

The RIDERWOOD Reporter

Volume 3, Number 5

A Joint Publication of Riderwood Village Residents and Staff

May 2010

Riderwood celebrates 10 years!



By Chris Cotterman

May 25, 1999 was a festive day. Future residents of Riderwood village joined John Erickson, company executives, Governors Glendening and Schaefer, and county officials to celebrate the groundbreaking of Erickson's newest community.

It took a long time to get there, though. It wasn't long after opening Oak Crest Village that Erickson had built up years-long waiting lists for both its Maryland properties—another Maryland community simply made sense. The company settled on a site just north of Washington, D.C.; it was not, however, without its problems.

"This was one of the most difficult sites because it was an abandoned government site for the disabled," recalled John Erickson. "In addition to that, 50 acres were being leased to the University of Maryland to grow grass on as an experimental turf farm. It also sat—150 acres—across two county lines, so we were going to have to get two counties to agree on zoning, two counties to agree on planning, and all of the inter-agency work. So, these took six years to clear."

The plans did clear, however, and at the groundbreaking Erickson executives seemed relieved to finally be building something on this site—not just buildings, though, a new home and a new way of life for over 2,000 people.

There weren't 2,000 residents back in 1999, though. In the beginning there were just a few pioneers—their names are inscribed in the bricks that make up the walkway in front of Village Square. "Those residents that first

put down their check, they took a little bit of a risk," said Erickson executive Danny O'Brien at the event. "We don't have a lot to show them right now, really. I mean, there's a nice pile of mulch. But it will get prettier than that." The pioneer residents, he said, "cast their lot; they said, we believe this is going to be what you say it's going to be. We really want to make this a fabulous community."

In addition to the pioneer residents, Riderwood's staff was an important part of the community. Many early staff members came from other Erickson communities (so many came from Oak Crest that Riderwood earned the name "Oak Crest South" in the corporate

offices) but just as many got started at Riderwood.

"We have a staff of people who take this very seriously," said Andy Aldi, Erickson's Chief Operating Officer at the time. "We give you the best service that we possibly can,

and we concentrate on keeping our costs as low as we possibly can."

As all groundbreakings do, Riderwood's concluded with a ceremonial shoveling of dirt, though the real work was just starting. Less than a year later, on May 1, 2000, Riderwood opened its doors for the first time, and residents and staff—all pioneers—got to work building the community that exists today.

Before the festivities would down and the groundbreaking concluded, Danny O'Brien led the guests in a prayer, bowing his head and giving thanks for "the privilege of participating in this great adventure." Happy birthday, Riderwood; here's to many more.

By Claudia Farr

Senior Community Services Manager

Riderwood is now celebrating its tenth year, and it almost doesn't seem possible to those of us who have been here from the beginning. Our residents have built the most active Erickson community in the country. Each year there are new ideas for resident-run groups. I really thought that after five or six years the new ideas or interests would taper off, maybe even stop. That is not how it has unfolded, however. Remarkably, each year continues to bring new groups—who knew we had closet ukulele players!

It has been inspiring to watch residents step up to the plate to share their interests and talents. The volunteer leaders across the campus are the backbone of Riderwood and its community spirit. Just walk through the campus and you will see bulletin boards loaded with a variety of activities. Stop by meeting rooms and observe residents learning in continuing education classes. The Wellness Studio shows us those who value a healthy body as well as a healthy spirit of competition. All this activity is resident driven. The residents call the shots and the leaders take the groups to where the members want to go. The ideas and interests are never ending. Kudos to all our resident leaders.

Individual residents have a passion for the community spirit as well. This is reflected in the overwhelming amount of residents who signed up for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. This allowed individuals to offer services to a neighbor in need; Riderwood applauds your generosity. This neighborly atmosphere is one of the strengths of the Riderwood community and this spirit has endured throughout our ten years. Thank you, residents, for your community spirit.

Riderwood can be proud of what it has accomplished in 10 years. Our groups and activities reflect our vibrant community and the unique people who live here. Truly, this activity level and volunteerism has enhanced the lives of all of us in some way. Riderwood, be proud of what you have accomplished!



Greetings from Administration

On April 13th we awarded Riderwood scholarships to 43 of our student employees. They arrive at work after school full of enthusiasm and smiles to share with our residents, then go home after their shift to do their homework and household chores. I am so proud of all of these students for their success and I wish them well as they embark on the next stages of their lives.



The Fishing Tournament on April 17th brought residents and staff together for a terrific family-friendly day. Families enjoyed traditional picnic fare of hamburgers and hot dogs, antique cars, and kite flying. Through our raffle we also gave back to our community by making a donation to three area Meals on Wheels programs. I am proud to be part of this community that places a high value on sharing our gifts to celebrate life.

Riderwood joined people around the world to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Earth Day on April 22nd. This event further demonstrates Riderwood's commitment to respecting and conserving our little part of this wonderful planet.

Volunteers are at the heart of so much that goes on at Riderwood, and we could not offer the myriad of opportunities for residents without our volunteers. I would like to thank Riderwood's volunteers that give of themselves to lead groups on campus and extend our reach into the greater community. On April 27th we honored our volunteers with a reception in Performance Hall. Donations on behalf of our volunteers were made to Doctors Without Borders for their efforts in Haiti and Chile, and to EMEAN (Eastern Montgomery Emergency Assistance Network) for their food pantry, shelter and other services for the homeless in Montgomery County. New volunteers are always welcome. If you have time to share, please contact DeVona McFarlane at 301-572-8390.

—Donna Mason, *Executive Director*

Observer

By Jim Feldman

Some thoughts about self expression at Riderwood

Riderwood residents are a diverse group, especially when it comes to expressing political (and other) opinions. We range from the very liberal to the very conservative, although most residents are somewhere in the middle—just like the rest of Americans.

Apartment doors sport all sorts of opinions, and that's OK as long as they don't offend another resident personally, or express something obscene, in which case a social worker, at the request of the offended party, will ask that the item be removed.

When it comes to commenting about actions of our executive director or department heads everyone is free to express anything they feel like sharing. And we are free to form groups to try and pressure the administration to change a policy.

