

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Desert Ridge housing community offers buyers variety

Michael Clancy

The Arizona Republic

Aug. 10, 2007 04:54 PM

Fireside at Desert Ridge, going up on 270 acres west of Desert Ridge Marketplace, is more like seven neighborhoods.

On the northeastern corner are "maintenance-free" homes - apartments and patio homes that will be sold to empty nesters and first-time home buyers. Near Deer Valley Drive in the center is a luxury line of homes - large, with up to five bedrooms.

"We are speaking to a variety of lifestyles," said Eric Orpet, marketing manager for Pulte Homes and Del Webb, a subsidiary of Pulte that also has a Fireside community along Interstate 17. "We developed brand-new unique plans for the area."

Only 10 families or so have moved in, including Mark and Veronica Miller and their children, who moved in about seven months after signing their contract.

Several hundred homes have been sold, largely at the southern end of the development.

All told, 916 units will be put up eventually. Orpet says sales are rolling along better than expected.

The homes range from 1,448 to 4,306 square feet with prices starting at \$359,900 and going up to \$794,900.

The Millers' new home features a casita separate from the main house, two garages, energy-efficient windows and air-conditioning, a courtyard, high ceilings, a butler's pantry, granite countertops and upgraded appliances and cabinets.

The most popular homes so far are in the Monument Series, with sizes ranging from 3,334 to 4,049 square feet. The prices are in the high \$600,000s.

Those homes are similarly appointed to the Millers' new home.

It's big, including four upstairs bedrooms, a casita with its own bathroom and an entry courtyard. That's just right for their growing family of five.

It's also convenient. Mark can get to work at the P.F. Chang's in Peoria via the Loop 101.