

## Seniors land happily on new Horizons

Affordable housing residents building fresh community ties

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Cesar Delgado (center), executive director of Heritage Community Housing Inc., talks to residents in the community center at The Horizons at Indio senior housing complex on Thursday in Indio. (Marilyn Chung, The Desert Sun)

### THE HORIZONS AT INDIO

**What:** An affordable apartment complex at 45-405 Monroe St. for those age 55 and older.

**Availability:** It opened June 28. Of the 80 units, 68 are already occupied. There are 12 available units.

**Rent:** A one-bedroom unit costs between \$463 and \$713 a month. A two-bedroom costs between \$553 and \$852.

**Amenities:** Community center, pool and spa, computer lab, laundry facilities, picnic areas, covered patios, granite countertops, health screenings, prescription deliveries.

**Info:** Interested applicants can call Solari Inc. at (714) 363-4090.

The Horizons at Indio has only been open about two months, but already a sense of community is forming

"I speak with everybody. I always say, 'Hi,'" said resident Maria Marin, 71.

City officials on Thursday toured the 80-unit affordable housing complex for seniors, which opened June 28. Only 12 apartments have yet to be leased.

Marin loves living in her one-bedroom apartment and enjoys the new friends she's made.

It's a big change from the rural trailer she used to live in outside Indio.

"I don't drive, so I was stuck there," she said.

The complex is at corner of Monroe Street and Shadow Palm Drive, just down the street from public transportation and shopping.

The city's senior center, once it's complete, will be within walking distance from the complex as well.

"You can walk to Food 4 Less," said Harrison Wimbish, 64.

"It's pretty well laid-out and convenient," he said of the complex.

However, one thing he would have liked to have seen more covered parking spots.

Elisa Aguirre, 76, was the first resident to move in and is glad she did.

"I'm so blessed. Everything is just perfect," said the retired farmworker.

Aguirre said she likes to make tortillas and hand them out to her neighbors as a friendly gesture.

To promote a sense of community and get people to mingle, there are monthly potlucks and birthday celebrations in the community room.

Also, a nondenominational Bible study group meets at 6 p.m. every Tuesday.

As an infill project, city officials appreciate the way the complex blends in with its surroundings and provides affordable housing for seniors on fixed incomes.

All apartments are reserved for seniors earning from 40 percent to 60 percent of the area median income for Riverside County, and half of the units are set aside for retired farmworkers.

"A lot of people that drive by don't even know its affordable housing," said Jesus Gomez, housing programs manager with the city.

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