

# OUTLOOK

## Courtyard Fountains marks scheduled end of new project

*Retirement community looked for local businesses to build new complex*

BY SHANNON WELLS

*The Gresham Outlook, Sep 23, 2009*

**In a moribund economic climate, a major construction project that's moving ahead — on schedule — serves as an encouraging symbol of brighter days to come.**

It helps when the \$10.8 million project's key players are all locally based businesses and contractors.

Mary Beasley, administrator of Courtyard Fountains of Gresham, 1545 S.E. 223rd Ave., says that's what this Friday's "topping out" celebration at the retirement community is all about.

"What we're celebrating is that we're putting as much as we can into the local economy," she says. "We've been really fortunate in hiring local contractors who have excellent skills and are here for the duration."

The public is invited to come by from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. to partake of tours, music and refreshments to mark the facility's 77-square-foot expansion being under roof. The project, which kicked off last September, is more than halfway to its projected February 2010 completion date, Beasley says.

"We had a little bit of a delay. There was some redesign work," she says, adding that the economic recession hasn't affected the progress. "We're pretty much staying on track."

When completed, the three-story project will feature 44 assisted living apartments, a dining facility, commercial kitchen, nurses' stations, 15 senior living apartments, entertainment/common areas and secured parking. Reservations are being accepted for the additional living spaces, which, with the existing 193, will total 252.

Key local contractors and businesses involved in the expansion include Persimmon Development Group Construction Services, Axis Design Group, Gresham Electric and Riegelmann's Appliances.

"We've assembled a great team here," Beasley says, praising the businesses and individuals such as Brian Lessler of Persimmon and Tim Brunner of Axis. "We feel really fortunate."

The one- and two-bedroom apartments on the top floor will be the most extravagant. They'll have extra features such as vaulted ceilings and gas fireplaces.

"There's some really nice amenities," Beasley says. "We've had a lot of interest."

The Courtyard residents have been extremely patient and supportive with the construction work going on around their once-and-future serene surroundings, she says.

"I've only had one or two resident complaints," Beasley says, "which is amazing to me. They've really taken an ownership in this building. They've participated in decisions about finishes. The construction folks have had lunch with them."

A popular contest has even evolved where residents guess how many truckloads of earth have been hauled off thus far. The tally? Seven-hundred loads.



JIM CLARK / THE OUTLOOK  
Persimmon Development Group construction manager Tim Guy looks over the Courtyard Fountains construction site. The project is about half finished, and there will be a "topping out" celebration at the retirement facility Friday, Sept. 25.

“Has it impacted us? Absolutely,” she says. “But the residents have been very engaged in the process. They’ve taken it in stride.”

**If you go**

**What:** A “topping off” celebration at Courtyard Fountains of Gresham retirement community for the 77,300-square-foot expansion project that’s now under roof.

**Where:** 1545 S.E. 223 Ave., Gresham

**When:** 3:30 to 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25

**Offered:** Tours, music, words from local dignitaries, refreshments including adult beverages

**Hosted by:** Courtyard Fountains, Axis Design Group, PDG Construction Services, Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce

**RSVP:** 503-667-4500

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