A good example of free expression at Riderwood is the monthly Conversation with Administration during which anyone can sound off about anything. And the substance of these expressions is published faithfully in *The Reporter*.

On the other hand, people sometimes want to do something that would indicate administration involvement in an issue. A good example was the resident campaign to support the new Washington Adventist Hospital to be built in the area. The Resident Advisory Council (RAC) supported the idea enthusiastically but the administration was silent and for good reason. Since other interests were involved, Riderwood could not officially be seen to be

Riderwood Reporter

From the RAC Chair

After the colorful performances we were treated to last month by the flowering trees, now the May flowers will be coming out. Isn't it nice after snow and blizzards and cold temperatures? Who won the pool for predicting the date of the disappearance of the last snow pile? I missed by 4 days.

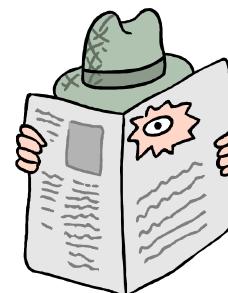
We have started a RAC History Project, headed by Logan Schutz (CC210). He will be bringing the early RAC history document up-to-date with information from the more recent years. He may be contacting Riderwood residents for more information.

RAC published a report on our involvement in the 2010 budget process. There is a copy in the RAC Minutes notebook available in each clubhouse, as well as on the riderwoodlife.org web site. Copies are also available at the front desks. If the desk copies are gone, contact a RAC member to get one.

Many Erickson residents were concerned by the April 4 *Washington Post* Business Section article on John. Several Riderwood residents wrote letters to the editor taking the paper to task for the one-sided approach taken by the writer. Harry Weil (PV406), who was a Board member at the time Riderwood's purchase option was exercised, has published a letter to Riderwood residents with his views of what really happened. If you haven't received a copy in your cubbie, contact a RAC member and we will get one to you. It presents the events that weren't included in the Post article.

Erickson's bankruptcy hearings have concluded. Although Riderwood residents aren't directly affected by this, it still will be nice when it is all wrapped up, and we all can continue moving ahead to keep this the best CCRC in the country.

—Jim Torri, *RAC Chair*



taking sides. What the RAC did on its own was strictly a resident matter.

As far as the RAC is concerned, Jim Torri and his crew are expanding their efforts to reach out to residents, inviting people to talk with members in the lounge areas of our dining rooms at dinner time. They call it the RAC Listening Post, and residents are encouraged to meet their elected representatives and express ideas, criticism, satisfaction.

This is real grass roots democracy at work, and I predict it will have a very good effect on resident-RAC relations. After all, these nine people were chosen by a poll of Riderwood residents. Some of the candidates had specific issues they wanted to work on, and they discussed them during the campaign. Residents then decided whom they wanted on the Council.

Riderwood has all kinds of resident organizations, including Democratic and Republican clubs, not to mention the League of Woman Voters. And there is a new Resident Communication Group that was organized specifically to protest certain administration actions. Fair enough. Anyone can join. But it should be kept in mind that these groups are self-selecting, while the RAC is resident-selected and perfectly willing to hear anyone's complaint, although members might not always agree that a complaint has merit.

So that's the way it is here at Riderwood and as far as I can tell, most of us are pretty satisfied with how things work. If you would like to express a thought send me an e-mail at jimfeldmanvp118@yahoo.com, or drop a note in my cubby, VP118.

Observer says:

I've reached the age where "happy hour" is a nap.

CAMPUS CAPERS

By R. WOOD



I got lost in thought.
It was unfamiliar territory.

Riderwood Reporter

Published Monthly By
The Residents and Staff of
Riderwood Village
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Riderwood residents and staff remember campus' past

By Roy Popkin
Staff Writer

When Erickson had begun working on its new site in the far reaches of Silver Spring, Bo Lundh came down from his office at Oak Crest Village to get a close-up view of what the property looked like. He was curious. Given the site's history as experimental farmland, and as the site for many years of the Great Oaks State School for developmentally disabled persons, he wondered whether any of the existing structures and infrastructure could be used as part of the new community.

As he looked around the 150 acres, he mentally deducted the 25 acres that would be given in equal shares to Montgomery and Prince George's counties. His mind looked beyond the old battered and bedraggled buildings, untended gardens, forested areas and knew it was time to create a new community, a Riderwood, with a history all its own.

From where he stood, Bo could see one long building and several small, residential cottages. In their place, he knew would be handsome multistoried buildings and all the special facilities, restaurants, gyms, a pool, a chapel and more that would be part of Riderwood living. And all in ten years.

Milly Spector is among the residents with pre-Riderwood recollections. Her daughter did an internship in special education at Great Oaks. Milly, along with others who recall the people relegated to street living because of policy changes affecting the mentally handicapped, disagreed with the closing of the Great Oaks complex; however, she appreciates the experience her daughter gained. Milly is thankful she lives here but wishes that the previous occupants of the site were moved to

another group setting rather than being turned out as they were.

Carol Kulp, another resident, was a member of a garden club that planted flowers and trees at Great Oaks. That voluntary effort was part of a nationwide movement by the Garden Club of America to encourage gardening as therapy for mentally-challenged persons.

Perhaps the most poignant link between the old institution and the new is in the heart and mind of Nancy Burton, the primary communications specialist at Lakeside Commons. Nancy's mother worked at Great Oaks. She "adopted" a seven-year old resident and would often bring the young girl to their home for picnics and family events. Nancy was a teenager at that time and she recalls the smiling seven-year old wearing a white dress with a red flower on it. "I still wonder what ever became of her," she says wistfully, possibly hoping some middle aged woman, wearing a white dress with a red flower on it, might enter Lakeside Commons to renew a friendship.

This place is abloom with plantings, new and old, alive with interesting residents and a helpful, dedicated staff. And, if you see



Great Oaks' buildings and infrastructure sat abandoned when Erickson took possession of the campus.

a woman in a white dress and wearing a red flower, now you know where to direct her to ensure a smiling and gracious welcome.

RW Arboretum has roots in area's past

By June Gridley
Contributing Writer

Before there was Riderwood Village, there was Great Oaks, and before there was Great Oaks (state institution for the mentally challenged), there was the West Farm.

