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## Senior-living project in Hesperia creating buzz



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HESPERIA - Officials with the Eagle Real Estate Group said construction of the High Desert's newest senior-living complex is on track for a summer opening.

An army of construction workers swarmed through the Villas 55-plus apartment project on the 10-acre property on Avenal Street, just east of Mariposa Road, as they worked on the four two-story buildings that will boast a Spanish Mission-style design.

"We're looking at an August opening, barring any weather hold-ups," said James Brown, vice president of construction for Eagle Real Estate. "We're heading into the drywall stage and the main structures are up and it's drawing a lot of attention."

Orange County resident Jin "Johnny" Sheu stopped by the construction site to ask about availability at the 96-unit apartment complex.

Sheu told the Daily Press his "curiosity" drove him to the site after passing it multiple times on his way from Anaheim to Las Vegas.

"I kept telling my wife Hesperia would be wonderful place for my mother," Sheu, 57, said. "After I saw the construction site, I read the story online and decided to check it out."

Eagle Group CEO Randy Friend told the Daily Press the development project is progressing smoothly, with a lease trailer planned for the property sometime in April.

"It's exciting to hear about the many prospective community members that are asking about our property," Friend said. "We are over 50 percent completed and the City of Hesperia has been prompt in sending someone over at a moment's notice."

Construction on the Villas began last August as civic, community and regional leaders helped to break ground on the gated community that includes 629-square-foot, one-bedroom and 875-square-foot, two-bedroom apartments.

More Video: Construction of "the Villas" senior apartment project in Hesperia. #hesperia (22)

The senior community also will include a dog park, computer center, lap pool, clubhouse, fitness center and Jacuzzi. Residents will have their own washers, dryers, patio balconies, ceiling fans and refrigerators.

City Economic Development Management Analyst Lisa LaMere told the Daily Press the \$13 million housing project will help meet the needs of Hesperia's "growing senior community" who are looking for "a place to live that is safe and well planned."

Friend said the future for the adjacent property includes construction of another 96-unit facility, "almost a mirror-image" of the Villas, but with a different design.

"We're seeing a lot of baby boomers taking their chips off the table and selling their homes to move into a senior community," Friend said. "We know many seniors will enjoy living here."

Friend said his company has already worked with the Victor Valley Transit Authority to add the Villas to its bus route and schedule.

"We've received so many calls for occupancy that we had to start a waiting list," Brown said. "I think that's a good sign for the city and for us."

For leasing information on the Villas, call 909-370-4552 or visit [www.eaglereg.com](http://www.eaglereg.com).

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