

'Redevelopment Begins at Bremerton Housing Authority's Westpark'



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In December 2005, a ceremony was held to celebrate groundbreaking for the Firs II assisted living facility. Much has happened in the first redevelopment phase at Westpark since that time. Upon receipt of the official "notice to proceed," the old buildings were removed and the site was been cleared.

The Firs II building foundations are also complete. When it is finished next summer, the all-new assisted living facility will serve more than 70 senior citizens. Some of the units will be specifically set-aside for residents with Alzheimer's disease.

The other project in this first phase of redevelopment is the relocation of Russell Road. Rough grading is well under way. This is a major project in and of itself, moving the current intersection 300 feet to the south to create a safer, improved traffic pattern for Westpark, and giving the Firs II a bigger property to build upon.

The relocation will require 30,000 cubic yards of earth to be moved, a process which is 60% complete. The reconfigured road will have a landscaped median and streetlights, serving as a vibrant new entry into the neighborhood. The 25-foot-tall pile of dirt that is

collecting on the site serves a purpose, too. Some of the earth will remain here both to fill in the hollow that was there before, and to compact the earth and provide a better, stronger surface to build new homes upon.

The \$13 million first phase is being funded by HUD grants and tax-exempt bonds.

Marathon Development is overseeing the project. Construction Enterprises and Contractors of Tacoma is the general contractor and Rice Fergus Miller Architecture & Planning of Bremerton is the architect.