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(On Page 2C with rendering and Lockhart photo)

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Elder-care professional hired to head retirement community

QUESTION: What's the latest on that retirement community that's going into Viera?

ANSWER: The developer, Senior Living Communities, just hired Shelly Lockhart as executive director of the retirement community, called Watersong.

For the past 11 years, Lockhart has been a professional in medical and elder care in Brevard County, focusing on assisted living, lab services, outpatient surgical centers and physical therapy, with emphasis in sales and marketing, and management. She also has worked in home-care and hospice settings.

Lockhart has been a resident of Brevard County for 17 years.

"Shelly's ardor for the senior-care industry and strong leadership skills are what made her the perfect candidate for the executive director position," Senior Living Communities President and Chief Executive Officer Donald Thompson said. His company owns and operates retirement communities throughout the Southeast,

During the first phase of Watersong, Lockhart will lead the pre-marketing efforts for the retirement community, which will include recruitment of staff members and personnel training. Watersong plans to have about 120 employees when it opens and about 180 when it is fully developed.

She also will be the point person for information on the new community for future residents and their families.

Watersong plans to open its marketing offices inside One Senior Place, located at 8085 Spyglass Hill Road in Viera, in early-September.

Final zoning approval for the \$50 million project is expected between early-September and late-October, with construction starting soon after.

The Watersong community will be about 26 acres, and has potential to eventually reach more than 45 acres. It will be west of Interstate 95 on the south side of Wickham Road.

Plans call for 43 South Florida-style cottage homes, 148 villa units, 26 enhanced-living villas, 24 assisted-living units, 24 skilled-nursing beds and 24 Alzheimer's units.

The site will have a health care clubhouse, a wellness center with indoor and outdoor pools, a putting green, full-time wellness coordinators and a central clubhouse.

Watersong will be a gated community, and all homes also will have an emergency notification system, which alert the 24-hour staff inside the Watersong community as to what emergency services are needed.