

RICHFIELD *News about Richfield Living and its people* Life

Winter 2018

Celebrating and Remembering



The drone flight overview shows the “Tree of Life & Lights” lit during the Nov. 28 ceremony and lights throughout the campus reflected in the front lake.

>> With laughter, love and tears, Richfield Living residents celebrated the last days of 2017 and



Ramona Reynolds rings in the New Year with fellow residents.

brought in 2018 with sparkling cider, a confetti drop and fun.

>> Residents got their first look at Mountain View Lane, the new 21-resident household located in the Richfield Recovery and Care Center. Residents who live there are involved in making their care choices

and directing their daily routines, including when they want to wake up, when they want to eat and choosing when they want to bathe!

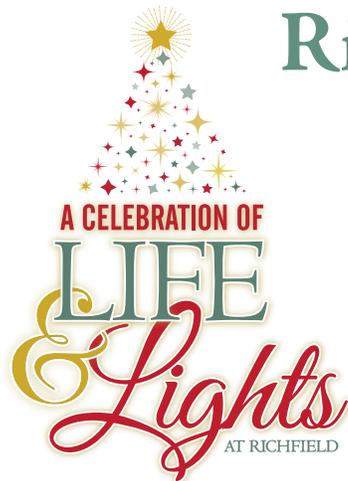
>> On #GivingTuesday, Nov. 28, Richfield residents, families, team members and guests honored those they cherish and those who have passed with a new tradition: A Celebration of Life & Lights.

>> In other recent highlights, Miss Virginia visited with veterans, and Santa and Mrs. Claus brought out the child in each person at Christmas parties in each residential area. And a live nativity portrayed by residents brought home the true meaning of the first Christmas.

>> Longtime nurses Martha Altizer and Linda Wells retired after 43 for Martha and 32 for Linda. As Martha puts it, “Nursing is just the gentle art of caring.” Read more about their service inside this issue, as well as other stories and pictures of the Richfield community and its people.



A porch rocker beckons and a front door and doorbell mark the entrance into “Mountain View Lane,” Richfield’s new 21-resident household where residents determine the course of their day.



Richfield Living holds first ever 'Celebration of Life & Lights'

Richfield Living's Celebration of Life & Lights was a new tradition created with the intent to encourage the Richfield community

and friends to take time to reflect and remember, and to celebrate those who made a difference in their lives.

The evening featured a message of hope by Chaplain Gary Kingery, music, as well as hot chocolate and cookies!

Residents Jennie Sue Murdock and her husband Bill were among the 150 people seated in attendance. "It was cold outside and but extremely heartwarming," she said.

The Nov. 28 event took place at the lower lake and culminated to the lighting of a 20-foot-tall "Tree of Life and Lights", which stayed illuminated throughout the holiday season.

The tree was made possible through the generosity of John M. Oakey & Son Funeral Home, who agreed to be a three-year sponsor.

"This is our community, our family and friends. It is an honor to help bring comfort and healing to the families we serve and the greater community," said Jon Wilson, VP/General Manager of John M. Oakey & Son Funeral Home.

