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Palm Springs Pointe welcomes seniors

Units set aside for low-income renters

Stefanie Frith
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Low-income seniors have a new place to call home in Palm Springs.

Palm Springs Pointe celebrated its grand reopening Thursday at 3200 Baristo Road, at the corner of Civic Drive.

The \$2.5 million project preserved 116 apartments for seniors on Section 8, a federal housing program that provides assistance to low-income renters and homeowners. Seniors at Palm Springs Pointe pay 30 percent of their income toward rent.

While the project does not count toward Palm Springs' affordable housing requirements, it does provide another housing option, said Dale Cook, Palm Springs community development administrator.

"It was a win-win for the city in preserving affordability restrictions," Cook said.

Irvine-based Bentall Residential teamed with Encinitas-based **Las Palmas Foundation** to renovate the property.

Bentall Residential has preserved more than 3,000 residential units in California. The Las Palmas Foundation owns more than 5,000 low-income units in the state.

The two firms worked with the Palm Springs International Airport to extend the land lease and spent a total of \$11 million on the development.

Palm Springs Pointe will remain as affordable housing for another 55 years per state requirements, Bentall Residential project director Jordan Freedman said.

"We were very fortunate to acquire it when we did," Freedman said.

During the last couple of years, seniors were relocated to a local hotel while heating, cooling, cabinets, flooring, bathrooms and plumbing were renovated in the nearly 30-year-old, one-bedroom, one-bath apartments, Jordan said.

Landscaping was redone, as well as the pool deck, community room and offices. A computer room, craft room and case management services are also on site.

There is a long waiting list to get into the units, Freedman said. For more information, call 320-8420.

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