

Home options tight for seniors



Fedora Rusconi, right, who has lived at Soledad Senior Apartments in Soledad for five years, checks her mail Tuesday with friend Norma Olivarez.

RICHARD GREEN/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

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The tight housing market in Monterey County spares no one, not even elderly residents with income limitations or special needs searching for senior housing in south Monterey County.

There are no vacancies in the three senior housing developments operated by the Housing Authority of Monterey County, and few vacancies among developments operated by the region's handful of private senior housing providers.

That said, those who believe they might need to move into senior housing in the coming years should start looking now and at least get on a waiting list, said James Nakashima, executive director of the Housing Authority.

The three developments run by the Housing Authority exclusively feature one-bedroom apartments, and rent is charged on a sliding scale, with no more than 30 percent of a resident's income allowed to go toward it. Utility allowances are also available in these developments, which are funded by a combination of state tax credits, federal subsidies and Section 8 housing vouchers.

These developments offer a caretaker on-site and a com-

SENIOR HOUSING

Many of the housing options geared toward seniors in south Monterey County:

Gonzales

n **CASA DE ORO:** 20 units. 48 C St. Contact: Housing Authority of Monterey County, 775-5000 or hamonterey.org.

Soledad

n **EDEN VALLEY CARE CENTER:** 59 beds. 612 Main St. Contact: 678-2462.

n **SOLEDAD SENIOR APARTMENTS:** 40 units. 530 Andalucia Drive. Contact: 678-0398.

Greenfield

n **LOS OSITOS:** 49 units plus one caretaker unit. 1083 Elm Ave. Contact: Housing Authority of Monterey County, 775-5000 or hamonterey.org.

King City

n **LEO A. MEYER SENIOR PLAZA:** 43 units plus one caretaker unit. 425 Queen St. Contact: Housing Authority of Monterey County, 775-5000 or hamonterey.org.

munity center. In addition, the Housing Authority brings other services to the apartments, such as access to legal aid. At King City's Leo A. Meyer Senior Plaza, the local school district prepares low-cost meals for residents.

In Soledad, options include Soledad Senior Apartments, which offer similar amenities such as a recreation center, and it's across the street from a YMCA swimming facility. Caretakers are also available, said resident manager Norma

Olivarez. There are, however, no vacancies.

For seniors who need 24-hour access to nursing care, there's the 59-bed Eden Valley Care Center in Soledad, which features the "Atrium Courtyard," the facility's central hub that includes a soda shop, beauty shop, extensive landscaping and a 100-gallon aquarium. Like other typical nursing facilities, the center offers an array of medical and rehabilitation services as well as Hospice services for termi-

nally ill residents. Costs to stay at the center vary according to level of care required.

The Soledad Senior Apartments have a minimum age requirement of 62, unless a resident is handicapped or disabled, in which case the requirement is waived. The Housing Authority's senior housing developments simply require residents to qualify as elderly.

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