Richfield Living President and CEO George Child found out

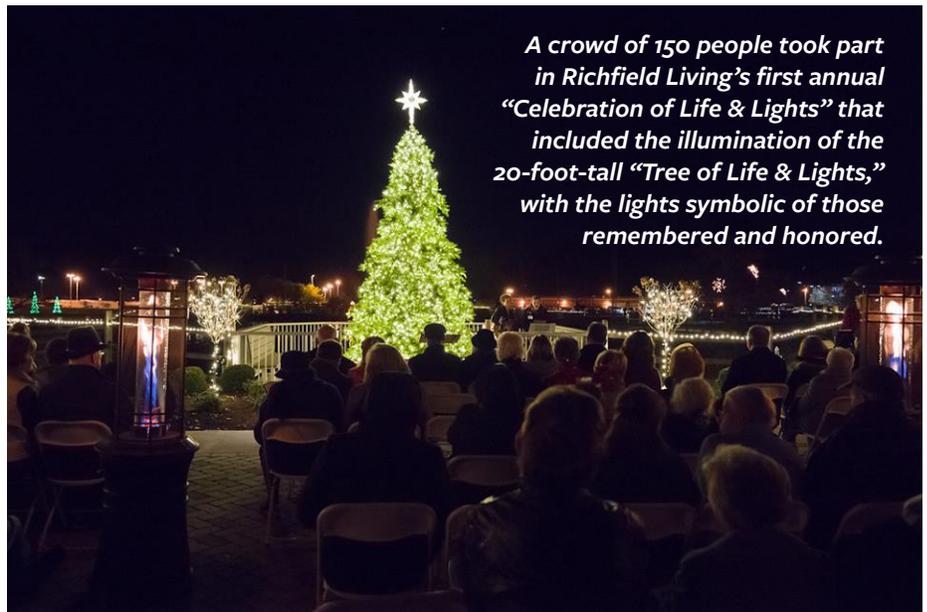


Chaplain Gary Kingery shares a message of hope.

how much a remembrance ceremony can mean to families. He explained how he sat next to a couple whose mother was a resident seven years

ago before she passed on, "and how happy they were to come back to Richfield, to reconnect with the community and to take time to honor and remember their mother," he said after the event.

The event took place on #GivingTuesday – the new national movement celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving that kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. As part of the celebration, individuals were invited to participate



A crowd of 150 people took part in Richfield Living's first annual "Celebration of Life & Lights" that included the illumination of the 20-foot-tall "Tree of Life & Lights," with the lights symbolic of those remembered and honored.

in remembering those they cherish with a contribution. More than \$30,000 was raised as part of the event, with \$25,000 designated for the Assisted Living Legacy Fund that helps Richfield provide financial assistance to those living in assisted living who lack options to further meet their cost of care.

“Many thanks are due to all who made this evening possible and so memorable,” said Stephanie Landes, Marketing and Fund Development. “It was wonderful seeing the community band together to express their thanks and gratitude for those they hold dear. This first event was such a great success.”

‘Welcome Home’ to Mountain View Lane

There’s a “Home Sweet Home” sign over the front door, and a rocking chair. There’s more of a feeling of home than the traditional nursing home. That’s the idea for Mountain View Lane which opened Dec. 11 – it was created with a person-centered approach.

Residents who choose to live there are encouraged to shape their physical environment as well as their daily routines – right down to when they get up, when they want to bathe, and what they want to eat, any time of day or night.

“I’m ready to move in right now!” resident Ida Eller said. She doesn’t need the medical assistance available there yet, but was intrigued.

Mountain View Residents chose the name “Mountain View Lane” for their new household, which formerly was 2-East. Except for its physical location, there is little which looks like the former area.

In order to enter the household, visitors have to ring the doorbell located by the front door, next to an inviting rocking chair.

“It’s bringing respect back to the residents,” explained Richfield Recovery & Care Center Administrator Andy Jones.

There is a homey living room where they can watch a large-screen television from recliners, if they wish. A giant checkerboard, fireplace and comfy chairs invite

residents and guest to enjoy each other’s company. In the parlor near the front door, a partly completed jigsaw puzzle waits near a 100-gallon aquarium with colorful fish. When it comes to meals, the dining room is across the way, encouraging fellowship and everyone has a place at the table. Off the living room is a smaller dining area available for family get-togethers or conferences. Nearby is the kitchenette where residents can always find some of their own favorite snacks.

The idea of Mountain View Lane is to shift away from an institutional model of care, and redefine how care and services are delivered to our residents.

“It’s a true family concept,” said Scotti Hartman, Richfield Living’s Director of Community and Provider Relations.

All the nursing staff, life enrichment team and others who make up the Mountain View Lane team have gone through special training for the new household, explained Ayla Hartless, Household Coordinator, and Tam Dawyot, Clinical Coordinator.

“We claimed the household before it was finished, with all the team members writing scriptures on the floor before it was covered with carpet,” said Ayla.

In Mountain View Lane, there are 13 private rooms and four semi-private rooms. To learn more, please contact Scotti Hartman at 540.380.6555.



