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Lt. Gov. Mary Donohue speaks yesterday at the construction kickoff ceremony for Senior Horizons at Silver Lake, an apartment complex for senior citizens in the Town of Walkkill. Photo by Tom Bushey

Seniors see opening of complex on horizon

TOWN OF WALKKILL: Seniors and politicians met yesterday to celebrate the construction of an affordable senior community.

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Lt. Gov. Mary O. Donohue and a small army of politicians, real estate developers and financiers met yesterday in Robert Boyce's living room.

Well, almost.

They gathered on the smooth concrete foundation that will become Senior Horizons, an 83-unit senior housing complex planned for the shores of Silver Lake. The podium — from which the development was applauded at length — was just feet away from the spot Boyce, 62, and his wife, Jennie, are already calling

Who to call

There's still time to apply for an apartment at Senior Horizons. For more information, contact Senior Horizons, at (845) 566-5750.

their own.

"We're gonna be on the third floor," said Jennie Boyce, balancing a plate of sliced sandwich meat and pointing toward the clear blue sky above the construction site. And then, looking at her husband, "He dreams about it."

The Boyces were among the first to apply for an apartment in the complex. But they started a stampede. Developers say they have 75 applications on file, and they're just kicking off their marketing campaign.

Why the fierce competition?

For Frank DeMarzo, 73, the price is right. Rent on the one-

and two-bedroom apartments will run from \$477 to \$677 a month. Plus, there's the convenience factor. "No grass to cut, no snow to shovel," said DeMarzo, "and it's right on the lake. If I could get a long enough fishing pole, I could stick it out the window."

For some seniors, the size is perfect, too. "I'm downsizing," said Muryle Napolitano, 72, a widow. "This is a cheaper way of living, and the social life will be better for people out here."

In addition to 83 apartments, Senior Horizons will include community activity rooms, a library, exercise facilities, a beauty salon, gardening areas and a computer room.

The development was financed through the state, and it made use of state and local tax credits. Residents must meet age and income requirements.

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successful partnership between the private and the public sector," Donohue said. "The balancing of quality of life concerns with economic development considerations."