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## Introducing Michelle Lehr



Michelle is the newest member of the Landed Gentry team! She is the new Community Specialist for our Fairway Point communities in Oak Harbor. We are excited to have her on board!

Michelle and her husband Marty moved to the Skagit valley from Wenatchee over 20 years ago. Making a home in Oak Harbor then Mount Vernon, she and Marty have raised their 5 children and have made many wonderful friends along the way. Their children being all raised gave Michelle the time to do something new with her life.

Landed Gentry owners, Kendall and Nancy have been friends for many years and Michelle has always respected their integrity as local business owners, leaders and supporters of the community.

"I feel very blessed to be working for Landed Gentry and enjoy helping people find a home and community that fits their lifestyles," Michelle said.

## Bath Trends: The Royal Treatment

How far the bathroom has come in housing history, from an unheated shack outside to a treasured private retreat. Sure, the basic functions of a bathroom are intact and in place, but in today's master suites, especially, the space has evolved to include a variety of spa-like amenities and luxury features.

As in the kitchen (the other "hot button" room of any house), design professionals and product manufacturers have focused their efforts on the bathroom with an increasing variety of styles, finishes, and features. Consider these current bath trends:

**Shower Power:** Forget about a single showerhead hung from the wall. Today's showers offer multiple, adjustable heads on every wall and from above, with wall-mounted control pads to set and manipulate spray patterns, intensity, and temperature. Some heads, called shower tiles, are set flush to the wall or ceiling to provide a gentle spray, while handheld shower wands allow users the ultimate in water control.

**Tub Time:** Bathtubs are not only getting longer and deeper, and with requisite whirlpool jets, but also can include mood lighting and spillover troughs to create a more relaxing experience. Called "chromatherapy" by one plumbing manufacturer, these tubs feature underwater LED lights that gently change color across a wide spectrum of soft pastels; effervescent bubbling action from multiple underwater ports enhances the soothing effect. Meanwhile, overflow tubs enable a deeper soaking experience without the worry of making a mess.

**Wellness Centers:** In addition to featuring luxury items, bathrooms (especially master baths) are getting larger -- large enough, in some cases, to include in-home spa amenities including massage tables and yoga or dance studios that offer more convenience, privacy, and cleanliness.

**Clothes Care:** Along the same lines as the in-home spa and studio concept is the idea of a home-based laundry center, including personal dry-cleaners and closet-like clothes fresheners and flat-rack dryers in addition to traditional laundry equipment. If the bathroom has the footage, why not install such products to make life easier, cut down on errands, and save a bit of money while attaining a higher level of quality care for your clothes?



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“The quality of Landed Gentry Homes is incredible. Their standards are far above anything I've ever seen. This makes working with my homeowners during the building process very enjoyable and exciting. My favorite moment is to see a couple or family realize their dreams of owning a Landed Gentry home and to be some small part in making that dream come true.”  
Take some time to visit Fairway Point and welcome Michelle!

**Personal Service:** Master bathrooms have become destinations. As such, they need additional conveniences, including laundry and clothes storage as well as a place to prepare snacks and refreshments. Often called "morning kitchens," these mini-service areas offer built-in coffee and espresso makers, compact refrigerators, bar sinks, microwave ovens, and perhaps undercounter dishwasher drawers (not to mention adequate cabinet storage) to privately serve the owners as they get ready for work in the morning or wind down at the end of the day.

**Universal Access:** Whether to accommodate a temporary injury, a more chronic disability, a young child, or an elderly relative or guest, the concept of universal or accessible design can be easily and affordably achieved in any bathroom without sacrificing style or luxury. Multiple-height vanities, lever-handled faucets, D-shaped cabinet pulls, and zero-threshold showers with built-in seating and handheld heads are just a few design and product ideas that support universal design.

**Building Success 101**

Q: Where can I learn more about universal design?

A: There are increasing numbers of information resources about universal (or accessible) design for residential settings. A good place to begin is with the Center for Universal Design in Raleigh, N.C. Another is on the NAHB website. Go to [www.nahbrc.org](http://www.nahbrc.org) and type in 'LifeWise Home Project' in the search area.

Warm regards,

*Brian*

Brian Gentry  
President



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