

Apartment project under way on formerly embattled land

■ Residents had fought a Walmart proposed for Lewis Ave. and Sterns Rd. Now a chunk of the property is becoming a housing complex.

BY ALEX ALUSHEFF

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Construction has started on a 118-unit housing complex on 17 acres of land near Lewis Ave. and Sterns Rd. in Bedford Township.

Developed by Redwood Living, the housing complex features ranch-style, two-bedroom apartments, which include two-car garages.

“There’s a need for luxury, high-quality rentals,” said Richard Batt, Michigan senior vice president at Redwood. “We’re fulfilling that need.”

The units range from 1,100 to 1,400 square feet and feature one or two bathrooms and a den. The price ranges from \$1,200 to \$1,400 a month.

Mr. Batt said the units are typically geared toward “empty nesters” and the retirement community.

Twelve units are expected to be completed by next fall and the development can be accessed by entrances off Lewis and Sterns.

Township Supervisor Greg Stewart said this development shows that Bedford is growing



— Courtesy photo

This drawing shows what the Redwood Living complex will look like.

and is an attractive place to live.

“It’s a great community,” he said. “This is a very good option for the property.”

The 17.262-acre property is part of a larger 42-acre plot of land owned by Jon Whitman, who in the early 2000s stirred up controversy in the township when a Walmart was proposed for the area.

He unsuccessfully tried to get the land rezoned from C-2 to C-3 commercial for years, even taking it to court, before it ended up being zoned for residential use in 2014, allowing Redwood to develop its complex.

Nearby residents banded together to fight the proposed Walmart, worried their property values would go down and that there wouldn’t be enough of a buffer zone between their

homes and the proposed store.

“We were really concerned about the traffic and safety,” said Judy Frankowski, who lives near the development and spoke out against the proposed Walmart for years. “This development will change the footprint of the neighborhood and I’ll miss the green space, but it’s better than a big box store. We can live with this.”

Redwood operates communities nearby in Perrysburg and Monclova, Ohio, with one under construction in Sylvania, Ohio. In Michigan, they are located in Canton, Howell, Grand Rapids, Macomb, Lake Orion, Commerce Township and Wolverine Lake.

For more information, visit byredwood.com.