West Farm was farmland back in the twenties and thirties for the University of Maryland. The University was a land-grant school, that is, it was started by the US government to help the state. Maryland at the time was an agricultural state and so the University focused on what could be the most help to citizens. Thus, agricultural experiments were tried out on the land around the school—including West Farm.

Throughout the area, the school was known as the Cow College. To my family and friends living in the District of Columbia, it was also known for having the best ice cream around. We took Sunday afternoon drives going east on Old Bladensburg Road (a two-lane blacktop now known as University Blvd.), over to Route 1, and south to the University's restaurant and purveyor of really good ice cream.

As the population increased in the 50s and 60s, the state institutions for the mentally challenged, Rosewood and Crownfield, became too crowded. By 1970, Great Oaks had

been built on what had been the West Farm. It was to serve Montgomery and Prince George's counties as well as Baltimore and points farther south. Claire Wooten, an investigative reporter, did a 3-part exposé on the conditions at Great Oaks. As people became aware of how the residents lived, more efforts were made by the community to make life there better. One such effort was the designation of Great Oaks as an area for the planting of memorial trees by the National Capital Area Garden Club. A brass plaque identified the trees and a large number were planted.

As more and more disabled residents were taken from Great Oaks and placed in group homes, it became obvious that ultimately Great Oaks would be closed. When that happened, what would happen to all the trees planted across the property? Charmane Truesdale, a garden club member who worked for Prince George's county asked the Bi-county Parks and Planning department for help. They came in with the equipment necessary and transplanted all those beautiful trees into an area that is now behind Montgomery Station. They had seen John Erickson's plans and they knew that he valued the trees. Thus was born Riderwood's Arboretum, a collection of beautiful, and sometimes rare, trees.

Pioneer residents recall community's early days

By Mitzi Clark
Staff Writer

They were the pioneers—Riderwood's first families who came here ten years ago when pastoral land preceded the sprawling campus that we know today.

They moved into Park View, the first of four buildings that would make up Village Square. Some of these residents still live in their original apartments. Many contributed mightily to Riderwood's activities, ambiance, and allure. Their adventures were many—some amusing and others frustrating. Two of these original residents sat down recently to discuss a few of their experiences as trailblazers.

Ruth Wallick, who along with her husband Frank spent opening night here on May 1, 2000, recalls that first night as being "a little weird."

"We had no blinds yet in our Terrace apartment, so we hung up sheets, but there was a security van which patrolled around the unit and its red light on top reflected up on our ceilings. It was a little spooky."

Barbara and Jim Shanks, who began moving boxes into their apartment at about the same time, remember particularly the outside clutter on their first floor apartment surrounded by excavation equipment, scaffolding, and large

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May, 2010

RIDERWOOD

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Riderwood Celebrates a Decade

By Shelli Giardino, SR. HR Manager and Nicolette DiMeglio, HR Manager

In 2010 Riderwood will celebrate 10 years of operation since the community's opening on May 1st, 2000. However, the year 2000 holds a special meaning in particular with the remarkable service along with Riderwood in the month of May:

Fiona Divecha
Magdy Mishraky
Evelyn Amo-Adu Ankomah
Diane Milbourne
Eddie Bharucha
Geraldine Burton
Bertha Kemp
Ivanette Osborn
Earl Weaver
Rocco Baldino

Philanthropy
Dining Services Director
Dining Services
Communications Specialist
Customer Services & Com Mgr
Laundry Aide
Mailroom Coord.
RN Home Health
Campus Security Officer
EMS/BLS Technician

Albert Nicole
Jordan Bullard-Aguilar
Claudia Farr
Florence Edwards
Reggie Blackmon
Lisa Holloway
Chris Cotterman
Barbara Dashiell
Beatrice Gordon

Campus Sec
Medical Prac
Sr. Commun
Finance Dire
Wellness Ma
Pastoral Min
CTV Lead C
Physical The
Store Associa

3

Yiddish Appreciation Group: 11a Card Room VSQ
Opera Theatre: 1p Theater LSC
History Group: 2p Crafts Studio MST
Catholic Mass: 3p Garden Room RG
Book Sorters: 4p Crafts Studio TNC
Short Stories Group: 7p PHall MST
Mission Meeting: 7:30p Classroom LSC
Sp Trip: Unique Thrift & Value Village Thrift Stores (R) FREE 12p—2:30p

4

American Red Cross Blood Drive: 9a PHall MST
Performing Arts Council Mtg: 10a Classroom MST
RJC Board of Directors Mtg: 10a Crafts Studio MST
TNC Library Committee Mtg: 10a Crafts Studio TNC
RWV Lions Club Mtg: 2p Classroom LSC
Sp Trip: Joseph (R) HC \$153.00 9a(VSQ only)—9p

5

AAM: "Health Screening:Flex and Reach": 9a Garden Room RG
Hearing Impairment Group: 1p Music Room VSQ
10th Anniversary Celebration: 1p-3p All Lounges
Sacrament of Reconciliation-Confession: 2p Chapel Confessional
RAC Listening Post: 4p Dining Lounge VSQ & MST
Family Council Meeting: 7p Garden Room RG
Foreign Film: 7p PHall MST
Sp Trip: L'Auberge Chez Francois (R) \$30.00 3:30p—8:30p

10



TREASURE CHEST COLLECTION DAY

Investment Seminar Meeting: 11a Music Room VSQ
Italian Games: 1p Crafts Studio VSQ
League of Women Voters: 1p Crafts Studio MST
Riderwood Friends of Habitat for Humanity: 1p Private Dining Room TNC
Opera Theatre: 1p Theater LSC
Stroke Support Group: 1p Classroom MST
Communion Service at Renaissance Gardens: 3:30p Garden Room RG
Ticket Sales: Rockville Men's Chorus on 5/14 \$5 (T) 4:30p All Dining Lounges
Community Bible Study: 7p Card Room MST
Monday Nite @ the Flix: 7p PHall MST
Sp Trip: Guarneri & Friends Open Rehearsal (R) \$8.75 4:15p—7p

