



Seven Fields Offers Small Town Living in Suburbia



By Joan Greene

Although located in a suburban setting near Interstate 79 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike, just a few miles east of Cranberry, Seven Fields manages to retain its own identity as a friendly, small town. Nestled in the trees and hillsides off of Route 228, the tiny borough of 2000 residents covers one-square mile and features a variety of neighborhoods comprised of single family, patio and town homes, with the median price at \$175,000.

Borough Manager Thomas B. Smith describes Seven Fields as a "unique place to live with a true sense of community." Although the borough is progressive with new businesses cropping up along the 228 corridor, it still retains the flavor of an old-fashion, friendly neighborhood. "It has everything you need within a small town atmosphere," Smith said.



Seven Fields offers its residents the convenience of suburbia and one-stop shopping within the ambiance of a small town. Last month, ground was broken for a Giant Eagle grocery store, which will open its doors by the summer of 2005.

An array of community events, including a Halloween parade and Light-Up Night, and recreational amenities that include two parks with swimming pools, tennis courts, ball fields and children's playgrounds, offer residents a chance to socialize and meet their neighbors.

In typical small-town fashion, local businessmen and women know their customers on a first name basis. A lot of the patients at North Pointe Dental Associates, a multi-practice office specializing in every realm of dentistry, are families with young children. Often, children will ride their bicycles to their dentist appointments, said Rob Hawranko, general manger. Dr. Bobbie Lee Hawranko and the other dentists in the office form a strong personal bond with their patients, according to Hawranko. "Patients bring homemade food or little gifts to show their appreciation," he said. The dentists and office staff become involved in the community by participating in local fund-raisers.

Mark Hensler of Allegheny Diamond Mine has found it's a "pleasure to do business" in Seven Fields. "The customers have given us a sense of being part of a community and many have said that they like the personal attention that a family owned and operated business provides," said Hensler, who lives in the area.

Three years ago when Debra Aretz was searching for a location to open her business, Healthy Touch Massage Therapy, she thought Seven Fields would be the "perfect area" because of the new growth in the borough and the "upwardly mobile, health conscious clientele." Located on Castle Creek Drive, the main entrance into Seven Fields, Healthy Touch is a full therapeutic massage facility featuring a variety of different types of massages. "The response has been great," Aretz said. "Seven Fields and the surrounding areas have been very supportive."

The Estates at Seven Fields, a new complex of 208 luxury town home units, offers borough residents a taste of what it's like to live in Seven Fields. The complex, featuring three-bedroom units with a two car garage and fireplace, and a fitness center with swimming pool, are ideal for transfers who are looking for a home in the area or renters who want a maintenance free lifestyle and aren't ready to invest in a home. "The town homes serve a niche for Seven Fields and the general area," said John F. Thompson Jr., senior vice-president of A.R. Building Company, the developer of the town homes.

Several years ago, Peggy and Christopher Cotugno left Seven Fields for Las Vegas, and after 18 months of desert living, decided they missed the lush, green, rolling hills of Seven Fields. "I loved the neighborhood and knew I wanted to return to Seven Fields," said Peggy. The Cotugno's and their three children, Christian, Angela and Deanna, found a home located just eight houses down from their former home. "Just recently, we actually attended a barbecue at our old house," Peggy said. "Seven Fields has its own identity," she said. "Our pediatrician, dry-cleaners and chiropractor are here and most of my errands are within five minutes of my house."

Growing up in West View, Kathy and Matthew Budzynski knew they wanted to raise their children in a small town atmosphere. "We wanted a place with a lot of children and activities," Kathy said. "The parks and recreation department does an awesome job putting together all of the special community events throughout the year. You really get the small town feeling where everyone knows you and looks out for everyone. A lot of the business owners live in the community and you get to know many of the workers," she said. "Seven Fields is a very neighborly place to live." ▲