

# NEW HOMES SATURDAY

A WEEKLY SECTION FOR NEW HOME SHOPPERS PREPARED BY THE ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

Section F

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## AZALEA GARDENS

# Active adults enjoy elegance, privacy

**P**UYALLUP — It's the retirement life we all hope for — owning a quality home in a vibrant community, surrounded by neighbors we enjoy, participating in activities we love.

Azalea Gardens, a gated neighborhood near here with 97 high-quality manufactured homes, offers that life.

Visitors to Azalea Gardens this weekend will immediately notice the quality of the homes, the size of the lots and the buzz of activity. Resident Gail Oxford says, "We do lots of activities at the clubhouse and the neighbors are real friendly, fun people. We especially love that our yard has room for a fountain and a waterfall — and my husband couldn't live without the three-car garage."

The homes at Azalea Gardens are constructed by The Karsten Company, a top builder of high-quality manufactured homes. Though many people still associate manufactured homes with "trailers," the truth is you probably couldn't tell the difference between a Karsten home and a site-built home, according to Pat Loomis, project manager at Azalea Gardens. Building in a well-run, climate-controlled environment versus on-site allows better quality control and efficiency, he says, which translates into a spacious, solid home for a much lower cost (including a newly introduced 10-year structural warranty).

Residents Con and Jackie Hinkle chose a model with a study and a "great room," an airy floor plan that invites gatherings. "We have two bedrooms, separated from each other, each with its own bathroom, which is nice for visitors," Con says. "We also really like our neighbors. We go to the movies and out to dinner with several couples. I even found six friends to go fishing with."

The custom-designed, energy efficient homes come in eight different styles and floor plans ranging from 1,300 to 2,142 square feet. All plans are one-story ramblers with a concrete ramp entry for safety.

Thanks to large lots and smart planning, every plan enjoys a living area that opens to a private patio — perfect for barbecues and family gatherings. Front and rear landscaping, sprinkler systems, and fenced backyards are also standard features of every home.

Strict attention to architectural standards promotes a site-built residence look and feel; each home even has a higher-than-average

roof pitch and includes a two-car finished garage (three car is optional).

Inside the homes are vaulted ceilings, skylights, carpeting, textured drywall with rounded corners and solid oak cabinetry with convenient roll-out drawers. Extra touches such as a garden tub walk-in, enclosed shower, double sinks with tile backsplashes and edged countertops give the master bath a special elegance.

The kitchens are a cook's dream. Double door icemaker refrigerators, electric smooth-top ranges, dishwashers and space saver microwaves make mealtime easy and pleasant. For cool evenings, stoke up the gas fireplace, which comes standard in most models.

"After my husband passed, my two-story home on Fox Island was just too much work," says Betty Knudtson. "I have family close by and they visit often. I love that I have a beautiful house with plenty of space to entertain. When I travel to Arizona every winter it's so nice knowing my home is safe and the yard is being maintained."

"I found Azalea Gardens affordable, and they helped me finance within my budget to allow the most for my money. I'm extremely happy that I came here."

Loomis, the project manager, enlisted the expertise of long-time colleague Harry Karsten to create the diverse model plans for Azalea Gardens. His firm, The Karsten Company, has grown to four divisions in Oregon, Texas, New Mexico, and California, and employs more than 800 teammates who build more than 1,300 factory-constructed homes annually.

"We love working with Azalea Gardens and several other 55 and over communities," Karsten says. "We feel this segment is the future for our industry and we are committed to quality and customer service."

Azalea Garden Homes are constructed in at the Karsten factory in Stayton, Ore., under the direction of general manager Buck Wooten, who welcomes the public to tour the plant, and offers a discount on the price for those who visit.

Azalea Gardens' proximity to the South Hill area of Puyallup offers the convenience of city life without the hassles. Major shopping, medical services, restaurants, several golf courses, and six lakes to fish are all nearby.

"When we envisioned Azalea Gardens we



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wanted a community in every sense of the word: a small town environment where everyone knows and cares about each other and the neighborhood," Loomis says. "From what current residents tell us, we believe we've achieved that goal. Whether you're here year-round or just in the warmer months, you will know that your community is safe and secure and that your neighbors are looking out for you."

**View these homes:** The onsite sales office and model home center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and in the evenings by appointment.

**Getting there:** Take I-5 to Highway 167 and travel south. Take the Highway 512 exit to Highway 161 (Meridian). Go east four miles to 194th and Meridian. Turn right into Azalea Gardens.

**Prices:** From \$148,900 to \$189,900. Monthly fee includes onsite management, clubhouse, recreational areas, real estate taxes on lot. RV storage with power available.

**Homebuilder:** Karsten Company.

**Special programs:** Discounts on model homes or refundable deposit on lot reservations while selling present home.

**More information:** Call 1-877-847-8787 or visit [www.lakeshorecommunities.com](http://www.lakeshorecommunities.com).