

Residents, Workers Battle Rain, Traffic at Cottages of Boone

Written by Steve Frank

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In spite of the rain, there is a lot of work going on today at the Cottages of Boone development just past the south town limits, but no new inspections are set for the student housing complex today, according to Watauga Planning and Inspections director Joe Furman. He said that, as of this morning, 28 buildings have received Certificates of Occupancy, equaling 51 units and 249 beds. Furman's email said no inspections are requested for today, but that he was anticipating some for Tuesday. Eventually, 92 residential buildings representing 202 units and 894 beds should be available at the hilltop complex, according to plats approved, according to Furman. As those first certificates were issued Saturday, a move-in frenzy was set in motion for Sunday, with local authorities anything but ready for the rush to move in at the new Cottages of Boone complex. In spite of more rainy weekend weather, workers finished enough work at the new student housing site that inspectors gave the initial green light at the 28 buildings, granting certificates that allowed the move in to begin. And it was almost instant chaos, with drivers trying to cross lanes to make the turn into the two-lane road, some parking at spots that blocked access. Boone Police, along with active direction of traffic, issued a plea for those trying to access the site from NC 105 to use the correct lanes, leaving open the center lane for through traffic as drivers were totally closing down the highway trying to get onto Poplar Grove Road.