

The Carmel Pine Cone

Volume 96 No. 23

On the Internet: www.carmelpinecone.com

June 4-10, 2010

Trevvett Court senior housing on schedule for opening this summer



PHOTOS/MARY BROWNFIELD

Last fall, the site of the new Trevvett Court housing project on Dolores Street was just a layer of rubble being scraped into piles by demolition vehicles (left). Today, it's a gleaming series of nearly finished apartments.

By MARY BROWNFIELD

EVEN IF The Carmel Foundation hasn't raised the entire \$3.5 million it needs for the new Trevvett Court apartments on Dolores Street, the 14-unit complex will open sometime this summer, development director Linda Lee said this week. Buoyed by a \$140,000 grant from a San Francisco bank and a successful fundraiser in April, she is confident the community will provide the support the nonprofit needs to make its newest units available to low-income seniors.

"The project's definitely on time," she said. "We're still working very hard on our fundraising, but we got good news on Friday."

That's when she learned FHL Bank in San Francisco decided to donate \$140,000 toward the Trevvett Court project. Each year, the bank earmarks 10 percent of its net income for affordable housing, and this year it wrote checks totaling \$32.5 million for 60 projects in Arizona, California, Illinois, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas and Washington, according to Lee.

"It's actually been very competitive since the recession started," she said of the grant program. "We're very excited."

And an April fundraiser at Quail Lodge organized by the foundation, which provides a wide range of services to residents age 55 and older, brought in \$80,000.

"That was the first time we've ever done an auction, and we were really pleased," she said, especially considering charitable auctions have not fared so well during the prolonged economic slump. "We really had a good time with it."

But The Carmel Foundation still has a sizable amount to raise from supporters, community organizations and other benefactors. Of the \$3.5 million needed, donations to date total about \$2.2 million, Lee said Tuesday. Fortunately, most of that money is already in the bank, with just a few outstanding pledges.

She believes the importance of the Trevvett Court project, which is replacing nine outdated units with 14 new ones and will offer modern amenities and comfortable living quarters for low-income seniors in town, will not go unnoticed by Peninsula residents. The foundation is the largest provider of affordable housing in town.

"I'm feeling very positive that people will rise to the occasion and help us out with this — it's such a worthy cause," she said. "It's a very important project. That's why I think the community will support it."

To contribute to the Trevvett Court project, mail a check to The Carmel Foundation, P.O. Box 1050, Carmel, CA 93921 or visit www.carmelfoundation.org. For more information, call Lee at (831) 624-1588, ext. 52.