Resident Joanne Armstrong gets a tour of the kitchenette in Mountain View Lane from Andy Jones, Administrator of the Recovery & Care Center and The Rehab Center, and Tam Dawyot, left, Household Clinical Coordinator.

Christmas cheer spreads throughout Richfield residences

Candles glowed, greens and stockings were hung, and dressed-up residents got visits from Old St. Nicholas himself – with his wife!

The Christmas season was celebrated throughout the Richfield Living campus, both inside the buildings and out.

It kicked off when residents filled Richfield’s bus to ride and wave in the annual Salem Christmas Parade, accompanied by costumed staff and friends as Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Olaf and Belle from favorite Disney movies.

Throughout the season residents sang along to Christmas carols and other holiday music, and children and adult groups from the community serenaded.

Residents dressed the part of the Angel, Joseph and Mary holding a



Santa hugs resident Dale Beaty



Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Bennett enjoyed the Christmas party together.

baby doll to portray the Nativity in an effort to remind viewers of the meaning of the Christian Christmas.



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus give resident Leona Willett a gift.

Residents, families and guests sampled favorite holiday party foods at afternoon and evening parties where chefs carved ham and Cajun Spiced Roast Turkey. At other times, residents even made and decorated their own gingerbread houses.



Edie Yee was happy to host her family, Scott and Karen Rice and granddaughter Joanna Pawl.



Granddaughter Kelsei Holmgaard visits with grandmother Lucille Akers.



Verna Hassellman is happy to get a hug from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Additional Holiday Festivity Photos



John Barger shares the festive mood with his family at the Christmas party.



Residents gathered for a group greeting photo after decorating the lobby's Christmas tree.



Happy residents ride the Richfield Living bus to wave throughout the Salem Christmas Parade.



The Stardusters play old and newer holiday favorites for residents and friends.



Santa visits with Ruby Hash, her great-nephew and niece.



Richfield residents put on a live nativity for guests, family and visitors, and read the Christmas story out loud. Here are Joseph, Mary with the Baby Jesus and the Angel who brought the good news.



Olaf from "Frozen" stole the show as he walked with other Richfield staff and friends.



Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Belle from "Beauty and the Beast" and friends walked along with the Richfield Living bus in the parade.

Martha Altizer, Linda Wells retire after 75 years total caring for residents

Neither Martha Altizer nor Linda Wells thought she would be working at Richfield Living as long as they did. Together, the nurses took care of residents for a total of 75 years.



Martha Altizer retired in December 2017 after 43 years of dedicated service and leadership at Richfield. During her tenure, she acquired her license as an Assisted Living Administrator and for the last 20+ years served as Director of

Nursing and Assistant Administrator for the T. Stuart Payne and Joseph C. Thomas Assisted Living Centers.

Martha came to Richfield as a nurse on August 5, 1974, after graduating from Roanoke Memorial's School of Nursing. Her mentor was Virginia Young, RN, who started work at Richfield two years before Martha and stayed 20 years. "She just had a wealth of nursing experience and caring, which is what it takes," Martha said in a 2014 interview.

When Martha started working at Richfield, the campus consisted of only the west wing of the nursing center and a number of old buildings and cottages that stood behind the nursing home. There was no assisted living, apartments



Martha Altizer, left, called Virginia Young the mentor who taught her about patient care at Richfield.

or cottages. The main kitchen was located in a separate building behind the west wing and many of the team members lived on-site in some of the cottages and in trailers on the property.

Like all nurses at that time, Martha wore a starched white uniform dress, cap, white shoes and stockings while on duty. She maintained near perfect attendance in her 43 years at Richfield. Many a time over the years she went home to Christiansburg long enough to pack a bag to come back to stay overnight, for as long as needed, to care for residents during bad weather. Her emphasis was always to spend time with residents. "You can always make time to sit with someone and make a difference," she said.

"My husband never complained about my late hours," she said, referring to Jim who passed away from cancer six years ago. They were married for 38 years. Their children are Amanda, who is a Nursing Assistant and Med Tech at The Oaks, and Wesley, who works for Norfolk Southern. Martha enjoys spending time with her parents, Chester and Claudine Sowers of

Floyd and also enjoys time with her mother-in-law, Helen Altizer of Riner. She is an active member of Christiansburg Church of the Brethren and is an avid reader. As time allows, she plans to serve as needed in Richfield's PRN pool.

