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Home sweet home



By Tom Waring
Times Staff Writer

Soon, Joan Spoltore won't have to worry about carrying trash to the curb or hiring someone to clean her gutter, rake her leaves or cut her lawn.

Spoltore is about to move into a condominium at the Villages of Pine Valley, a 55-plus active adult residential community at 8550 Verree Road.

"I'll be relieved of all those responsibilities," she said.

Holy Redeemer Health System operates the campus, which consists of an 89-unit apartment building, 84 houses and a new four-floor, 40-unit condominium building where Spoltore will be living.

The first residents began moving into the condominiums last week. Spoltore is waiting until she sells her home of 37 years in Pine Valley before making the move.

There are one- and two-bedroom condos with floor plans ranging from 800 to 1,400 square feet. Prices range from \$229,000 to \$329,000.

Spoltore chose a fourth-floor, 966-square-foot condo with one bedroom, one and a half baths, a den and a balcony. She is happy with her large living room, kitchen, walk-in closet and powder room, plentiful cabinets, 10-foot-high ceiling, gas fireplace and the windows that will allow plenty of natural light. The condo faces east, and she'll be able to see

the sun rise.

"It's very spacious," she said. "I won't feel like I'm living in a little apartment."

Spoltore, a 67-year-old divorcee with two adult children and four grandchildren, is looking for some easy living. Her current home is a little too large.

The condominium is close to her part-time jobs in Huntingdon Valley and Croydon. She'll be minutes away from her church, St. Albert the Great. Her children live in Southampton and Ambler.

"We'll continue to have family dinners at Grammy's house," she said.

An active senior citizen who especially likes ballroom dancing, she plans to take part in some of the offerings at the Villages of Pine Valley.

The clubhouse features, among other things, an indoor swimming pool, library and fitness center. The grounds are also popular among walkers. And while the building has an elevator, Spoltore plans to walk up and down the steps.

"The area is great," she said. "It has a suburban feel. It's only five minutes from home. It's all pluses for me."

The property has room for four more condominium buildings and a medical building.



JENNY SWIGODA / TIMES PHOTOS

The Villages at Pine Valley, a 55-plus active adult residential community at 8550 Verree Road, recently opened the first of five new condominiums.

Steve Godfrey, of the sales and marketing staff, said interest in the condominiums is high. He said buyers like the fact that their units can be customized with cabinets, flooring, tile, countertops and more. They also are enticed by the city's 10-year property tax abatement on new construction.

"It's location, the quality of workmanship and the social aspect of it," he said.

Godfrey's colleague, Holly Ballay, said the condominiums are attracting a mix of married and single people from the city and suburbs. The residents are independent, and many of them continue to work.

The single-floor living is popular among people who are tired of climbing stairs.

The setting is also a nice feature, according to Ballay.

"You have such beautiful views of Fox Chase Farm and Pennypack Park," she said.

Spoltore is eager to find a buyer for her home so she can start enjoying what her new community has to offer.

"I can't wait to move in," she said. ••

For more information on the Villages of Pine Valley, call toll-free 1-866-870-8601.

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