

## **Auburn Homes & Services begins construction on \$9.8 million expansion**

“This will be a great additional gem in the crown that is Waconia,” Mayor Jim Nash said at the groundbreaking ceremony of Auburn Meadows Assisted Living.

The 62-unit facility of Auburn Homes & Services will offer assisted living and enhanced assisted living as well as apartments for memory care residents.

“Auburn Meadows helps us to significantly expand the types of services we offer in the Waconia area,” Mike Senden, president and CEO of Auburn Homes & Services, stated. “Meadows will be built using our high standards of construction and will have a similar look and feel to Auburn Home, our long-term care and short-term rehab facility in Waconia.”

By the year 2020, according to projections, Carver County will have at least 15,000 residents who will be 65 or older. Right now there are reportedly 7,500 residents in that age category. Having enough senior housing and the proper services for seniors has been a priority for city, county and state leadership.

“This particular project is indicative of what is going on in the state,” MN State Representative Ernie Leidiger (R) 34A, stated at the groundbreaking. “The demographics are changing dramatically. It is getting older. This is the sign of the times and I think it’s good that we see the growth is being reflected right here in Carver County and particularly in Waconia. I think it’s a wonderful facility and I think you are going to have wonderful success with it.”

The estimated cost of Auburn Meadows is \$9.8 million. The 3-story building will be located adjacent to Auburn Home in Waconia – just west of Ridgeview Medical Center. Completion is expected in the fall of 2012.

“This is fantastic,” Waconia Mayor Jim Nash said. “I couldn’t be more pleased to be the mayor of a thriving community with people who want to invest their energy and time and their lives into growing our community. In looking at the plans and seeing the facility, you will see that it’s going to be a great project.”

Kellie Sites of the Waconia chamber of commerce, summed it up by stating, “As president of the chamber of commerce, the best thing that anybody could say is let’s put a shovel in the ground!”

Auburn Meadows will offer several floor plans which are aimed at meeting the various wants and needs of the growing, and somewhat particular, senior population.

“It is very important to us to make Meadows really feel like home,” Senden added. “It’s not something we just talk about. We have spent many, many hours working on the design of the building to make sure we come through for our residents because they have come to expect a high level of design quality from us. But, as important as the building is, it still comes down to employees – they are the ones who live out our mission on a daily basis at Auburn.”

A reservation list has been started for Auburn Meadows Assisted Living in Waconia. Those who would like to learn more can contact Sheila Nieland-Snyder at: (952) 227-0494 or [ssnyder@auburnhomes.org](mailto:ssnyder@auburnhomes.org). The website for Auburn Homes & Services is: [www.auburnhomes.org](http://www.auburnhomes.org).