

# The Berkshires

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## Affordable Housing in Great Barrington

# Wait is just about over

■ Five years after the plan is proposed, officials with the Hillside project say applications are available.

By Trevor Jones  
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**GREAT BARRINGTON** — More than 15 years since the last affordable housing units were built in town and five years since the latest project was first approved, the first signs of completion were visible Wednesday at the Hillside Affordable Housing development.

The first set of modular units were set in place for the \$2.4 million project on Wednesday, giving residents the first

glimpse of what the new buildings will look like. And as crews installed the sectionals, officials announced that residents can pick up applications for the units today.

"It's been a while, and it's sorely needed," said Timothy Geller, executive director of the Community Develop Corporation of South Berkshire. The town donated the property to the CDC of South Berkshire in 2003, and the group has been working since to secure state and federal assistance to make the

project a reality. Geller said the properties will meet the needs of those who work and live in the area but are being driven out by rising housing costs.

"Our goal from the beginning was to bring more affordable family housing to Great Barrington," he said.

Kara Davis, executive director of Construct, Inc., the agency that will manage and lease the units, said two dozen Great Barrington residents have contacted her about the properties, though the 10 apartments haven't even been advertised yet. She expects many more will apply once they know the buildings are nearing or

have been completed.

The units will be split between three buildings, with 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments. Rents will range from \$575 to \$900 a month, and five of the apartments will receive public rent subsidies.

Geller said there has been concern from members of the community about the presence of an affordable housing complex, but he feels officials have answered those concerns and the buildings will fit in with the rest of the properties in the neighborhood.

"I think at the end of the day we're going to have a beautiful addition to the neighborhood," he said.