Pleasantview
LIVING IN COMMUNITY

The View

Pleasantview Newsletter Winter 2023

Beautiful Noise and Irritations

Non-stop noise, dirt and mud all over, dusty closets and desk space. Temporary removal from offices, water leaks here and there.

Sounds a bit irritating, doesn't it?

In typical times, situations such as these would frustrate those who spend the majority of their waking hours on the Pleasantview campus. But these aren't normal times!

In May of 2022, work officially began on the campus improvement project. It technically started in November of 2021 with the removal of a few trees and – one by one – the northside rental cottages. But with the "notice to proceed" granted by a major source of funds, a groundbreaking ceremony on April 24 was quickly put together and carried out, and major construction equipment began arriving on campus.

The multi-million-dollar project has many facets to it, with a completion date sometime in the second half of 2024. Cardinal Construction is spearheading the efforts, based on the architectural work of Pope Design Group. Subcontracting work has included a number of local companies; from time to time there have been 50 persons or more on site together.

There are four basic – but major – projects going on simultaneously.

In the initial planning stages, two major additions kept rising to the top in terms of importance: renovation of current space into Assisted Living (AL) apartments, and new construction to feature a Memory Care addition. The technical term is actually Chronic Confusion or Dementing Illness (CCDI).

As time moved forward, other needs made sense, including the need for a new Friendship Center. For the past 8-9 months, those three components, plus the creation of a new maintenance garage, have served as phase 1 of the plan.

An explanation of each, in the order of completion

The maintenance garage was completed in December.

Maintenance Garage

This is directly related to the CCDI plans. Because of the location of the latter, the surrounding road needed to be moved. That, coupled with the increased need for space, is the impetus for the completion of the building in the early stages. It was finished in December to the point of being able to park service vehicles inside prior to the inclement weather.

Friendship Center

Technically it will be a

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Friendship/Community Center, as future use will include community members while still first and foremost for the use of our Independent Living (IL) community. Moreover, the previous space, attached to the nursing unit and Miller Chapel, will be renovated into therapy space (more on that in a bit). This facility will include a 100+-person gathering space, fitness equipment, restrooms, and a full-service kitchen. The potential is there to host community events and meals. It is scheduled to be completed in early March.

The Friendship Center (top) and Assisted Living facility (bottom) are set to open in March and July, respectively.

Assisted Living

It has long been recognized that Pleasantview is missing a link the continuum of care. IL is thriving; the Nursing Facility (NF) is thriving (NF consists of long-term care as well as post-acute care); and while the organization does care for those with dementia, it is not an ideal setting. The need is for that in-between step. Thus, there are 28 AL apartments, ranging from 410-840 square feet, being created on the top two levels of the original building on the campus. Some model apartments are scheduled to be completed in March, with June as the target date for full completion. Applications are being accepted; please call Pleasantview.

Chronic Confusion or Dementing Illness (CCDI) / Memory Care (MC)

As with the AL, Pleasantview has lacked in its services for those with dementia; that will be remedied with the construction of a 16-unit facility on the north side of campus. It will be attached to the existing nursing unit, secured to prevent elopement.

A courtyard will provide secured outdoor space for CCDI residents as well as those in the traditional nursing facility (two separate spaces but adjacent to each other). The courtyards will honor Virginia

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Please Get Involved!

Winston Churchill once said, "Our difficulties and dangers will not be removed by closing our eyes to them."

We continue to find ourselves, within the Long-Term Care Support & Services (LTCSS) profession, having to exercise our responsibilities by reaching out to our elected officials to fully support the needs of the elderly. Most recently, that message is to communicate the necessity of adequate Medicaid funding. According to the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA), Medicaid funding reimbursement to nursing facilities in 2022 was 80% of actual costs. For Pleasantview, that figure was only 68% of actual costs. The facility must then make up the difference on their own. Given the current environment of workforce challenges, inflation, and ongoing unfunded mandates, having a "built-in" revenue shortfall is unsustainable.

