



# COVENANT WOODS QUARTERLY

NEWS & EVENTS FROM COVENANT WOODS, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

## They're here!

### Residents move into completed new wing.

A moving van arrived at Covenant Woods at 8:35 a.m. on May 23 with the household possessions of the first residents of the new wing, John and Florence Hill. Over the following six weeks, additional trucks and new residents arrived at the rate of two or three a day, and now, close to 56 new neighbors have completed the long-awaited move-in process.

With the three-year construction project finished, only minor details needed attention as June came to a



One of the many moving vans arrives.

close. While the painters handled last-minute touch-ups, first-day activity shifted to the Covenant Woods staff in bright red polo shirts, who stepped up to help make everything go smoothly for

the new residents and their movers. On that first morning, Courtney Shomo busied herself answering questions, seeing to a Continental breakfast, and gathering the gift baskets that awaited new residents. This special welcome included snacks, gift items, and even a microwavable, terry cloth-covered neck wrap to help ease move-in day tensions.

Meghan Reynolds, a college intern in Marketing and Development, was on hand to act as a first-day Ambassador. Over the course of the move-in period, additional staff members pitched in each day to welcome new residents and help with questions and issues.

So when Florence Hill walked down the hallway to her apartment, she found that day's newspaper already at the door, along with a warm welcome from Beth Richardson, Director of Marketing and Development. Later in the morning, when movers were busy bringing in furniture and possessions, President and CEO, Tim Johnson, stopped

*A warm welcome as Steve Barnes greets John Hill, the first resident to arrive on moving day.*



by and joined Florence in admiring the view from the Hill's third floor apartment, overlooking the new sod and plantings in back of the building.

Looking back on the project, Tim noted with pleasure how a team effort has made the three-year process go so smoothly. "Our staff did a wonderful job working and communicating with new residents ... and now that everything's finished, they're making all these move-in transitions easier, too."

Though the opening of the new wing is itself a cause for celebration, a truly special event is planned for early fall. Be sure to mark your calendar for the official Grand Opening on Friday, September 14. Refreshments and festivities are in store to mark the successful completion of this major milestone in Covenant Woods history.

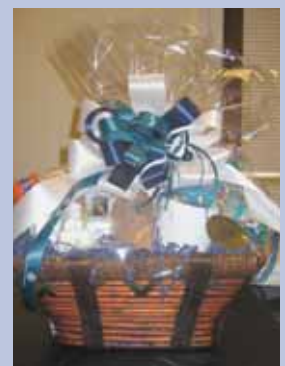


*New wing awaits the new residents and signs point the way.*



## Do Not Miss

- ❖ Covenant Woods Announces New Board of Directors
- ❖ Residents & Staff Thank Bob Andrus
- ❖ StoryCorp's Story
- ❖ Gwyn Keil (*Residents' Corner*)
- ❖ Events & Activities
- ❖ Residents & Staff Remember Virginia Tech Victims.



*Beautiful gift baskets welcomed the new residents in their new homes.*

*Photos by Courtney Shomo  
Bob Andrus and Linda Andrus.*



COVENANT WOODS JULY 2007

# Covenant Woods Announces 2007-2008 Board of Director Elections

The Board of Directors' membership for 2007-2008 has been elected for Covenant Woods. The senior living community in Hanover County has named James C. Lester as Chairman of the Board, Joseph E. Marshburn as Vice Chairman, and Leslie A. Shimer as Secretary. Newly elected to the twenty-one member Board, for three year terms, are Patrick J. Brady, Natalie Kent and James D. Elliott.

Mr. Lester, a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a B. S. Degree in Marketing, formed James C. Lester, Chartered Financial Consultant, Inc. in 2002. He received an advanced education in the Financial Sciences at the American College, Bryn Mawr, Pa. and was awarded a designation of Chartered Life Underwriter in 1968 and a designation of Chartered Financial Consultant in 1974. Mr. Lester is a Life and Qualifying member of the Million Dollar Roundtable and served as vice president in 1983. He is currently on the boards of VCU-School of Business; Salvation Army-Adult Rehab Center; and, since 2002, Covenant Woods. He is an active member of Beulah United Methodist Church; has been active in the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce, the Jaycees; the Kiwanis; Big Brother; and has served on the ARC Board of the Salvation Army since 1992.

Mr. Marshburn, a graduate of Richmond Professional Institute with a B.S. Degree in

Business, is retired, after many years of service to Reynolds Metals, as Chief of Purchasing for Plant and Construction. He has 27 years experience in the procurement of engineering, maintenance and construction services, process and operations equip-



*James C. Lester, new Chairman of the Board and Tim Johnson, CEO tour the new expansion at Covenant Woods.*

ment, raw materials and administrative supplies for both domestic and foreign facilities. Duties also included the development and direction of policies and procedures related to procurement activities. Mr. Marshburn is a certified purchasing manager, past president of Old Dominion Purchasing Management Association and past director of National Affairs, National Association of

Purchasing Managers. He is an active member of Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church, and became a member of the Covenant Woods Board of Directors in 1999.