Linda Wells, an LPN who always worked the 11 p.m.-7 a.m. shifts at Richfield's Recovery and Care Center until she moved over to do the same at The Oaks two years ago, retired in January 2018 after 32 years of dedicated service.

Linda started her nursing career at Community Hospital before coming to Richfield.



Linda Wells, right, gets a congratulatory hug from The Oaks' Administrator Debbie Conway at Linda's Jan. 5 retirement celebration.



“I had never set foot in Richfield until I applied for a job,” she said.

“I went there expecting to work for a while and then go back to Community. I stayed because Richfield was good to me.”

She recalled working through the Blizzard of '93, working 40 straight hours, and also through the Flood of '85. I slept in a chair, never in a bed during those 40 hours. You just did it, as a caregiver and a person. Patients needed their medicine. It was actually fun,” Linda recalled.

She and her husband, Charlie, live in the Pedlar Mills community on a mountain near Elliston. “I only missed

one week of work over the years, during an ice storm,” she said.

Her night schedule worked well, Linda said, because Charlie worked days and their four children always had one of their parents caring for them. Their children are daughters Jennifer Eversole, Amanda Wheeler, an LPN at The Oaks; Ginger Gordon and son Samuel Wells. They also have seven grandchildren.

Richfield expresses deep appreciation to both Martha and Linda for their exceptional dedication to the nursing profession and to Richfield. Together they have touched many lives, and will leave a lasting legacy at the Richfield community.

Thornhill, Young named to Richfield Living Board of Directors

David Thornhill and Donovan Young are the two newest members of the Richfield Living Board of Directors.



David is president of his family’s business, Integrated Textile Solutions. It is a cut-and-sew manufacturing company in Salem, which specializes in sewn products for the military, law

enforcement and first responder industries.

For five years before he took over as president, he was managing member of Thornhill Properties in Naples, Fla., for five years, and for two years before that, he was senior internal auditor for a government operations team in Kuwait and Brazil.

David is a Washington and Lee University business graduate. He serves on the board of Center in the Square, is vice chairman of the Salem Family YMCA’s

board and the Salem/Roanoke County Food Pantry, as well as an active member of the Rotary Club of Salem, The Business Council, and Virginia State Chair for New Member Integration of the Young Presidents Organization, Southern Virginia Chapter.



Donnovan is manager of the Contact Centers & Operations for American International Group in Schaumburg, Ill. He is accountable for the creation of a start-up Contact Center for

Personal Lines Sales & Service, and provides leadership of business continuity plans for more than 2,000 employees in 30 different sites. He has 28 years of experience in insurance, ranging from planning and development of disability insurance underwriting to increasing productivity in call centers. Donovan graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in public health and minors in business administration and computer science. He has served on the boards of the American Heart Association, Boys & Girls Club, Bradley Free Clinic, and University of Tennessee College of Education, Health and Human Services.



Times Square doesn't have anything on Richfield Living's confetti drop!

Residents, family and team members enjoyed their Pre New Year's Eve celebrations. Music with Rob Smith and Carrington Kay were a hit, along with sparkling cider toasts, singing "Auld Lang Syne" and at Joseph C. Thomas, residents were thrilled by their first-ever confetti drop.



The lower lake was transformed into an icy beauty from the spray of the fountain when winter arrived. These beautiful photos were taken by Amanda Donathan, a Richfield team member.



Miss Virginia honors veterans

Miss Virginia 2017 Cecili Weber visited with Richfield Living residents and guests as part of the Veterans Day celebration. At The Oaks, the Hollins University graduate performed a contemporary dance piece for the crowd to Donna Summer's "Last Dance," which was her talent in the Miss Virginia pageant.

Miss Virginia 2017 Cecili Weber visits with Richfield Living resident and veteran John Ratliff as part of Richfield's month of giving thanks in November.



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Helping individuals experience life to the fullest, through every phase of their journey.

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