

Ginsburg Development Companies

News

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HAVERSTRAW-TO-MANHATTAN COMMUTER **FERRY SERVICE BEGINS OPERATIONS**

'One seat' commute to New York City finally available

VALHALLA, N.Y. (Sept. 4) – The long dream of a “one seat” commute from Rockland County to New York City finally became available today with the debut of ferry service from Haverstraw to Manhattan.

Scores of Rockland and Orange county residents are expected to take advantage of the service, which will use a ferry terminal at The Harbors at Haverstraw, a master-planned community being built along the waterfront by Ginsburg Development Companies, one of the Northeast’s leading luxury home builders. The service was officially launched today with a brief ceremony at the Haverstraw ferry pier.

Two ferries each morning and evening will take the 90-minute trip between Haverstraw and lower Manhattan, with a brief stop for passengers in Yonkers along the way. Existing ferry service from Haverstraw to the Ossining train station will continue without any changes.

“The start of ferry service from Rockland County to Manhattan is a great step forward for the area’s commuters, who will benefit from a faster, easier trip to the city each day,” said Martin Ginsburg, founder and principal of Valhalla, N.Y.-based GDC, who participated in the ceremony.

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“Ferry service has become very popular during the past decade and I think interest will continue to grow as commuters and government officials come to recognize the many advantages ferries have over cars and buses. There are no traffic jams or potholes, just beautiful scenery and a comfortable trip to and from work.”

Ginsburg, a longtime advocate of commuter ferries along the Hudson River, has made provisions for ferry docks at a number of his waterfront developments.

“The Hudson River is being rediscovered as a waterway for tourism and transportation, so it is essential to have access like piers to help people connect with the river,” said Ginsburg. “Piers will let commuters get to work and, perhaps as importantly, let tourists visit the historic river towns lining the Hudson. I’d love to see cruise ships and tourist boats return to the Hudson and make stops in towns like Yonkers and Haverstraw, which have great shops, restaurants and museums most people don’t know about.”

The ferries from Haverstraw will stop at two Lower Manhattan terminals: Battery Park City and Pier 11, which is on the East River at the end of Wall Street. Some 85 to 175 people a day are expected to ride the ferry, according to a June 2006 study by the Lower Manhattan Development Corp cited by The Journal News.

“Dozens of people who live in The Harbors use the existing ferry to the Ossining train station,” said Ginsburg. “They found it very convenient to be able to take a short walk from their homes to the ferry. They don’t even need a car to get to work.”

The Haverstraw-Manhattan ferries will be operated by New York Water Taxi, which will use 149-passenger catamarans capable of traveling 28 mph. The boats will have 42-inch TVs, plush seats, a cafe and a bar. Free parking is available at the ferry dock, which also is served by a free shuttle along Route 202.

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The Harbors is a master-planned community with a mix of townhouses and condo flats in a pedestrian-friendly setting that has won national and regional awards for its design and site planning. When it is completed, The Harbors will have nearly 850 homes served by two clubhouse complexes with pools, fitness centers, social rooms and small general stores selling sundries and food. Famed restaurateur Buzzy O’Keeffe, owner of some of New York City’s most respected eateries, is working on plans for a restaurant and banquet hall overlooking the Hudson River at the northernmost point of The Harbors.

Prices start in the \$200,000s for well-appointed condo flats and in the \$500,000s for the two- and three-bedroom townhouses.

The Harbors has received a number of prestigious awards. The National Association of Home Builders gave The Harbors seven 2006 “Nationals” awards, including national citations for Best Master-Planned Community, Best Landscape Design for an Attached Community, and Best Sales Environment. The Harbors also received a “Best of American Living” award from the NAHB for the Best Community Recreation Building or Clubhouse.

The Harbors’ sales center is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be reached by calling (845) 786-5600.

Current GDC communities include AVANT Chelsea (New York City); Riverwatch at Greystone (N.Y.); Riverbend (Peekskill, N.Y.); Harbors at Haverstraw (N.Y.); Hudson Pointe (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.); The Fairways at Wallkill (N.Y.); Ridgewood at Middlebury (Conn.); The Greens at Gillette Ridge (Bloomfield, Conn.) and Quaker Green (West Hartford, Conn.). To place your name on GDC’s priority list for future communities, log on to www.gdc-homes.com, click on to “future communities” and then “name of development” or call 1-866-GDC-4466.

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Ginsburg Development Companies (GDC), established in 1964 and based in Valhalla, N.Y., is one of the nation's premier full-service real estate design, development and management companies. Martin Ginsburg is the president and chief executive officer. GDC has developed more than 10,000 residential units during its 40-plus year corporate history. GDC's residential sales Web sites are www.gdc-homes.com and www.gdcmetro.com. Information about GDC's commercial ventures, corporate activities and charitable foundation is available at www.gdcllc.com.