

Merrimac Network News

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Feature Article

By: Margaret Evans

Rolling Plains Health Care System, Inc.

Congratulations to Rolling Plains Health Care System, Inc. in Haskell, Texas. USDA has issued their Letter of Conditions for their 20 unit Assisted Living Community. We will have our next board meeting on May 1st to move forward on this project. Everyone is excited. Our architect, Brad Warner of Cameron Alread Architects in Fort Worth, can now complete the drawings, get them approved by USDA and send it out for bid. It has been a long time coming and we are all thrilled to move to the next level.

The Fountains Sweeny, Texas

Crystal and her staff are doing great. She is so excited. She currently has 13 residents with deposits on 2 more and another 2 will be doing the same within the next couple of weeks.

Crystal, her staff and residents just made and sold over 75 Easter Baskets. They also donated a few to worthy causes. They made over \$900. on these Easter Baskets. They are saving money for special items they have their eyes set on, like an old time popcorn machine and other things. Keep up the good work.

They also have had a couple of contest. The one for residents was neat. They had

baby pictures of staff members and the residents had to guess which staff person matched their picture. The winner received a gift certificate to a nice seafood restaurant. The employees contest was "Know your Residents". They were given clues about the residents when they were younger, like what they did for a living, how many children or grandchildren they had, etc. The winner also received a gift certificate to the seafood restaurant. Always something going on at The Fountains.

TORCH Golf Tournament April 5, 2006

As some of you may know, Evan and I had put together the TORCH Golf Tournament for the last 3 years in conjunction with their annual conference. Well, this year I did it in Evan's Memory. It was a great success. In fact, several of the golfers wanted me to change the name of the tournament to The Evan Evans Memorial Tournament. I asked the TORCH office if I could and they graciously let me. So from now on it will be The Evan Evans Memorial Golf Tournament. We had great give aways and prizes for the golfers. Everyone had a great time. We had 51 golfers and hopefully we can have even more next year. I know Evan would have been pleased that we honored him in this way. Thanks for all your support in this endeavor.

The Seasons

Perryton, Texas

In talking with Jean, she tells me they are staying busy. They are also trying to stay warm. They had planned a trip out but due to the weather, they postponed it. Can you believe it is too cold the end of April? Jean currently has 25 residents and 2 in her respite room who could possibly turn into full time residents.

The activities in her building are still going on. In fact, Gayle has ordered some new games and is in the process of teaching the residents how to play.

The Whitestone

Comanche, Texas

Kay is so excited. She has 2 new part time activity directors. One for the first part of the week and the other for the last. They are also helping her with some of her other duties, which gives Kay time to be a more efficient Manager. Congratulations on this great find! Kay has 26 residents with only 1 apartment available.

Park View Manor

Wellington, Texas

Well, Sherideen had her State Inspection a couple of weeks ago and **passed with NO deficiencies**. Congratulations! She has 11 residents with number 12 moving in on May 1st. Sherideen has her respite room set up, has redone her Spa Room and added door enunciators. She has sent her letter to the State requesting a license change from a Large A to a Small B. She is doing a great job in getting her building ready for that change.

“They have climate in England: we have weather.” Helena Rutherford Ely

Heritage House

Rotan, Texas

Carla has 12 residents currently. She had a death last week. Her residents are happy and love to participate in the activities. PT comes 3 days a week for structured exercises. She has 3 apartments available now.

The Woodlands

Eastland, Texas

The plans have been sent to USDA for approval. As soon as we receive that we will be ready to put this project out for bid. Hopefully it will be in the next couple of weeks. In the meantime, we are working on the letter of conditions so that everything will be ready when it goes out for bid. We will keep you posted.

Independence Hall

Bowie, Texas

Nelda is completely full with 31 residents. She also has 7-8 on her waiting list. What a nice problem to have. Her centurion turned 102 on April 24th. His health is not great but hey, he is 102 what do you expect. Everything at Independence Hall is moving along good. Keep up the good work Nelda.

Arbor House

Weatherford, Texas

All the residents at Arbor House are busy doing various activities. Tammy's Assisted Living, Independent Living and Memory Care units are all pretty much full. Arbor House is getting ready to build a new Memory Care facility in Granbury as well as other places in Texas. Shaye Tipton is keeping very busy getting these new projects underway. Welcome to Texas!

Providence Place Woodward, Oklahoma

The official ground breaking ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 11th. There is some dirt work going on at the site. They are ready for the building to begin.

The Orchard Woodville, Texas

Betty had her State Inspection this week and **passed with NO deficiencies** again. This is 7 years in a row with no deficiencies. Congratulations! She has 38 residents with 2 more taking her last 2 apartments within the week. She continues to keep her building full. Good job. Betty is also working on improving her evacuation plan. Rita really caused them problems.

Country Elegance Stamford, Texas

Construction is almost complete. Paula has several residents waiting to move in. It looks really pretty from the outside. I drove by it the other day. I know they are all anxious to get it open and filled up.

Legacy Retirement Dalhart, Texas

Tammy has only 2 apartments available. She has 15 residents in and waiting on her inspection from CBA to move in the rest. That inspection is happening this week. Everyone is getting adjusted to their new environment. Staff is doing well and helping their residents to adjust.

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TALA Conference Reminder:

Mark your calendars for this conference. It will be held in Dallas this year on August 23-

25 at the Marriott Quorum. We will be hosting a Merrimac night for all our Managers to get together, meet each other and just have a good time. You will be able to get all your CEU's for the year at this conference. If you have not attended one in the past, they have a trade show in conjunction with the conference so you can see what new gadgets are out there in the industry. I will send the registration forms to each of you as soon as I receive them. Hope to see you all there!

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Disaster/Emergency Plan

After talking with several of you this week, one thing you have in common is your Disaster/Emergency Plan deficiency. This is a very real concern given the hurricane season last year and the projections for this year to be as bad or worse. The State is really harping and coming down on Assisted Living Communities on this topic. Crystal has just discovered a website that has a format for disaster plans that DADS has approved. This website is www.mrcaff.org and click on Hurricanes. Crystal has joined a Task Force in the Houston area made up of Assisted Living, Independent and Nursing Home Administrators. This Task Force is working on improving their Emergency Preparedness efforts on the Gulf Coast.

Improved Mood

You do not have to engage in a vigorous exercise program to improve one's health. Activities such as a brisk walk or gardening will improve mood and sense of well-being. It is important to exercise for at least 30 minutes each day, at a minimum of 10 minutes at a time. 5 days a week.

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Other Communities who have shown interest in bringing assisted living to their towns:

Dumas is currently having a Master Plan done that includes Assisted Living as well as Independent Living. This is being done by Rees & Associates. Merrimac is doing the study.

Snyder is also having a feasibility study done at the present time. They have visited Rotan and other facilities and like what they see.

At the TORCH Conference I talked with Steve Hartgraves in Spearman, Jimmy Stuart in Mexia, Larry Parsons who will be in Eagle Lake in June, Robert Ezzell in Canadian, Lynn Heller in Muenster, Tami Burks in Irann, as well as others. Hopefully we can help some of these communities get on the Assisted Living Wagon with the rest of us. If any of you get calls for any of these folks to tour your facility, I know you will be happy to show off your place.

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