

Editorial Page



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Brodart warehouse project hits city's housing priorities

*I*t's the vacant building with the large chimney stack background. The former Brodart warehouse is a rather dubious landmark near the entrance to the city's West End.

But that's about to change as demolition of the building begins and ambitious housing plans emerge over the course of the next five years.

Once the demolition is done in early November, Memorial Homes, a 40-unit apartment complex, will emerge.

Parallel to that development will be upgrades to a number of properties in the area with codes deficiencies, work that is part of the Memorial Homes Brodart Neighborhood Improvement Project.

Once the apartments are built in a year, the next phase is to construct 32 townhouses over a five-year period, with marketing of the townhouses ongoing as they are built.

There is so much potential here. The neighborhood is bound to be improved by the twin initiative of housing improvements and new housing.

In the process, an abandoned part of the city gets a fresh shot in the arm. And make no mistake about it, the city of Williamsport needs to broaden and add to its housing stock.

Let's hope the drawing board comes to life with all the housing and neighborhood initiatives on the table where the warehouse and the chimney stack used to be.