Mrs. Shimer is a graduate of the College of William and Mary with a B.S. Degree in Psychology; a graduate from Boston College with a M.A. Degree in counseling, and a J.D. degree. She has worked for Bank of America and its predecessors for sixteen (16) years in the private bank focusing on estate and trust administration. Mrs. Shimer has also worked for several years in private practice concentrating in estate and trust work. She is a member of Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church and has served as a moderator of Board of Deacons, and served on the stewardship committee, the endowment committee and on the Sunday school committee. She is also Secretary of Richmond Estate Planning Council and became a member of the Covenant Woods Board of Directors in 2005.

Mr. Brady, a graduate of VPI with a B.S. in Civil Engineering; has spent 5 years as an officer in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps; then 10 years as the Director of Public Utilities in Portsmouth, VA; and 23 years as Director of Public Utilities in Henrico County, retiring in December 1999. Mr. Brady is currently working

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## Residents & Staff Thank Bob *Bob Andrus' job is nearly completed.*



*Beth Richardson presents Bob with a framed print of the artist's rendering of the new addition.*

When he walked into the Covenant Woods dining room on May 21, "Builder" Bob Andrus' plan was to give his final Monday update on construction of the new 50 apartment addition. He was surprised to find 60 or so residents of Covenant Woods gathered around for a surprise party to thank him for his open communication throughout the nearly three year building process.

When he recovered from his initial surprise, his first announcement for the delighted new Covenant Woods residents in attendance was that a

temporary Certificate of Occupancy had just been granted, and everything was a "go" for move-ins to begin two days later.

With his usual good humor, Bob noted that one of the reasons for a temporary Certificate was a finding that balcony railings had a gap of close to five inches instead of the four inches required by code. His smile and announcement that "one of you might fall through!" was met with a hearty burst of laughter from his audience. He went on to explain that the code is intended to protect children and said, "We have no problem with that ... we're going to get it fixed."

While the meeting was going on, last-minute painting was being done, final clean-up was continuing, phones were being hooked up and personal emergency systems (PERS) tested. But the new Activity Center was complete so that a warm welcome and Continental breakfast would be waiting each morning for everyone moving in.

Bob said, "It's been a pleasure being here ... you guys have been wonderful. I couldn't have asked for a better project, with the staff of Covenant Woods, and all of you, too. You made my job a whole lot easier. And getting to know all of you has been wonderful as well."

Beth Richardson, Director of Marketing and

*Bob kept the residents informed about the expansion in the Monday morning "Coffee with Bob" meetings.*



Development, took the opportunity to present Bob with a framed picture of the building, and said, "It wouldn't have gone so well if it hadn't been for Bob." A burst of enthusiastic applause showed that residents agreed.

Bob will remain on site through July to see that his project is completed. Covenant Woods is a lot larger, but it won't be quite the same without Bob.



*Residents give a warm "Thank You" to Bob for his work and frequent updates on the construction.*



*continued from page 2, New Board of Directors*

for Construction Dynamics Group, Inc, an ARCADIS company. He is a member of Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church and became a member of the Covenant Woods Board of Directors in 2007.

Ms. Kent a graduate of VCU with a B.S. Degree in Education, a graduate of VPI with an M.S. Degree in Adaptive Education, and a graduate of MCV with an M.S. Degree in Health Care Management. She is the president of Ginter Hall Communities in Richmond, VA. Ms. Kent is also a member of Westhampton UMC and presently serves as Chairwoman of Church Council and Missions Committee.

Mr. Elliott is a graduate of VMI and has been an active participant in the Keydet Club. He began a career in the financial services industry with the Bank of Virginia in 1986, and is currently a bond specialist with BB & T Capital Markets in Richmond. Mr. Elliott is a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he has been a member since childhood. He has served on many key committees of the church, including those responsible for stewardship, worship and a capital funds campaign. He has also served on the church's foundation board and became a member of the Covenant Woods Board of Directors in 2007.

## Board Room Named for J. Edwin Givens *Covenant Woods' Board recognizes volunteer service to the organization.*

On March 28, The Covenant Woods Board of Directors honored long time leader and Board member of Covenant Woods, Ed Givens, for his many years of service. The Board thanked Mr. Givens for his dedication and guidance through the many years of change at the Richmond Home for Ladies, and through its evolution into



*Ed Givens, honored for his many years of service.*



*Doors leading to Board Room named after Ed Givens.*

Covenant Woods, voting to name the community's new boardroom in his honor and electing him Director Emeritus. The following resolution was unanimously approved by the Board:

*Whereas, J. Edwin Givens has served Covenant Woods, and its predecessor, the Richmond Home for Ladies, in various capacities for over 40 years; and*

*Whereas, his wise counsel and keen business acumen have greatly contributed to the success of the Corporation; and*

*Whereas, his strong desire to provide caring, responsive services to residents has significantly contributed to the mission of the organization;*

*Therefore, be it resolved that the new "board room" to be completed in May 2007 be named the*

***J. Edwin Givens Board Room***

*and that a plaque with appropriate recognition of Mr. Givens' service to the Corporation be installed in the room.*

*Further, Mr. Givens shall be requested to continue to serve as a Director Emeritus of the Corporation.*

## Residents' CORNER

Gwyn describes her life as, "my church, my family and The Richmond Home for Ladies."

