

THE TIMES HERALD RECORD

Orange North Edition

Saturday, June 9, 2001

50 cents



AARON J. WALKER/The Record

Seniors Ben Covington, 72, left, Madeline Ryan, 86, and Laurel Shephard, 63, relax in the community room at Senior Horizons at Silver Lake. Senior Hor-

izons, the Town of Wallkill's second senior housing development, is already fully rented.

Wallkill: A great place to retire

By Nathan Hegedus
The Times Herald-Record
nhegedus@th-record.com

Town of Wallkill - Wallkill has everything that 63-year-old Laurel Shephard needs - shopping, medical facilities, access to New York City and a beautiful place to live.

Shephard had lived in the Bronx, and worked as a hospital administrator. After she retired, she moved south to Alabama. But she missed her daughter, who lives in Scotchtown. So she

returned and moved into Senior Horizons at Silver Lake, an 83-unit apartment complex for people 55 and over that opened in April.

"It's more like a resort," she says, sitting in the community room with placid Silver Lake in the background.

Shephard isn't alone in forsaking the South to spend her retirement years in Wallkill, near family and longtime homes, enjoying the change of seasons.

"We get all four seasons here," says manager Mary DiPasquale,

comparing Wallkill to Florida. "People like that, plus the proximity between New Jersey and New York City."

Already fully rented, Senior Horizons is the town's second senior housing development, with the other on Senior Way just west of Middletown. And developers have plans to build at least two more.

The Planning Board has already approved a 136-unit apartment complex near Schutt Road and the Wallkill Town Center, which includes a Price Chopper supermarket.

The project has been in the works for years as the property changed hands, recently getting a one-year extension of its approval from the Planning Board.

But seniors don't just want apartments. On Cottage Street Extension, just north of Middletown, a New Jersey developer wants to build a 285-unit condominium complex centered around a nine-hole golf course.

The developer has not yet officially applied to the Planning Board but has a meeting with

town officials next week, says Supervisor Tom Nosworthy.

Senior Horizons draws people from other states and counties, but it also allows longtime residents who want to stick close to home.

Robert Boyce, 79, moved to Orange County in 1946. He was a butcher who owned his own market in Chester then worked at the very first ShopRite.

"I had a place in Florida I used to go for the winter," he says. "But my wife got homesick for the children, so we sold it. I don't miss it."