

The "Discover the Great Park Neighborhoods" event will offer a first look at the neighborhoods that will surround the Orange County Great Park. The first neighborhood will break ground this fall.

Irvine, CA July 11, 2008 -- Thousands of Orange County residents are expected to enjoy their first look at the Great Park Neighborhoods, the new community at the Orange County Great Park that will break ground this fall, at a festive community event and party held Saturday at the former El Toro Marine Base.

Great Park Neighborhoods

The "Discover the Great Park Neighborhoods" event will be held in concert with the City of Irvine's "Festival of Flight" event and celebrate the unique public-private partnership with the City of Irvine that will transform the former El Toro Marine Base into the Orange County Great Park and the Great Park Neighborhoods.



The Great Parks Neighborhoods will consist of three distinct neighborhoods that will be a unique and special place to live, work, shop, and play. The first of the three neighborhoods, a lifelong learning neighborhood that will include a variety of shopping and dining choices as well as sites for future educational institutions, will break ground this fall.

"This Saturday, we will provide people with their first opportunity to experience the quality of life that residents can expect at the Great Park Neighborhoods," said Carol Wold, vice president of community affairs for Lennar, the developer of the Great Park Neighborhoods. "We are moving forward with the first community and we want people to know what it will offer."

To demonstrate what life will be like at the Great Park Neighborhoods, the "Discover the Great Park Neighborhoods" event features a unique preview of the lifelong learning neighborhood built inside a refurbished hangar, known as Hangar 10. The preview is a life-size, interactive Main Street featuring fictional retail stores, including a caf art gallery, bike store, and coffee and flower carts. Among the retail stores will be computer-animated videos that offer guests a glimpse of the first neighborhood at the Orange County Great Park.

"We want the lifelong learning neighborhood to remind people of a college town with a cozy, lively main street, so we are previewing that with our interactive Main Street," said Wold.

In addition to learning about the Great Park Neighborhoods, event guests can enjoy live music, dog adoptions from the Orange County Humane Society, hosted food and refreshments, giveaways and bike raffles, and a one-of-a-kind tree house created by a company that designs attractions for major theme parks. This will all happen under the shade of some of the more than 750 trees saved from the former El Toro Marine Base that have been arranged into a Tree Plaza next to Hangar 10. These trees, many of which are 40-50 years old, will be among the 25,000 that will be a part of the Great Park Neighborhoods.

"We have a legacy of saving trees," said Wold. "We believe trees are an important part of all great communities and they will be a big part of the Great Park Neighborhoods."

About the Great Park Neighborhoods

Together through a unique public-private partnership, the City of Irvine and the Great Park Neighborhoods are working closely to transform the former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station into the Orange County Great Park and the Great Park Neighborhoods - a vibrant new community in Irvine. As they are developed, the Great Park Neighborhoods will provide the tax revenue to finance and build the Orange County Great Park at no cost to current taxpayers. With the 1,347-acre Great Park as the focal point, Lennar's Great Park Neighborhoods will consist of three distinct neighborhoods, including a lifelong learning neighborhood, a park district with a variety of residential choices and recreational uses, and a transit-oriented district near the Irvine Transportation Center. The first phase of the Great Park Neighborhoods, a lifelong learning neighborhood featuring a variety of retail and residential choices and an innovative blend of educational and research institutions, will break ground in the fall of 2008. For more information, please visit www.greatparkneighborhoods.com.