

Five Waters

On Plash Island
By Clair Byrd



Point Clear, Ala.-based Head Companies will develop Five Waters Resort Condominiums on Plash Island, just off mainland Gulf Shores, with views of Bon Secour River, Mobile Bay, Oyster Bay, Weeks Bay and Bay John.

Many have paid a fortune for a waterfront view, but Point Clear, Ala.-based Head Companies is looking to change that with a 300-unit development that offers views of five bodies of water at an affordable price, according to President David Head Jr.

Five Waters Resort Condominiums will be situated on 24 acres along Bon Secour River, Mobile Bay, Oyster Bay, Weeks Bay and Bay John on Plash Island, five minutes west of mainland Gulf Shores on County Road 4. Formerly the northernmost tip of the Fort Morgan Peninsula, the area became an island in ►

the early 1940s when the Intracoastal Waterway was built. Plash Island was named for the family who settled it to harvest seafood and was the home of Plash Island Seafood for 34 years.

“We chose the location because of the surrounding five bodies of water, the rich history of Plash Island, and the opportunity to bring such a large development and affordable product to the market,” he said. “The decision was based on many factors such as satisfying the demand for an affordable waterfront and boating community while offering a perfect location that is off the beaten path yet close to everything at the beach.”

According to Head, Five Waters’ 22-story and 12-story towers have been oriented along the more than 2,000 feet of waterfront for the best views of the sunrise and sunset over the five bodies of water.

“No condo we’re aware of in the marketplace will have comparable views. The outstanding views and peaceful settings with a wide range of amenities, coupled with very affordable pricing, will allow both the end-users and investors an opportunity to enjoy a community that will rival anything in our development portfolio today,” he said, adding that Head Companies has developed projects like The Beach Club in Fort Morgan, The Peninsula in Gulf Shores, The Yacht Club in Orange Beach and Indigo in Perdido Key.

Head Companies will be joined by EDI Architecture of Houston, Atlanta-based landscape architecture firm Reece, Hoopes and Fincher, and Atlanta-based interior design firm Foley Design Associates Architects Inc. Phase one of the two-phased project is scheduled to be completed in early 2008, with groundbreaking scheduled for early summer of 2006.

Phase one, which is moving into hard contract, will consist of 200 units and a sheltered marina with 144 slips, 14 of which will be rented out by the home owners association for unit owners who have not purchased a slip. The Horizons Social Room, which will sit atop the 22-story tower, will be used as a multipurpose club room, library and event room, Head said.

The first phase will also include what is being touted as a pool paradise. “The pool amenities are the most exceptional water features we’ve done to date,” he said. “We try to improve upon the water features of the developments we have built, and the size of the [Plash Island] site allows us to take it one step further.” Five Waters will have heated pools with waterfalls, waterslides, a dive-in theater, whirlpool spas and an adult pool. “The water features and the proximity to such a large marina on site will be unprecedented in the area,” Head added.

The units will feature plush carpeting, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, Travertine tile, private balconies, Internet connectivity, 9-foot ceilings in the residences, 10-foot ceilings in the penthouses, and double vanities and garden tubs in the master baths. The two- and three-bedroom units will range from 1,205 square feet to 1,549 square feet, while the three- and four-bedroom penthouses will range from 1,746 square feet to 2,065 square feet, Head said. RE/MAX of Orange Beach will handle sales, with two-bedroom units beginning at \$459,000 and four-bedroom units selling for \$950,000. “There is a strong market for this type of development. People come to this area to make memories—to enjoy life. And Five Waters will allow them to do just that,” he said.

“We’ll be catering to the family boating community that prefers to be off the beach and utilize the back waters and amenities being developed along the back water community.” As part of Five Waters’ family appeal, the resort will offer a variety of family-friendly options, including poolside cabanas, lakes, fountains, a playground, a family activity lawn with putting green and croquet pitch, a bayfront promenade, nature trails, a fire pit and a community grilling area. There will also be covered parking, a game room, a theater room, a TV lounge, waterfront gazebos, a fitness center, a steam room and sauna, and a business center. The marina will have the capacity for a 15-foot Center Console to a 65-foot Sport Fisherman, Head said. ■