



RICHFIELD

News about Richfield Living and its people

Life

Summer 2017

Celebrating the Seasons

Richfield cottage and apartment residents celebrated summer and patriotic events at a well-attended Patriotic Picnic around the gazebo between Knollwood and Ridgecrest. There were hamburgers with all the fixings, macaroni salad, baked beans and watermelon. Patriotic songs were provided by Keith Campbell, recently retired from the National D-Day Memorial Foundation. See more celebrations of spring and summer activities inside this edition of Richfield Life.

To see more photos of the picnic, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RichfieldLiving

More than 75 residents turned out for the Patriotic Picnic in July.



Jean Hawley and Keith Allard, who is patriotic right down to his shorts, dress the part for the picnic.



Marian Roach and Leroy Johnson enjoy the fresh air and fellowship.

(left) Mary Cumbee grins as she prepares to enjoy the all-American picnic.

Setting the mood for The Oaks' Happy Days All Day



Andy Bryant dances in his chair with Katrina King, with a little help from Jimmy Smith.

It was “Shake, Rattle and Roll” at The Oaks’ residents spring party. There were plenty of poodle skirts, cat-eye glasses, leather jackets, and blue jeans rolled up above the ankles.

There were mini-hamburgers, French fries and onion rings for lunch which set the mood for the 1950’s “Happy Days All Day” event in May.

A juke box where residents happily pushed buttons to play their favorite music looked like it could have come from Mel’s Diner. It was such a hit that The Oaks’ Life Enrichment Coordinator Debbie Tingler said she was considering buying one. “We could use our bake sale money,” she explained.

The party rocked around the clock starting with an antique car show that morning on the front lawn of The Oaks and ending with dancing away the late afternoon.

Charlotte Allman wore her husband’s letter sweater, with C for Christiansburg. Ninety-four-year old Ina Caldwell showed off her black poodle skirt. Another resident proudly held up a high school class ring. Then there were the sunglasses, slicked back hair and pedal pushers.



Allman’s daughter Cathy Eversole transformed her mom’s white sandals into “saddle oxfords” by applying black tape and adding shoelaces.

“They really go all out for us,” Allman said. It’s been a really good day. It makes you remember when.” She enjoyed the atmosphere so much, she asked, “Are we going to do this every day?”



Charlotte Allman wears her husband’s letter sweater from Christiansburg High School.

Volunteer Pam Bayse and Tingler made “ice cream sundaes” centerpieces out of carnations, which set the party mood at the four-person round tables covered with red-checked tablecloths.



From left, Millie Wade, John Barger, Verna Walter and Wilma Corron toast the afternoon with 7-ounce Coke bottles.



Jean Chester gets a Coke from server Tracey Meade.

Ruby Hash delicately nibbled the cherry in her real banana split. Residents sipped from mini-Coke bottles through straws, remembering Saturday night dates.

Sylvia Albert liked the food. "I had a little bit of everything," she explained.

Some dressed a little fancier than poodle skirts and jeans, using what they had. Freda Givens admired Jewel Bowman's pillbox hat.

"It's an old one. I've had it on a shelf in the attic," Bowman said. "It may be from the '50s. I just wanted to wear it," she added.

Some danced holding onto chairs. "The juke box brings back so many memories, like when I was in college at the University of California. I'm 96 now," Jean Chester said.

Judy Perrine with friend, Myrtle Viar, enjoyed it all.



Ina Caldwell shows off her poodle skirt in front of the juke box at the Happy Days All Day 1950s party at The Oaks.

This event won third place for the 2017 VHCA D.A. Woody Brown Community Involvement Award!



JCT residents 'visit' Magic Kingdom



Stella Agee dances with Mickey Mouse. It was Agee's dream of going to Disney World which prompted planning for the Disney Dreams party.

Photo by Beverly Adams

Stella Agee always wanted to visit Disney World but didn't get the chance until she was 89.

That's when she got to dance with Mickey Mouse at a 'Disney Dreams' gala party at the Joseph C. Thomas Center (JCT).

"I danced with him and I would again, if he asked me," a beaming Agee said at the end of an exciting evening filled with enchanted princesses, a splendid three tiered cake and fireworks. Many of the 85 residents danced with members of the Glenvar High School Football Team and piano student volunteers, to live music as well as a DJ playing favorite 1960s tunes and more.

The event was inspired in part by Agee's wish on her bucket list. "She didn't have children so she didn't get to go to Disney World," JCT Life Enrichment Coordinator Bev Adams explained. So Adams brought Disney World to her residents, starting with a Lego version of Cinderella's castle in the lobby.

Others with a particular fondness for all things Disney who contributed to the atmosphere included Ann Zambacca and her daughter, Kristi Archer, who donated almost \$800 of her extensive Disney memorabilia for the event.

"I think it's my favorite party of all the spring galas JCT has held each spring," said Katie Jones, JCT Administrator.

The evening started out with a resident Royal Court four-course candlelit dinner, while Tom Adams played piano music at a baby grand topped by the famous candelabra character, Lumière, from the Disney animated movie, "Beauty and the Beast."



