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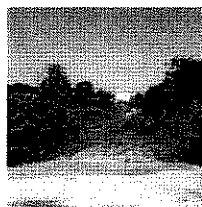
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CLOSED: CEDAR CROSSING WORK BEGINS

By DUSTIN RACIOPPI

It took a little longer than expected, but the Cedar Crossing affordable housing project is a done deal. Just needs to be built.



The Red Bank Affordable Housing Corporation closed on the property, right, Wednesday, and by this morning, workers started turning soil on the two-acre tract at Catherine, Cedar and River streets.

"The first feeling that came to mind, the emotion, was relief," said Rev. Terrence K. Porter, pastor of the Pilgrim Baptist Church and head of the borough's housing corporation.

Porter had anticipated a much earlier closing, but said small details served as stumbling blocks along the way.

"You know, the little details, just like what goes into your house signing, just a little bit more cumbersome," he said.

Wednesday's closing means the first phase of the \$3.4 million project — to build 20 two- and three-bedroom units — can shift from a plan to reality. Porter anticipates the first phase to be done, with tenants taking ownership, by mid-November, maybe earlier.

"It should move rapidly with the construction," Porter said. "It should be quicker than the closing was."

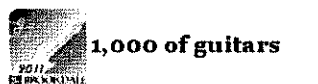
The second and final phase of the project, to build the remaining 16 units, will get started next spring, he said.

The borough purchased the property for \$2.3 million back in 2007, mostly through state funding, Porter said.

Seeing the ambitious project to this point has been a long, and at times frustrating, process, but that makes the reward all the sweeter, he said.

"We were able to do it," Porter said. "Of course, I believe God's hand was a part of that. That's why we had to be patient."

Posted on August 19, 2010 at 12:53 pm, filed under Government, Housing, Land Use & Zoning, Uncategorized and tagged affordable housing, cedar crossing, pilgrim baptist, red bank affordable housing corporation, red bank nj, terrence porter. Bookmark the permalink. Follow any comments here with the RSS feed for this post. Trackbacks are closed, but you can post a comment. Email this story.



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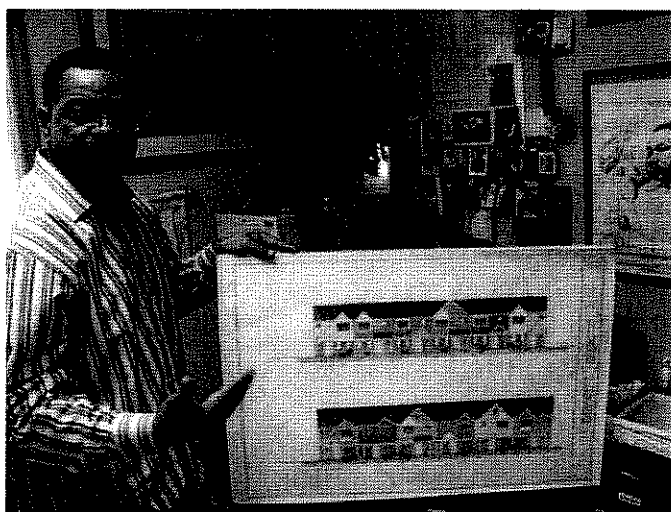
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COMING SOON: CEDAR CROSSING



Rev. Terrence Porter shows off a drawing of the Cedar Crossing affordable housing project, which is likely to get started in the next several weeks. (Photo by Dustin Racioppi)

By **DUSTIN RACIOPPI**

Barring any bureaucratic glitches, Red Bank's [Cedar Crossing](#) affordable housing project will start shaping into reality next month.

There's just a little more red tape to get the borough's most ambitious effort at creating affordable housing in decades through, says [Rev. Terrence K. Porter](#), president of the Red Bank Affordable Housing Corporation, the nonprofit entity overseeing the much-anticipated project.

"Things are moving as well as expected," said Porter, pastor of [Pilgrim Baptist Church](#). "I really feel great about the progress we've made."

The real progress — the kind you can see, such as construction — could come as early as April, Porter said. The project has cleared all the necessary hurdles on the local level, but is now in the process of getting signed off by the state [Department of Environmental Protection](#) and the [Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority](#), as well as waiting on state and county entities to come through on funding.

At tonight's meeting of the Red Bank Council, elected officials are expected to introduce an ordinance that would vacate the eastern ends of River and Cedar streets to further the project.

In an e-mail to [redbankgreen](#), Porter said there's a target date of April 16 to close on the property.

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03.06 - Teddy Bear Tea at Navesink CC REGISTER NOW. On April 6, The Friends of the Monmouth Museum present a special event for kids 3 to 8 years of age, hosted at Navesink Country Club in Middletown with activities including a Teddy Bear Parade (led by 'a famous bear'), gourmet treats, 'a lesson on manners, etiquette and polite conversation' plus gift baskets and more. Click for phone/email contact info.

