

55-plus community in Smyrna breaks new ground



On hand for the clubhouse groundbreaking were the residents of the Village of Eastridge, Delaware State Representative Charles "Trey" Paradee (Legislative District 29), Benchmark Builders' President Steve Bomberger and Vice President of Project Management Fred Fortunato along with other key Benchmark Builders employees.

When Benchmark Builders designed the Village of Eastridge, the company's latest 55-plus community, extra consideration was given to the common areas. They wanted plenty of green space to give the community a sense of openness; they wanted walking paths and well-lit sidewalks to give homeowners an easy, carefree place to stroll or jog; and they wanted an elaborate community clubhouse that would be a warm and friendly center of community life.

Last Tuesday, September 23, the groundbreaking took place for the clubhouse signaling the start of construction of the 3300 square-foot facility. "We wanted to accelerate the construction schedule of the clubhouse to show our commitment to our homebuyers and provide them with a club-

house now rather than later," said Steve Bomberger, president of Benchmark Builders.

The clubhouse will have all the "bells and whistles," according to Fred Fortunato, Vice President of Project Management at



Benchmark Builders, including a fitness room, recreation/game room with billiard table, kitchen, and great room with fireplace. Outside, there will be bocce ball and shuffleboard courts as well as a large patio for outdoor barbecues. "Even a big screen TV with Wii is planned for those late night virtual bowling leagues," added Mr. Fortunato. "It's a win-win situation for the homeowners as well as us. It will make a great community even better," said Mr.

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Bomberger. The new clubhouse is scheduled to open in spring 2015.

Although the clubhouse will surely attract its fair share of interest, it is the design and construction of the homes that has attracted so many homebuyers to the community. Those interested in a quality home at a very affordable price will find plenty to like. All six models are NAHB Certified Green and offer the comfort and convenience of single-level living. And for those who want even more space, a loft can be added giving an impressive level of flexibility to create such worthwhile additions as an upstairs guest bedroom and bath, a large open area that can be used for any number of lifestyle interests, or additional storage space. Remarkably, homes start at \$209,000.

Regardless of the design, all homes offer a multitude of notable amenities as standard, starting with a hardwood foyer, 9' first-floor ceilings, lavishly appointed owner's suite with large walk-in closets, 30-year dimensional roof shingles, two-car garage. And for those who want even more downstairs living space, the great room and owner's bedroom suite can be extended.

Perhaps the most notable interior design element is the way each model brings the living, dining and kitchen areas together to create a large open great room that clearly lives up to its billing. Plus ladies (and gentlemen) are sure to appreciate the optimal kitchen and the fact that there is lots of storage space throughout.

As for curb appeal, the homes benefit from such highlights as manufactured stone accents, cottage-inspired trim, country-style front porches and handsomely proportioned gabled roofs. Surrounded by trees on three sides, and 34 acres of open space set aside within, the homes blend beautifully and effortlessly with one another to create a charming ambiance.

Those who value nature will find Kent County something of a paradise. Within easy walking distance, Massey Mill Pond



is the perfect spot for canoeing, fishing or daydreaming. Nearby, Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge is world-famous for birding. And with its quiet country roads, there are few areas better for cycling. Others will enjoy the links at Garrison's Lake Golf Club, exploring the Biggs Museum of American Art or visiting any of the numerous parks and recreation areas. For those who love the historic charm of a small town, Smyrna will certainly beckon your attention with its quaint

shops and long list of things to do. And if you love to shop, there are plenty of opportunities nearby on Route 13. Even Christiana Mall is only 35 minutes away.

Directions: From I-95, exit onto Route 1, follow to the South Smyrna Exit (Exit 114) and turn left onto Route 13 South. After one mile, turn right at the light onto Brenford Road. Follow for about 2 1/2 miles. For GPS: Enter 11 Felix View Court, Smyrna DE 19977.