

# Debut set for state's first farm-to-table community

## HIGHLIGHTS

Davis Cannery project will have 550 residences – and a working farm

This weekend's grand opening could draw 5,000 visitors

Homes will have sustainability and aging-in-place features



The Farmhouse is an iconic building at The Cannery in Davis – called the first farm-to-table new home community in California – will hold its model-home grand opening on Saturday. The 547-unit mixed-use neighborhood features farmland, packing barn, a farmhouse that is currently used as a sales office, energy efficient homes, apartments and condominiums, a recreational center and retail shops. **Lezlie Sterling** [lsterling@sacbee.com](mailto:lsterling@sacbee.com)

BY BOB SHALLIT

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Developers are promising a very different sort of vibe this weekend when they unveil The Cannery, a Davis housing project they're calling the state's first farm-to-table community.

“It will be an experience,” said **Kevin Carson**, an executive with project master developer New Home Co., who is expecting 5,000 visitors Saturday and Sunday.

First off, there's a working farm – with a weathered barn as its signature – on the eastern edge of the 100-acre, tree-lined project on East Covell Boulevard, just a mile or so from downtown Davis.

Now planted with corn, tomatoes, zucchinis and fruit trees, the 7 1/2-acre farm will be run by the Winters-based Center for Land-Based Learning. It will be a training ground for future farmers and something of an homage to the area's ag history and, more specifically, the Hunt-Wesson packing plant that operated at the site from the 1950s to 1990s.

The ag theme carries over to the rest of the community, with bee, owl and bat abodes – yes, bat “boxes” – along with split-rail fencing, community gardens and fruit or nut trees planted in every yard in the eventual 550-residence project.

The homes, 14 of which will be on display this weekend, will range from the mid-\$400,000s for attached row house-style units to slightly over \$1 million for New Home's largest Sage-neighborhood models. All homes feature solar-powered electricity, LED lighting, tankless water heaters and electric car chargers.

Another focus is having residences – built by Shea and Standard Pacific Homes as well as New Home – that enable aging in place, with most having wide hallways to accommodate wheelchairs, first-floor bedrooms and an option for lower counters.

Carson said this is the first community of its size to come to market in Davis in about two decades – since Wildhorse opened just down the road in the early 1990s. And there's been nothing like it anywhere in the region since the mid-2000s, he said.

Actually, he suggests, there's been nothing like it *ever* locally given its “agri-hood” features, huge central park and bike-friendly features that include the nation's first “Dutch junction” that allows riders to more easily navigate entry to the project, and a layout that has all homes within 300 feet of access to the city's treasured bike trails.

“There's a sense of place,” Carson said of The Cannery. “You have narrow streets, and porches in front and lots of meeting places.

“There's a there there.”

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