The Eddy has begun construction of its $41 million "green house."

The nonprofit entity, the senior care division of Troy-based Northeast Health, broke ground May 27 on Eddy Village Green.

The project will replace two aged facilities--the Eddy-Ford Nursing Home and Eddy Cohoes Rehabilitation Center--with 16 ranch-style houses.

Each 8,000-square-foot house will have 12 private bedrooms and baths, which will surround a large, communal living room and kitchen.

The campus will accommodate a total of 192 seniors.

Eddy officials said the first six houses will be ready this fall. The remaining houses are expected to be completed by early 2010.

The Village Green will be the first senior home in the state to use the "green house" model. The idea is to remove as many of the institutional routines as possible. Residents sleep as late as they want, eat what and when they want, shower when they want, and may spend time alone in their rooms or with the group.

A fenced-in backyard and screened-in porch will give residents free access to the outside but prevent them from wandering away.
All rooms are wired for the Internet.

The Eddy will continue to provide all clinical services, such as skilled nursing care, physical therapy and speech therapy, but in a way that resembles home care rather than nursing home care.

There currently are about 16 green house programs operating across the country.

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