparing the property for the lofts, the project cost approximately \$4.7 million and was finished early. It was expected to be completed in three years. "We are basically one-third ahead of schedule," Vonderheid said.

Susquehanna has developed properties in York, Lancaster, State College, Harrisburg and Elizabethtown, Briddell said.

Elevations has units that are priced from \$120,000 up to \$260,000, and the larger the space, the higher the price. **Briddell said much of the credit for the project goes to contractor Panzitta Enterprises.**

"At this point we have 11 sold," said Briddell. Another unit is in the process of being sold and two more have sales agreements in place.



One of the 21 loft-style apartments available at Elevations Lofts on the corner of South Main and Northampton streets in Wilkes-Barre.

*S. John Wilkin/The Times Leader*

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### Look at the lofts

What: Public open house for Elevations Lofts

When: Sunday, 1-3 p.m.

Where: 14 E. Northampton St., Wilkes-Barre