03.06 - Hidden Valor: Female Soldiers of the American Civil War In commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial, historian Glenn LeBoeuf visits the Monmouth County Library's Eastern Branch for a presentation on the unknown number of women who disguised their gender to follow their husbands and relatives into battle — 'the strange stories of concealment, service in battle and discovery of these patriots without petticoats.'

03.06 - EYESIGHTS Photography Show at the Guild The Guild of Creative Art hosts the 8th annual Open Juried Photography Exhibition for its members (with a concurrent display of 'Small Treasures' by associate members). Juror awards will be presented (by guest judge Anrew Darlow) at 4p during the reception, and the exhibit continues through March 30 during regular gallery hours.

03.06 - Rockit! Live The kids of the classic rock conservatory (a program offered by the Count Basie Theatre Performing Arts Academy and directed by Bruce Gallipani) bring their best stuff to the big stage, in the climactic showcase event of the winter session.

03.06 - Teen Arts for Peace: A Juried Exhibition In conjunction with the Preview Party for the John/Yoko GIVE PEACE A CHANCE exhibit, The Monmouth Museum presents a display of artworks created by young Monmouth County artists with the theme of PEACE, reflecting and honoring the lifetime work of John

"Once that's done...there's going to be a lot of signing over going on," he said. "Then it's going to be a matter of putting shovels in the ground a day or two after the signing."

The state's affordable housing agency, [Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency](#), is backing the estimated \$3.6 million project and the Red Bank Housing Authority is set to oversee the construction.

Porter said he's been in contact with state and local agencies every day getting updates and positive responses. The most recent evidence of forward progress on the proposed 36-unit housing project can be seen in [two bonds passed](#) by the council to support infrastructure improvements in the area.

The housing corporation has been working with the Monmouth County Housing Alliance and HMFA to get prospective buyers of the homes certified for mortgages. The homes, split up into two- and three-bedroom units, will sell for anywhere between \$85,000 and \$135,000, Porter said.

Porter said there's no specific timeline once work gets started at the two-acre tract at the eastern ends of Cedar, Catherine and River streets, although he'd like to see it done in six months. However, he said, "I'm a little bit more aggressive. Six months is an aggressive time frame."

There should be no problems moving families into the homes once complete, Porter said. For the last 18 months, the housing corporation, in conjunction with the county and state housing authorities, has developed a large pool of prospective buyers from Monmouth, Mercer and Ocean counties. Those possible buyers have gone to certification classes and met with lenders to determine their eligibility and get them "mortgage ready," Porter said.

The end result, he said, will be about three dozen new families owning homes in Red Bank, potentially by the end of the year.

"This is going to give 36 families an opportunity to get started. That's 36 families that can possibly have an impact on our community," he said. "A project like this is only going to enhance the community as a whole."

Posted on March 22, 2010 at 1:45 pm, filed under Government, Housing, Real Estate, Uncategorized and tagged affordable housing, cedar crossing, red bank nj. Bookmark the permalink. Follow any comments here with the RSS feed for this post. Trackbacks are closed, but you can post a comment. Email this story.

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03.07 - Little Silver Planning Board
Time: 7:00 pm

03.07 - Tinton Falls Board of Education Workshop
Time: 7:00 pm

03.07 - Red Bank Planning Board
Time: 7:00 pm

03.07 - Little Silver Borough Council
Time: 7:30 pm

03.07 - Middletown Township Committee Workshop
Time: 8:00 pm

03.08 - Red Bank Environmental Commission
Time: 7:00 pm

03.08 - Rumson Borough Council
Time: 7:30 pm

03.08 - Tinton Falls Shade Tree Commission
Time: 7:30 pm

03.08 - Rumson—Fair Haven Regional Board of Education
Time: 7:30 pm

03.09 - Red Bank Construction Board of Appeals
Time: 4:00 pm

03.09 - Fair Haven Planning Board
Time: 7:00 pm

03.09 - Tinton Falls Planning Board
Time: 7:30 pm

03.10 - Middletown Landmarks Commission
Time: 7:30 pm

03.10 - Middletown Sewerage Authority
Time: 7:30 pm

03.10 - Red Bank Shade Tree Committee
Time: 7:30 pm

03.12 - Shrewsbury Shade Tree Commission
Time: 9:00 am

03.14 - Red Bank Borough Council
Time: 6:30 pm

03.14 - Fair Haven Borough Council
Time: 7:00 pm

03.14 - Tinton Falls Open Space Committee
Time: 7:30 pm

03.14 - Tinton Falls Historic Commission
Time: 7:30 pm

03.15 - Red Bank Green Team
Time: 6:30 pm

03.15 - Sea Bright Borough Council
Time: 7:30 pm

03.15 - Tinton Falls Borough Council
Time: 7:30 pm

03.15 - Little Silver Board of Health
Time: 7:30 pm