11

Treasure Chest Collection Day: 10a-12p- @ Store VP @MST Outside Classroom; @ TNC Link w/CL; @LSC by Wellness Studio
New Resident Orientation Part I: 10a Catering Room MST
Resident's Communication Group: 2p PHall MST
Socrates Café: 2:30p Classroom MST
Ticket Sales: Rockville Men's Chorus on 5/14 \$5 (T) 4:30p All Dining Lounges
Monday Nite @ FLix Movie Repeat: 7p Theater LSC
Sp Trip: Woodrow Wilson House (R) \$23.30 1p—4:30p

12

Genealogy Club: 10a Card Room VSQ
Bible Study: 10a Classroom MST
Big Band & Jazz Club: 1p Classroom MST
Trivia Trail: 1p Crafts Studio MST
Energy Conservation Committee Meeting: 1:15p Executive Board Room VSQ
Democratic Club of Riderwood: 2p Wellness Studio LSC
Ticket Sales: Rockville Men's Chorus on 5/14 \$5 (T) 4:30p All Dining Lounges
Foreign Film: 7p PHall MST
Sp Trip: Natl. Arboretum Tram Tour (R) \$30.10 11:45a—4:15p

17

Yiddish Appreciation Group: 10:30a Card Room VSQ
Computer Club Meeting: 11a PHall MST
Opera Theatre: 1p Theater LSC
Seminar 101: 2p Classroom MST
Modelers Club: 2p Crafts Studio MST
Catholic Mass: 3p Garden Room RG
Book Sorters: 4p Crafts Studio TNC
Chinese Club: 4:30p Private Dining Room MST
Ticket Sales: St. Petersburg Trio on 5/21 \$5 (T) 4:30p-6p All Dining Lounges
Short Stories Group: 7p PHall MST
Sp Trip: National Wildlife Visitors Center –Tram Tour (R) HC \$17.25 12p—3:30p

18

TNC Library Committee Mtg: 10a Crafts Studio LSC
Cancer Support Group: 11a Classroom MST
RWV Lions Club Mtg: 4:30p Private Dining Room MST
Ticket Sales: St. Petersburg Trio on 5/21 \$5 (T) 4:30p-6p All Dining Lounges
Sp Trip: Brookside Gardens (R) \$9.35 12p—3:15p

19

Welcome Committee Mtg: 10:30a Classroom MST
Caregivers Support Group: 1p Resident Life Parlor MST
CONVERSATION WITH ADMINISTRATION: 2p PHall MST
Catholic Council: 4p Executive Board Room VSQ
RAC Listening Post: 4p Dining Lounge VSQ & MST
Joint Replacement Seminar: Dr. Anton Goral of HCH: 5:45p Garden Room RG
Foreign Film: 7p PHall MST
Sp Trip: Gems of Endearment (History Lecture) (R) \$9.60 6:30p—9:15p

24



TREASURE CHEST COLLECTION DAY

Garden Club Meeting: 10a PHall MST
Breath of Life Group: 10:30a Classroom VSQ
Poetry Sharing: 11a Executive Board Room VSQ
Opera Theatre: 1p Theater LSC
Writer's Guild: 3p Classroom MST
Communion Service at RG: 3:30p Garden Room RG
Monday Nite @ the Flix: 7p PHall MST
Sp Trip: Nat'l. Harbor/ Gaylord National Resort (R) \$25.80 10a-3:30p

25

Treasure Chest Collection Day: 10a-12p @ Store VP @MST Outside Classroom; @ TNC Link w/CL; @LSC by Wellness Studio
Diabetes Support Group: 11a Classroom MST
Helen Club: 4:30p Private Dining Room VSQ
Spiritual Life Institute: "Allison Silberburg: Visionaries in Our Midst": 7:30p Chapel
Monday Nite @ FLix Movie Repeat: 7p Theater LSC
Sp Trip: National Zoo (R) \$20.00 9:45a—2:30p

26

Genealogy Club: 10a Card Room VSQ
Bible Study: 10a Classroom MST
Spiritual Life Institute: "An African American Alternative Perspective on Health Care Directives": 10:30a Classroom LSC
Low Vision Support Group Mtg: 1p Classroom MST
Trivia Trail: 1p Crafts Studio MST
New Resident Orientation Part II: 2p Catering Room MST
Takoma Park Singers Spring Concert: 7p Theater LSC
Foreign Film: 7p PHall MST
PFLAG: 7:30p Windsor Private Dining Room MST
Sp Trip: Blue Angels Cruise (R) \$83.00 11:15a—5:30p

MEMORIAL DAY Federal Holiday



31

Book Sorters: 4p Crafts Studio TNC

MONDAY, MAY 31

ACTIVITIES

Thursday

sidents and employees of Riderwood. It marks the start of our
the following staff members that celebrate their 10 years of

Security Officer/EMT
Practice Manager
City Services Manager
Actor
Manager
Industries Manager
Coordinator
Therapy Assistant
Associate

Friday

Note To Readers :

This calendar does *not* show regular weekly events. Details of regular weekly events are provided in the Monthly Activities Calendar available at Front Desks.

Legend:

- D:** Donation Accepted
- T:** Ticket Required
(may be available at door)
- R:** Reservation Required
- HC:** Accommodations for EMV's
- PHall:** Performance Hall MST
- Theater:** Encore Theater LSC

May, 2010

Saturday/Sunday

1

Old Testament Studies: 10:30a Card Room VSQ
May Day Dog Show and Parade: 1p Lawn in front of TNC
Foreign Film Repeat: 2p Theater LSC
Saturday Nite at the Movies: 7p Theater LSC
Sp Trip: Armida (R) \$33.60 11:30a—6p
Sp Trip: Gloria (R) HC \$61.05 6:45p—11p
Sp Trip: UM Annual Pops (R) \$29.00 7p—10:30p

2

Hadassah Meeting: 2p Classroom LSC
Piano Music by Request: 5:30p Lounge TNC
Chinese Group: 6:30p Classroom TNC
Travel Talks: 7:30p Theater LSC
Sp Trip: Triumph of Love (R) \$46.65 6:15p—10:15p

8

Jewish Shabbat Morning Worship: 11a Garden Room RG
Foreign Film Repeat: 2p Theater LSC
Saturday Nite at the Movies: 7p Theater LSC
Sp Trip: Prince George's Philharmonic (R) HC \$31.35 7p—10:30p

