

# The METROWEST DAILY NEWS

## Wayside groundbreaking a long time coming

**By John Hilliard/Daily News staff**  
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Framingham -

Tomorrow's groundbreaking of the Lockland Avenue residential facility for Wayside Youth and Family Support Network marks the new chapter of a project that dates back to the beginning of the decade.

"It's been a long time coming, but it's a good day," said the Rev. J. Anthony Lloyd, pastor of the Greater Framingham Community Church and spokesman for Wayside's board of directors.

The groundbreaking ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Natick, where attendees will be bused to the Lockland Avenue site for the event itself.

The complex should take 18 months to build, and according to previous reports the facility could house about 72 teens on the 14-acre lot.

When completed, the Lockland Avenue residential program will house teens from smaller homes in Framingham or from outside of town, said Lloyd.

According to Wayside, the facility will offer short-term residential placement for teens facing behavioral, emotional or other challenges. The goal of the program is to reunite teens with their families as quickly as possible.

Lloyd said the centralized design allows Wayside to operate its programs inside the same facility as the teens are housed.

"There's a lot of good that comes out of" programs like Wayside, he said.

Tomorrow's groundbreaking for the new Wayside campus - first proposed in 2001 - comes after years of court battles and wrangling between Wayside, neighbors and town officials.

The Sucker Pond Neighborhood Association took Wayside to Land Court in an attempt to block Wayside's plans last year. However, a Land Court judge ruled in favor of Wayside. In a separate suit, a federal court judge also reversed the selectmen's denial of a public way access permit in March.

In May, Wayside representatives and town officials agreed to a plan to monitor traffic at the facility, while the organization dropped a civil rights suit against Framingham and agreed to pay \$80,000 for improvements around the property.

Lloyd said the organization wants to be good neighbors with residents and Wayside intends to keep lines of communication open.

"In any kind of project ... there will always be disagreements," said Lloyd. "We trust, as we go through this process, there will be dialogue and discussion."

Steve Whitkin, president of the Sucker Pond Neighborhood Association, had little comment on the Wayside facility. He was not aware of tomorrow's groundbreaking ceremony.

"We took it to the limit," he said of the group's court action. "It is what it is."