

## Home for veterans to get Weymouth salute

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The plight for veterans who are homeless or in danger of not having a place to live will be eased when a two-story home with six units opens on Route 18 near Liberty Square Weymouth.

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The plight for veterans who are homeless or in danger of not having a place to live will be eased when a two-story home with six units opens on Route 18 near Liberty Square Weymouth.

NeighborWorks, Southern Massachusetts, a community development corporation directed the construction of the house at 741 Main St., under \$1.4 million in federal funds during the past year.

The units would be available for people to live in who meet the state's criteria of affordable housing law and veterans will get residency preference according to Robert Corley, executive director of NeighborWorks Southern Mass.

"This new project will help fill a great need for safe affordable homes for our returning veterans he said in a written statement.

NeighborWorks Southern Mass, has built or renovated seven properties on the South Shore for single veterans and those who have families, according to Corley.

A ribbon cutting ceremony with state and local officials will celebrate the opening of the home, 11 a.m., Wednesday, April 19.

Corley, said it is fitting to honor veterans by celebrating the opening of the home April 19, which was previously celebrated as Patriots Day in Massachusetts until lawmakers changed the date.

“Our veterans are the reason we enjoy the freedoms we so often take for granted,” he said.

Construction of the home required the demolition of an existing house, according to Corley.

Mayor Robert Hedlund said the non-profit Father Bill’s & Mainspring would administer the operation of the home.

“The South Shore Home Consortium we (Weymouth) are part of thought it would be a good project and they went ahead and funded it,” he said. “The federal government provides the bulk of the funding.”

Weymouth Veterans Services Director George Pontes said Father Bill’s & Mainspring would have a counselor available to provide guidance to veterans.

“It is a project that was a group effort which was led by NeighborWorks and Father Bill’s & Mainspring,” he said. “They came up with the concept of a new veterans house to address the homeless issue. It will provide six rooms. They have done a nice job with the amenities.”

Each living space has a kitchenette and the residents will have a community room with a full kitchen laundry facilities and common restrooms, according to Corley.

He said all of the property’s appliances are energy star rated and the building will use high-efficiency heating and cooling units to ensure optimum energy usage.

Pontes said the location of the home would provide veterans access to MBTA bus transportation to go to work or medical appointments.

“Transportation is a big issue when you are homeless,” he said. “If you want to make that transition back into mainstream life you need the support mechanisms.”

Pontes said the house location would provide veterans who live in the home convenient access to South Shore Hospital for medical needs and some nearby stores.

“The library is only half-a mile-away,” he said.

Pontes said the house still needs some work done on the ground floor and the dwelling should be ready for tenants to move in June 1.

“It is really a good project,” he said.

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