9

Gennusa Clarinet Camerata Mothers Day Performance: 3p Theater LSC
Sunday Sing-Along: 5:30-6:30p Lounge TNC

13



TREASURE CHEST SHOPPING



14

Treasure Chest Shopping: 10a-2p Terrace Level VP
Continuing Education Committee: 2p Classroom VSQ

Falls Prevention Clinic: 2p Classroom LSC
Seekers of Justice: 3p Resident Life Parlor

Jewish Shabbat Evening Worship: 7:30p Chapel

Rockville Men's Chorus \$5 (T): 7:30p Theater LSC

Sp Trip: US Air Force Band (Public TV Broadcast Taping) (R) \$13.00 6:15p—11:15p

Old Testament Studies: 10:30a Card Room VSQ
Buick Club: 2p Classroom VSQ
Foreign Film Repeat: 2p Theater LSC
Saturday Nite at the Movies: 7p Theater LSC
Sp Trip: 3 Romantics (R) \$53.15 6:45p—11p

15

Amer. Symphonic Clarinet Choir Open Rehearsal: 1p Theater LSC
RJC Presents "Prof Evelyn T. Beck": 3p PHall MST
Piano Music By Request: 5:30p-6:30p Lounge TNC
Travel Talks: 7:30p Theater LSC
Sp Trip: Natl. Gallery of Art & Concert (R) HC \$26.00 2p—9p

16

Jewish Shabbat Morning Worship: 11a Garden Room RG
Foreign Film Repeat: 2p Theater LSC
Celebration Ringers Concert: 7p Chapel
Saturday Nite at the Movies: 7p Theater LSC
SP Trip: Navy Band:Commodores 40th Anniversary (R) \$26.00 6:15p—10:30p

21

**PAC Presents:
ST. PETERSBURG TRIO**
7:30p Theater, \$5 Tickets in all Lounges 5/17 & 5/18

21

Compassion & Choices Seminar Series: 10a Music Room VSQ

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group: 10:30a Garden Room RG

Montgomery Hospice Meeting: 11a Res. Life Parlor

Issues Discussion Group: 3p PHall MST

Riderwood Grace Notes Spring Concert: 7:30p Chapel

Big Band Ballroom: 8p PHall MST

Sp Trip: International Gem & Jewelry Show (R) HC \$41.00 10:45a—4:45p

Sunday Sing-Along: 5:30-6:30p Lounge TNC
SP Trip: One Piano, Four Hands (R) \$7.00 5:15p—8p

22

Riderwood Friends of Habitat for Humanity - Workday in DC: 7:30a-4p Lobby VSQ

Foreign Film Repeat: 2p Theater LSC

Saturday Nite at the Movies: 7p Theater LSC

SP Trip: Virginia Grand Military Band (R) HC \$46.35 6:30p—11:15p

23

Piano Music by Request: 5:30p Lounge TNC

29

Treasure Chest Shopping: 10a-2p Terrace Level VP

Actors Studio Meeting: 1p Music Room VSQ

Seekers of Justice: 3p Resident Life Parlor

Jewish Shabbat Evening Worship: 7:30p Chapel

Sp Trip: Amish Market (R) HC \$7.00 10:30a—1:30p

Sp Trip: Sophisticated Ladies (R) \$72.35 6:30p—11:15p

30



MONDAY, MAY 31

Unitarian Universalist Theology: 10:30a Classroom MST
Stamp and Coin Club: 2p Classroom TNC
Dialysis Support Group: 7p Resident Life Parlor MST
Roseland at Riderwood Ballroom Dancing: 7:30p PHall MST
Riderwood Actors Studio Performance "Radio Daze": 7:30p Theater LSC
Sp Trip: Inner Harbor (R) HC \$24.35 9:30a—3:15p
Sp Trip: Sakura (R) HC \$12.75 4:30p—7:30p

Conversation with Administration

By Bo Lundh, Assistant Executive Director

Please come and join the next "Conversation with Administration" at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 19 in the Encore Theater, Lakeside Commons.



Bo Lundh

These monthly conversations provide an opportunity for residents to share concerns and receive feedback. They also help Administration understand what we can do to improve customer service. Questions and answers may be altered or rephrased for this column without changing the accuracy of the information presented.

Following is the substance of Conversation with Administration conducted in February:

Announcements:

- A grievance letter was submitted to the Executive Director's office in early February pertaining to the planned changes in the Montgomery Station clubhouse. In line with Riderwood's internal grievance policy, an investigation was conducted resulting in no new information that would change management's decision to go forward with the planned changes.
- Update on changes at Riderwood for 2010:

Completed Changes

- Hot meals to go at MST are available
- Conversion of BG guestroom into Resident Life annex office
- New guestroom in BG
- A charge for coffee in the lobbies

Upcoming Changes

- Closing of the stores in LSC and MST
- Lunchtime sandwiches and salads will be available in LSC and MST
- Enhancing VSQ Market/Pharmacy with wider selection of products
- Meals to go will be available from restaurants
- Free delivery of products will be available from the stores
- Expansion of coffee area and reconfiguration of conference room in VSQ
- Relocation of Rehab to MST clubhouse; addition of small exercise studio
- Relocation of Resident Life—main office and Pastoral Ministries
- Conversion of LSC store to Card/Puzzle room with library shelving

Questions, Comments and Statements by Residents:

1. A couple of months ago there was a false alarm that took place in CT which I slept through. Is there any procedure in place regarding residents who sleep through the alarm or ignore it?

In the case where a resident would sleep through or ignore a fire alarm, and an evacuation of the building is necessary, firemen or security will conduct an apartment by apartment search.

2. You mentioned getting approval from management first before stuffing cubbies. I would like to know if it is okay to place Easter cards or birthday cards in cubbies.

If you have any questions about Riderwood's policy for solicitation, please call Claudia Farr at 301-572-8337.

3. There is no curb cut in front of BG so it is difficult to reach the building from the lot. Can a curb cut be put in place so residents can easily push their shopping carts?

In the near future, a curb cut will be added directly in front of the BG south exit.

