

Newark this week

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LIVING OUT THEIR DREAMS



Women builders celebrate first home

Newark duo to build eight more houses

By Caryl R. Lucas

Beaming with joy, Rita Thompson and her mom, Daisy, looked out of the second floor window, overflowing with vibrant petals, inside their living room.

At 60, when most people are approaching retirement, Daisy, a Newark school cafeteria attendant, is getting ready to realize her lifelong dream—owning her own home.

As she marveled at her new cream-colored stucco, with its quaint pale blue shutters, the developers outside celebrated the fruition of their vision.

"Look at that flower box and you can see that's a detail by a woman," said Maria E. Yglesias, pointing to the two-family corner house at 2 Mt. Prospect Ave.

"Female developers are different from men. We add softer touches and pay closer attention to detail," said Yglesias' partner, Maria Del Mar Lopez, during a ceremony last week marking the completion of the first of nine, two-family homes being built by the brownstone residents.

As six of the future homeowners, coincidentally all women, walked along the vacant city lots and toured



Future homeowner Irma Serrano sits at the window of a Cathedral Home, envisioning her move-in date.

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