

'Projects Continue to Better Image at Complex'

By Steven Gardner



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As some Westpark residents engage in organized self-improvement efforts through classes organized by the Bremerton Housing Authority, officials continue working to get the neighborhood itself improved.

Some of the residents in the complex were given notices of relocation earlier this fall and have begun attending meetings discussing the process.

Abby Crisp, the housing authority's resident initiative manager, said relocations likely won't happen before August because the federal government's Housing and Urban Development relocation grants probably won't come any sooner.

She said residents have so far been mostly receptive about the notices, in part because many had been told long before to expect them and also because housing authority officials delivered them in person. Crisp said they opted to do that so residents wouldn't see the standard HUD notice on the door and liken it to an eviction notice.

The relocations are necessary because Westpark is being transformed from an 82-acre parcel filled with 1940s-era public housing to 759 new residences. They'll range from apartments to stand-alone homes, most of them privately owned.

The housing authority has applied for approval from HUD for the development project. Once the approval comes through, the agency will apply for \$20 million from HUD's Hope VI grants to help current residents move and for construction work to begin.

The Westpark project's sub-area plan was recommended for approval by the Bremerton Planning Commission in November. The city council will hold a workshop on the plan in late January and vote on it in February.

Will Maupin, Bremerton city councilman, told the council Wednesday that a HUD official indicated the housing authority's chances of getting the grant money are looking good.

Kathryn Jerkovich, Westpark project manager for Marathon Development, the company developing the new Westpark, said Republicans in Congress were positive about funding the Hope VI program. She said Democrats should be as well help them move.