4. Last meeting, a resident suggested that security add the apartment number on all visitors' passes to make it easy to contact a visitor. I would like to know if it is going to be implemented? Regarding the shopping carts, I suggest that residents place a \$10 refundable deposit prior to taking a cart.

The visitor's destination has been added to the visitor's pass. This is either a specific apartment or a campus facility (e.g. Chapel, Encore, etc.). Many thoughts have been considered regarding the shopping carts. We have found no substitute for just being a good neighbor and returning the cart to its original location.

5. I am very concerned about this monster store that you are planning in VSQ. I would like to know what it will cost to build the store and how much money it will bring in.

The total cost for all planned changes is about \$350,000 and the return on the investment is approximately 3.5 years. The two remaining stores are planned to break even. This is compared to the current annual loss of \$185,000 for our four stores.

6. We would appreciate if the TruGreen staff could stop throwing their empty wraps and cans over by the fence.

We will address this concern with TruGreen.

7. I would like to suggest that Dining Services go through all the wine menus and correct the prices so people would have a better sense of what a glass of wine costs.

All restaurants have corrected the wine menu prices.

8. Do we have the numbers showing what the two snow storms cost us? I would also like to know what's going to be done to cover the cost.

The snow storm in December cost Riderwood about \$100,000 and the February storm about \$500,000. We hope to be able to cover this by re-prioritizing within the current budget.

9. Can you enlighten us on the status of the Erickson bankruptcy?

We anticipate the conclusion of the bankruptcy proceedings and transition of ownership will be completed in late April.

10. I would like to share that it would be a loss for many of us to lose the store at LSC because many of us have walkers and it can be very difficult for us to get around.

We are going to close the store in LSC, but delivery will be available.

News from Human Resources at Riderwood

By Susan Pagano, Sr. Health Services Recruiter

Being named Riderwood's *Best of the Best* or *Manager of the Year* means something very special to Riderwood employees—you are a standout among your peers, you are innovative, and you are dedicated. Riderwood has always recognized and encouraged such efforts of their staff.

Riderwood's 2009 Winners are:

Best of the Best - Charles Sumrell

Charles started with Riderwood in January, 2005. Charles is Renaissance Garden's Maintenance Supervisor. "Charles is always willing and able to unselfishly do whatever is requested of him to help make the lives of Riderwood Residents comfortable," said Bob Riley, Charles' director. "He is engaging, witty and fun...a respected co-laborer and friend to the many who know him."

Manager of the Year - Eddie Bharucha

Eddie started with Riderwood in May, 2000 and is currently our Customer Service and Communications Manager. "Eddie is an exemplary Leader and Customer Service Professional who goes out of his way to carefully listen to, understand, and competently deliver on resident needs," Bob Riley said of Eddie. "He is a highly respected co-worker. With great character, Eddie always seems able to get the job done through people's willing cooperation."

Welcome New Residents

The following new residents have moved to Riderwood between March 20 and April 23

Louis Chernikoff
Pastor & Veronica Sison
Betty Gorsuch
Gretchen Stromberg
Badri & Nora Das

Washington, D.C.
Bowie, MD
Frederick, MD
Arlington, VA
Upper Marlboro, MD

Early residents created active campus

By Selma Barnett
Staff Writer

In the first few months of the new century, a trailer and a very large hole in the ground were all that occupied the land on which Riderwood Village sits today. Many curious seniors came to the trailer to receive information about the soon-to-be-opened community.

At the beginning of May 2000, Riderwood officially opened its first neighborhood, Village Square, and residential building, Park View. With two or three move-ins each day, Riderwood quickly began growing.

"I watched with fascination the spirit of these new residents who were excited to begin a new, interesting, and different kind of living arrangement," said Senior Community Services Manager Claudia Farr. "New residents began to suggest activities and events to enhance their new community. Not only did they come up with interesting ideas, they took those ideas and put them into action. They created the philosophy and ran with it by arranging for a place to meet, a calendar, goals and structure to attain them."

The first group that formed was the Tall Travel Tales group, started by Frank and Ruth Wallick. The members would meet around the fireplace in the Fireside lounge and tell stories about their travel adventures. They found that this was a great way to interact with new neighbors and get to know one another.

New resident Barbara Shanks came to Claudia and suggested a group be formed to share tips and expertise with new residents who were moving in. This led to the creation of the Welcome Committee. Barbara knew from her own

experience as a Riderwood pioneer that her new neighbors needed the knowledge and experience of those who had already gone through the move-in process.

Even though the entire Fireside Restaurant was available for dining, the early pioneers ate together in the private dining room, often being joined by staff members like Claudia and Bo Lundh. These evening dinners provided an opportunity to get to know each other and exchange ideas and information.

A Library Committee was soon formed by Barbary Shanks to take advantage of the library space in Village Square. New residents found it necessary to downsize, and were grateful to be able to donate their collections to their new community.

Many of the new residents, in addition to donating books, came with extra furniture and items that they could no longer use, and soon enough the Treasure Chest was created by Ruth Wallick and Marge Downey.

When Riderwood first opened there was no TV Studio; there was, however, a TV closet. Residents Alta Arman, Ruth Wallick, Emma Dittman, and Carl Schramm were instrumental in setting up the now-familiar electronic bulletin board and soon added resident-produced videos as well.

Mary-Alice Weshler suggested a Continuing Education Committee to bring college-level courses to Riderwood residents.

Many additional clubs and activities had their beginnings because of the ideas and suggestions put forth by Riderwood's residents. "The pioneers," Claudia said, "were totally engaged. They established the upbeat spirit of Riderwood."

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black plastic screens to hide construction. Since that time, the Shanks, with Jim's horticultural expertise, have converted that area into an enchanting garden, including a persimmon tree and many varieties of azalea.

The Shanks and the Wallicks look back upon those days as friendly and intimate times, when new neighbors congregated together to discuss the expansion around them. Both couples had moved from long-time local homes—40 years for the Wallicks and 36 for the Shanks. They admit to having misgivings about leaving those familiar abodes for the uncertainty of Riderwood, but both families soon adjusted happily to their new surroundings and have become known for their large contribution to the community.