Tom Adams plays dinner music with the talking candelabra, Lumière, from "Beauty and the Beast" on the piano.

Later a four-tiered cake topped with Minnie Mouse's polka-dot bow and mouse ears was unveiled, surrounded by

individual strawberry shortcakes, strawberries skewered to look like Mickey's bow tie, and nearby, a cantaloupe with Mickey ears.

Residents wore formal black, white and red outfits – the colors of Mickey and Minnie – as well as bright, shiny dresses and colorful shirts. Richfield staff and volunteers from United Healthcare helped them choose their outfits and get ready.



Ann Zambacca gets a hug from Minnie Mouse. Zambacca's daughter, Kristi Archer loaned her collection of Disney memorabilia for the Disney Dreams party.



In addition to Mickey and Minnie, Disney characters included Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella, Aladdin and more.

*This event won first place for the
2017 VHCA D.A. Woody Brown Community Involvement Award!*





Audrey King checks out the alpacas.



Chloe Vincent gets pink cotton candy because pink is her favorite color.



Administrator Sue Devine splashes down again after Steve Parker of Housekeeping hits the dunking booth target.



Brenda Wilson pets Susie Q the goat held by Life Enrichment Coordinator Ayla Hartless, to the delight of aide Angela Habler.

RCC residents have a blast at National Nursing Home Week carnival

A dunking booth, Little Critters petting zoo, snow cones, cotton candy and residents in straw hats decorated the lawn on one of the first really hot days of spring.

Administrator Sue Devine was the first to splash into the still-cool water – much to the delight of Recovery and Care Center residents – when her own mother, volunteer Nancy Lafave, lobbed a ball directly at the Easy Dunker’s target.

The event took place on the lawn behind the Recovery and Care Center to celebrate National Nursing Home Week.

In the shade, volunteer Thomas Harper of United Healthcare spun a batch of “Boo Blue” cotton candy, obligingly changing it to pink for Chloe Vincent, as pink is her favorite color.

Nannie Bowens gingerly touched a fluffy white Polish Silky rooster, while Brenda Wilson

petted Susie Q the goat with assistance from aide Angela Habler and Life Enrichment Coordinator Ayla Hartless. Doug King helped his mom, Audrey, stand up to get closer to the alpaca and donkey, Tucker and Rufus, in their fenced enclosures.

There were bunnies and ducks, too. The farm animals prompted one resident to say, "I've had a wonderful time," and Miss Nannie to add, "I have fun when I come out here."

The event that more than 60 residents attended was arranged by the life enrichment staff of the Recovery and Care Center.



Nannie Bowens gingerly touched a fluffy white Polish Silky rooster.

Fort Lewis students meet long-ago graduate



Members of the Fort Lewis Elementary School Council were invited to the Ridgecrest Resident Council meeting, where they received a check as a token of appreciation for work the student organization does at their school which is near Richfield Living.

They also met a long-ago graduate, Betty Thornton, who now lives in an apartment on the Richfield campus.. The box top credits and money the students raise through other projects goes toward purchasing equipment and supplies for the school.



Photo by Debbie Tingler

Millie Wade did it again, catching the biggest fish at our annual fishing event. She caught an 18-inch big-mouth bass using a night crawler. The lucky fish was released so it could entice residents again next year.

Access Control system gives residents more safety, control

It's after dark and Nell Land and her company have been out for ice cream.

She doesn't have to fumble for a key or call for security to let her in the building.

"With the keyless entry fob, I don't have to mess with a key, and it's especially nice if your hands are full," she said. "I just feel so secure knowing the building is locked 24 hours a day but it's easy for residents to get in," Land said.

The new Access Control system that went into place this spring at Knollwood and Ridgecrest Apartments has been enthusiastically accepted by residents and their families.

Phyllis Morris agrees. "It really adds to the security of the building," she added, showing a visitor how waving the fob in front of the sensor makes the foyer's outside and the inside doors swing open for residents.



Phyllis Morris shows how residents can use their keyless fobs to open lobby doors. Visitors have to buzz residents from the kiosk before being allowed in.

Cottage residents' key fobs will get them into Knollwood so they can attend classes such as yoga.

Tim Mills, head of Richfield's security, likes the system, too.

"The Keyless Entry system provides 24-hour accessibility for the residents, and allows them to facilitate visits from family members. All a family member has to do is call their resident from the kiosk in the foyer, and the resident can unlock the door from inside his or her apartment," Mills explained.

Before the Access Control was installed, Knollwood and Ridgecrest main doors were unlocked during the day. Anybody who wanted to enter after 10 p.m. at night or before 6 a.m. had to call campus security and wait for an officer to arrive to unlock the building door.

Betty Jean Harris likes the fact that "You don't have strangers coming into the building and not knowing who they are." Even the postman or UPS has to ring the office to get in to deliver packages.

"Now it's putting more control in the hands of the residents as far as who comes to see them," Mills added.

He said the system was "initially met with a little uncertainty, but within two weeks people became quite happy with it."



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