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Ridgefield families 'jump for joy'

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RIDGEFIELD -- Elena Reyes is "jumping **for joy**." Her **family** of four is finally moving into an affordable-housing condominium at Prospect Ridge that they were promised last year.

"We are very happy," Reyes said Friday. "We were jumping **for joy** yesterday when they gave us the keys. My mom and I are moving some stuff today. We are so happy that we finally have a home."

Reyes and her husband, Ramon, and their two small children have been living with Ramon's mother in a **Ridgefield** condominium since Jan. 26.

They previously had to give up their apartment in Golden's Bridge, N.Y., after notifying their landlady they would be moving to **Ridgefield** by January.

The Reyeses are one of 20 **families** held in limbo as the town's Housing Authority and Water Pollution Control Authority argued over whether the Housing Authority had to pay a sewer hookup fee of \$114,000 **for** Prospect Ridge tenants.

Nanette Bracken, co-chairman of the Housing Authority's board of directors, said Friday she is glad things have been resolved enough **for families** to move in.

"The first batch of tenants will move in over the weekend," Bracken said. "We paid one-tenth of the sewer hookup fee, \$11,400, and certificates of occupancy were issued by the building inspector. We're just thrilled that these wonderful people who are our tenants are finally moving in."

By town statute, the sewer hookup fee can be paid in 10 payments. The Housing Authority still intends to fight the charge, Bracken said. It thinks it should not have to pay a fee to connect affordable housing to sewer lines.

Max Caldwell, chairman of the WPCA, said his agency, according to state and town law, has to collect the hookup fee from everyone who connects to the town's sewer lines.

Both agencies have contacted attorneys, though neither wants to see the issue come to litigation.

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