When she first arrived, Ruth had come off a long career as a lawyer and as an assistant in the office of the late Wisconsin Congressman Henry Reuss. She was naturally attracted to politics and became involved in what was then known as the Political Education Committee. Frank was the originator of the twice-a-week Tall Travel Tales group.

The Shanks also became heavily involved. Though never before a singer or painter, Barbara joined the first women's choral group, took some of the first painting lessons, and started the Village Square library. She and Jim, at one time, owned two of Riderwood's first garden plots.

Both couples marvel at Riderwood's enormous growth since those early days, though they feel that the community still maintains much of that amicable attitude that characterized its early days. They have enjoyed the friends they have made and are pleased with the many opportunities Riderwood has offered them.

"I usually eat at the Potomac Café," Ruth says smiling as she recalls a recent incident. "The other night when I walked in, a group seated at a corner table waved to me and said 'Come sit with us at the Terrace-level table!' It was like old home week—like family."

Riderwood by the Numbers: A Demographic View of Our Community

By Monroe Sirken
Staff Writer

Riderwood is home to around 2700 residents—about 2400 residents in independent living apartments and about 300 residents in Renaissance Gardens. This article traces the year-to-year changes in the number of Riderwood residents during the 10 year period, 2000 – 2010, with some commentary on the implicating factors. Year-to-year population changes are analyzed for all Riderwood residents and separately for residents in independent living and those in RG. This data—the number of people residing at Riderwood Village in December of each year—was provided by Riderwood Management, which is acknowledged with thanks.

The basic information is summarized in the graph. The blue and green lines represent the 10-year population trends for residents in independent living and assisted living/nursing care respectively. The red line represents the 10-year population trend for all Riderwood residents.

Riderwood's total population did not increase at a constant rate during the 10 year period, 2000 - 2009. Between 2000 and 2006, there were substantial annual increases every year, with the maximum increase (569) occurring in 2004. The total population reached a plateau in 2006 and peaked (2794) in 2007, two years after the opening of the last independent living community building (Lakeside Commons). During 2008 and 2009, Riderwood's population declined by 37 and 53 residents respectively. Since peaking in 2007, Riderwood's total population has declined by about 3.2%, or about 1.6% per annum.

From 2000 – 2009, the population trends were substantially different for residents in independent living and in assisted living/nursing care. The number of independent living residents increased substantially each year until 2006 and then

declined by 20, 58, and 78 respectively in 2007, 2008, and 2009. Since peaking at 2554 independent living residents in 2006, the number has declined by about 6.2 percent or about 2% per annum.

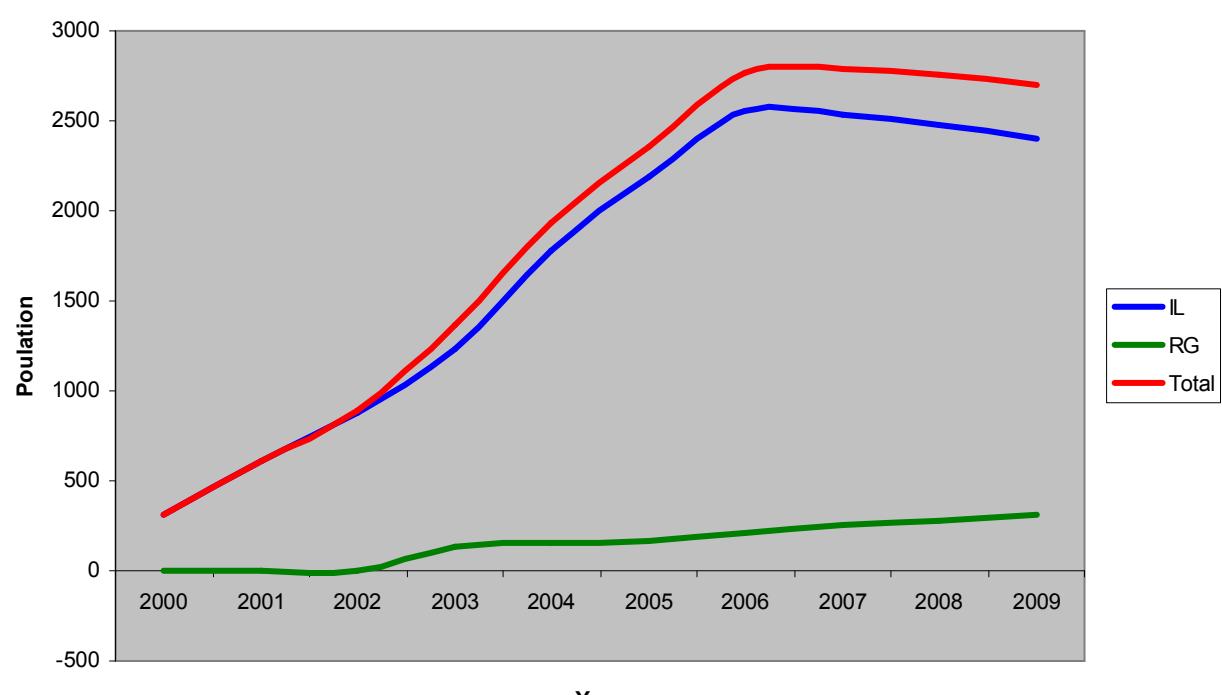
During the 7 years since Renaissance Gardens opened in 2002, the number of assisted living and nursing care residents has increased annually, with the largest increase by far (124) occurring in 2003, and the second largest increase (50) occurring in 2006, the year following completion of Phase 2 and the opening of Evergreen Terrace. During the past 3 years, 2007 – 2009, the Renaissance Gardens population has increased by 44, 12 and 32 residents respectively or about 10% per annum.

In summary, there have been two distinct phases in Riderwood's population growth trends during the past 10 years. The shift occurred about June 2007 when Riderwood construction was

completed and the last independent living apartment was sold. Until 2007, the number of Riderwood residents in independent living as well as those in RG increased substantially each year. Since 2007, the population of RG has been increasing about 10% annually while number of independent living residents has been declining about 2% annually; as a consequence, the total number of Riderwood residents has been declining about 1.6 percent annually.

This can be explained by two demographic factors. First, on average, the number of resident deaths is greater than the number of new move-ins. Second, Riderwood's population is aging, and as a consequence it seems likely that an increasing number of residents living in independent living apartments are transferring to Renaissance Gardens.

