

## TX – GALVESTON -- MIXED-INCOME HOUSING TAKING SHAPE ON ISLAND

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JENNIFER REYNOLDS/The Daily News

Construction at The Cedars

Construction workers take measurements Wednesday on the decking of a housing unit at The Cedars at Carver Park in Galveston. Construction on the housing authority's began in September nearly 6 years after Hurricane Ike flooded the island.



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GALVESTON — There are roofs on some of the buildings now at The Cedars at Carver Park. Some of the buildings have windows, too.

The Cedars, the first of two planned mixed-income housing developments being built in Galveston to replace public housing demolished after by Hurricane Ike, is making noticeable progress.

Meg Manley, a senior vice president with McCormack Baron Salazar, the developer of the property, said Thursday the last wood pilings at the development were driven into the ground last weekend.

“The framing is going incredibly well,” Manley said. “The exterior units will start taking shape next month. Exterior siding and paint will be next visible improvement on the units.”



The Cedars broke ground in September, almost six years to the day from when Hurricane Ike struck the island and irreparably damaged The Cedars’ predecessors on the site, the Cedar Terrace apartments.

The new apartments are raised higher this time around, and stilted like West-End homes so that they are not flooded with water and mud when the next hurricane comes.

Construction on the Galveston Housing Authority’s other development, The Villas on The Strand, has not yet begun. Manley said delays in utility work had stalled the project, but the first pilings should be put in the ground over the next few weeks.



“After that, you’ll really see that site start to rock and roll like Cedars,” Manley said.

Meanwhile, a lawsuit aiming to halt construction of projects is still active in the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit are island resident Tryshatel McCardell and the Galveston Open Government Project. On Wednesday, the city and other agencies — were required to submit briefs to the appeals court.

In their responses to appeal, the defendants reintegrated their arguments that McCardell and others did not have the standing to bring a suit over the housing development.

Manley declined to comment on the appeal, saying that work on the development was proceeding on schedule.

Assuming that pace continues, the first residents of The Cedars at Carver Park could be moved in by June. In the next few months, McCormack Baron Salazar will begin advertising units in the development's market-rate apartments. Meanwhile, the housing authority continues trying to find Ike-displaced residents who are eligible to move into the developments' public housing units.