

million

Corn Hill Landing finally in motion

■ City and builder break ground on \$20 million riverside complex

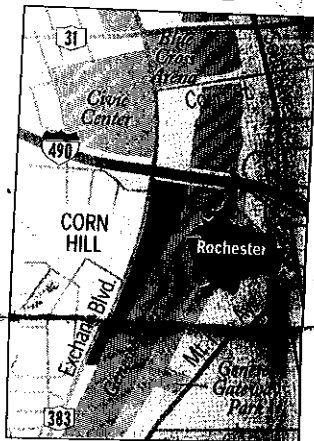
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AND RICK ARMON**

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Four years after the project was first announced — and one year after it was supposed to be completed — city officials and Mark IV Construction broke ground Thursday on the Corn Hill Landing project.

The much-anticipated \$20 million complex on the banks of the Genesee River will include 127 apartments, 14,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space and 15,000 square feet of office space. Mark IV had to wait for a \$15.8 million loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development before starting the project. During the wait, it also had to redesign the complex to conform to building codes and clean up an oil spill at the site.

"This is a day we've been waiting for some time,"



■ Officials broke ground on the long-awaited Corn Hill Landing project Thursday.

SOURCE: Erdman Anthony Consulting Engineers

Staff graphic

Paul Foti. Prospective tenants include a wine shop and a restaurant, he said. Spin Caffe co-owner Randy Orlando said his chain is negotiating for space in the project.

WILES staff photographer model of the SSP picture

Landing

FROM PAGE 12D

improvements around the site, including the rebuilt river wall.

The city expects the project to create 80 full-time jobs when complete.

Mark IV President Anthony DiMarzo, who has built several projects in the Corn Hill area, called his latest effort "a transition for a historic area."

A bustling neighborhood in the 1800s because of its closeness to both downtown and the

Erie Canal, Corn Hill suffered as the railroad and then Interstate 490 changed the nature of transportation and commerce in Rochester.

The neighborhood includes historic homes — many of them subdivided into apartments — and new housing developments.

It's best known for the annual Corn Hill Arts Festival, a massively popular two-day event.

Area residents welcomed the Corn Hill Landing project.

"One of the most scenic areas in our neighborhood gets to be showcased and that's long overdue," said Rob Goodling, presi-

dent of the Corn Hill Neighbors Association.

City Councilman Tony Thompson, whose district includes Corn Hill, said he wants to make sure that Mark IV provides jobs to neighborhood residents.

"I love the project," he said, "but how many people from the neighborhood are going to be working on the project?"

Foti said that Mark IV plans to work with Thompson to ensure that neighborhood residents can apply for construction jobs. □

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