As Riderwood's population evolves, we will continue to track those demographic changes.



St. Petersburg Trio comes to Encore

By David Rogers
Performing Arts Council

The St. Petersburg Trio, an ensemble drawn from the Washington Balalaika Orchestra, will be performing at the Encore Theater on Friday, May 21. Reflecting the musical traditions of old Russia, their instruments include a domra (Russian mandolin), a contra-bass balalaika, and a bayan (button accordion).

Svetlana Nikonova, WBS conductor and artistic director, will be playing the domra. She is a graduate of the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia and is a talented arranger and domra professional. Vladimir Zakharevich will be playing the bayan, and balalaika virtuoso Andrei Saveliev will be playing the contra-bass balalaika. Both are graduates of musical conservatories and possess extraordinary skill and virtuosity on their chosen instruments. Whether playing music from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, or contemporary periods this versatile ensemble shines with amazing technique and sensitive beauty.

Also appearing will be Baltimore's Russian Dance Ensemble Kalinka, performing traditional dances in full costume, making this



The St. Petersburg Trio (from left, Svetlana Nikonova, Vladimir Zakharevich,

performance a unique and sophisticated cultural event.

Their performance on Friday, May 21, will begin at 7:30 pm. Doors will open at 7:00 pm. Tickets will be \$5.00 and will be on sale Monday and Tuesday, May 17 & 18 at 4:30 – 6:00 pm outside all dining rooms.

Falls can cause wide-ranging impacts

By Molly Pittman
Lead Social Worker, Independent Living

Falls are a serious problem that can impact many aspects of life. The first things most think about are fractures and other injuries, but falls can also have a significant impact on emotional wellbeing. Falls can trigger fear, anxiety, depression and social isolation. As a result of a fall, one might experience a loss of confidence to complete their routine daily functions. If a fall results in needing to depend on others (either temporarily or permanently) for assistance, this is an adjustment that can affect emotional health.

If you find yourself experiencing a fear of falling that is impacting your daily routine, your social worker can be a reference and

source of support to you. They can assist you in exploring the different solutions that Riderwood has to offer. Among these are the Mental Health clinicians in the medical center who specialize in helping residents adjust to changes in their lives as they get older. Though it is not uncommon to experience the psychological effects of a fall, it is important to note that anxiety, depression and other related illnesses are treatable. For more information about this and other resources, please contact your social worker.

For more information on this topic, please plan to attend the Falls Clinic presentation on Friday May 14, 2010 at 2-3pm in the Lakeside Commons Classroom. Roberta Feldhausen, Mental Health clinician, will discuss this important topic.

Updates from Dining Services

By Magdy Mishraky
Dining Services Director

Dining Services would like to take this opportunity to report on ongoing projects and give updates as we celebrate Spring. We would like to start off by thanking all of our generous residents who contributed to the Riderwood Scholarship Fund. This popular ceremony was held on April 15th and was well received. It once again showcased our community at its best. Our 43 scholars are all appreciative and will continue to thrive in the future, thanks to your generous donations.

We would also like to draw your attention to some recent menu changes. Menu Cycle R started on April 18th and we hope the changes we made will meet your satisfaction.

Please contact your Restaurant CDC or Executive Chef Victor Cirrincione with any questions, concerns or suggestions. In Lakeside Commons, Overlook's revised lunch menu will begin on Monday, April 26th. The Overlook team is also currently working on extending their lunch menu to include Sunday lunch service. We will keep you updated with the date.

Finally, we are proud to announce that our Hot Carry-Out at Windsor has been very successful. We have been averaging about 35 residents per day for this service and will continue to monitor its progress and provide updates. As always, we welcome your input and feedback as we strive to exceed your expectations.

Outdated wills can cause problems

By Pamela Shubert
Philanthropy Director

Did you know that 70% of the adults in the United States do not have a will? This is not the case for most Riderwood residents. You moved into a continuing care retirement community because you are a planner. But circumstances change. If you moved to Riderwood from another state, you should consider reviewing your will to make sure that it still reflects your wishes. It is important to review your will regularly, especially if your circumstances or intentions have changed. If you pass away and your will does not reflect your current assets, it can result in an otherwise avoidable expenditure of time and money. This regrettable scenario places emotional strain on grieving families and loved ones at the time when they are most vulnerable.

An outdated will may direct assets to people you may not select. Former spouses and distant relatives frequently benefit from this lack of attention to estate planning. Because of this, significant assets regularly accrue to heirs of deceased beneficiaries. If your will is out of date, it is important that you update it whenever the family situation changes. State and federal laws that affect estate planning also change from time to time, so you should have your will reviewed regularly by a attorney familiar with Maryland probate statutes.

How do you want to be remembered? A will allows you to leave a legacy emblematic of your values. If you have been blessed with good fortune in life, you might consider a charitable bequest to charities like Habitat for Humanity and the American Red Cross. You can leave a portion of your estate to Riderwood's Scholarship Fund or Benevolent Care Fund with a charitable bequest. The Philanthropy Department staff is available to assist you in working with legal and financial advisors to make sure that your will reflects your wishes.



In Memoriam



The following residents passed away between March 22 and April 23.

Rose Boyd	PV	Mar. 22
Jeanne Pearson	OG	Mar. 26
Hazel Black	EV	Mar. 29
Margie "Ruth" Lee	OP	Mar. 30
Percy Thomas	OG	Mar. 31
Mauyer Richards	HS	Mar. 31
Lawrence Curran	CC	April 1
Arthur "Art" Timm	OG	April 6
Ruth Gelbhaus	RC	April 6
Pauline Brown	OG	April 6
John Moore	PV	April 6
Paul Yanuck	OG	April 7
Vivian Douglass	OG	April 7
Howard "Bill" Kulp	OP	April 8
Donald Xander	GV	April 8
Wanda Maltz	WC	April 9
Howard Sorrell	WC	April 13
Betty Rath	OG	April 14
Ann Evry	VP	April 15
Catherine Miller	EV	April 15
Joe Toda	CT	April 19
Fern Snyder	ET	April 19
Evelyn Bennett	OG	April 21