We recently hosted Senator Dawn Driscoll and Representative Heather Hora to tour our facility prior to their legislative update at the Chamber of Commerce in Kalona. During our visit we stressed the need for adequate funding, but more importantly, demonstrated our exceptional quality of life service that is afforded to our residents who deserve nothing less. Both legislators voiced their positive impressions of our facility and the investment being made in expanded services and our community.

This year, a Medicaid "rebase adjustment" will be voted on by the Iowa Legislature. I am respectfully asking our families to communicate to their elected officials the importance of proper funding for our residents. Many of you live outside the districts covered by Senator Driscoll and Representative Hora and so I've attached a link https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find to assist you in contacting your specific legislator. I've also included the following from the IHCA, https://www.keepltclocal.com/impact so that you can read more about the issues affecting our profession.

Our commitment to our residents goes beyond what happens within the walls of Pleasantview. Myself, and other executive staff members are actively engaged with the Iowa Health Care Association through Board of Director and Committee memberships so as to bring the very best information and tools available in service to our residents and staff. If you would like to visit with me on this or other subjects related to our profession, please feel free to email me at jschmidt@pvkalona.com.

Jeffrey K. Schmidt, MS, ACHCA, Executive Director

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McAndrew, thanks to the generous financial support of her family. Completion date for this area of campus is mid-late July.

Other renovations and construction will include the extension of the main entrance canopy to cover a portion of the driveway; relocation of our commercial kitchen and dining space (near the CCDI); construction of six resident rooms for those receiving skilled care, with the current Friendship Center to be renovated into therapy space; renovation of the front lobby; and a bistro off the lobby, available for families and other guests, residents, and staff.

A few cosmetic changes will also be made.

It is a major undertaking, but long overdue. Funding includes the generous support of the community, as well as utilizing grants and loans.

Director of Advancement Larry Swartzendruber agreed with the fact that this is long overdue.

"Previous administrators and community persons alike have mentioned the Memory Care in particular as something that is desperately needed," he said. "We've met with true excitement over the fact that we are finally doing this! And there has been major support shown.

"That said, we're still seeking and welcoming support, as there are loans to pay down. Please know that the fundraising continues; and we thank you, the community, for your interest and involvement in the project!"

Pleasantview
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Iowa Mennonite Benevolent Association

Mission Statement
A welcoming faith-based community that supports healthy living and quality of life.

Vision Statement
Pleasantview will be the place of choice to live and work.

Core Values
Quality, Integrity, Community, Kindness

Board of Directors
Dave Hochstetler (president)
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Jacque Wertz (secretary)
Julie Sojka (treasurer)
Julie Bontrager, Derick Cranston, Merlin Kauffman, Marlan Logan, Ramona Miller, Wendell Miller

Executive Director
Jeffrey Schmidt

Published quarterly by Pleasantview

Editors
Mikayla Fisher,
Larry Swartzendruber

How QuICK Are You?

Truth be told, it doesn't really matter!

However, the word/acronym is important to the culture of Pleasantview.

As Pleasantview defined its Core Values, it truly happened unintentionally.

Quality*: striving for excellence and superior service.*
Integrity*: doing the right thing when no one is watching.*
Community*: living in supportive relationships.*
Kindness*: serving others in a caring way.*

The focus each month is on one of the values, and staff, residents, and family members are encouraged to nominate a staff member who best exemplifies that particular value. The winner then receives $100 in Kalona Kash.

The goal is to establish and build upon the positive culture at Pleasantview, and to encourage staff to engage in these values.

In turn, staff members are QuICK to continue putting residents first.

Shown above are two recent QuICK winners: Alisha Bowen (left) and Mercedes Beckler (right).

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2023
Friendship Center
Open House

April 2023
Assisted Living
Sneak Peek Event

May 19 & 20, 2023
Pleasantview Yard Sale

Follow us on Facebook (Pleasantview– Kalona, IA) to stay updated with details on each event.