*Gwyn Keil,  
Resident of Covenant Woods*

## Forty years of volunteering define Gwyn Keil's life.



*Gwyn Keil volunteers to tell and record her experiences with Covenant Woods and the Richmond Home for Ladies for the benefit of future generations.*

Gwyn Keil and her late husband moved into Covenant Woods when it opened in 2001, and she has loved living here ever since. But her years as a resident represent just a small portion of her association. Starting when it was called "The Richmond Home for Ladies", Gwyn has spent a full and satisfying 40 years as a volunteer with the organization.

That's a long time to be associated with any activity, but Gwyn has clearly enjoyed every moment of it. When asked to describe her life, her immediate answer is, "my church, my family and The Richmond Home for Ladies."

She was a young adult when she and her husband settled in Ginter Park after a career-related sojourn in New York. As a former kindergarten teacher, and the mother of a three-year-old boy,

her interest at the time was focused on children. She had volunteered at Children's Hospital, but agreed when she was asked by her church to consider serving on the Board of Lady Managers at The Richmond Home for Ladies – which she knew nothing about at the time.

That was in 1967, and she has certainly been immersed in The Richmond Home for Ladies and in Covenant Woods since. She was told that serving meant "going to a meeting once a month," but it grew to be a large and defining part of her life. And it only took one meeting to impress her.

"I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the volunteers on this board," said Gwyn. "And the resident ladies I met! Well, I just came home thrilled with this and it grew from there." In those days, a volunteer Men's Board oversaw major decisions and finances for The Richmond Home for Ladies, and the Board of Lady Managers handled the day-to-day operations.

It didn't take long for Gwyn to become very active and to assume a leadership position. "I did become president of the Board of Lady Managers from 1970 to 1972," she said. "By that time, it was a full-time job where you were there every day. We had no administrator ... there was a director who planned the meals and hired the cooking staff. So the President of the Board and the other Lady Managers actually ran the home."

She continued her participation over the years, and when a combined male and female Board of

Directors was elected in 1987, she shifted her time and attention to The Richmond Home for Ladies Guild, and remains active to this day. Looking back, Gwyn says, "What I appreciate the most after all this time is the love expressed by the Guild, the Board of Lady Managers, the Board of Directors, the residents, the staff ... it's fantastic!"

Gwyn recently took part in National Public Radio's ongoing "StoryCorps" series of oral histories. She recorded many more memories of The Richmond Home for Ladies with Courtney Shomo interviewing her. If you'd enjoy listening to this rich set of lifetime recollections, contact the Marketing Department at 804-569-8007.



*Gwyn listens to previously recorded story while outside the StoryCorps' trailer in downtown Richmond.*



**JULY 2007 ACTIVITIES**

- July 12-Aug. 15— Richmond Shakespeare Theatre presents, - *Henry IV Part I* at Age Croft Hall
- July 20 — Musical performance by Keyboardist & Vocalist, Roberto Hennquez, 7:00 p.m., Covenant Woods, Community Center
- July 30 — Dr. Jane Stephen, Director of VCU Elderhostel's presents – "*Advancement in Life Long Learning*", 7:00 p.m. at Covenant Woods, Community Center

**AUGUST 2007 ACTIVITIES**

- Aug. 6-13 — Hanover School Supply Drive at Covenant Woods – drop school supplies off at any one of the baskets located throughout the building
- Aug. 20 — Doug Jones, Administrative officer for the Richmond FBI presents – "*Fighting Back Against Identity Theft*", 7:00 p.m. Covenant Woods, Community Center
- Aug. 16 — Covenant Woods Alzheimer's Memory Walk team kickoff event – Cheeseburger in Paradise, 11:30 a.m – 2:00 p.m. at Covenant Woods

**SEPTEMBER 2007 ACTIVITIES**

- Sept. 3 — Labor Day
- Sept. 7 — Beverly Bourse presents "*Private School to Boot Camp, Education for K-9 Companions*", 7:00 p.m. at Covenant Woods, Community Center
- Sept. 14 — Covenant Woods "**Grand Opening**" at Covenant Woods, Community Center, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Sept. 17 — Mark Russell Smith with the Richmond Symphony, 2:00 p.m. Covenant Woods, Community Center
- Sept. 24 — Doctor of Jazz presents, 7:00 p.m.- Covenant Woods, Community Center
- Sept. 27-Oct. 7— State Fair of Virginia

*Activities that are in red type are events held at Covenant Woods.*

*All other activities are in black type.*

*Holidays are in green type.*



**Covenant Woods' staff and residents take time out to remember the victims of the Virginia Tech tragedy.**



*Shannon Marling, leads Covenant Woods' friends, staff and residents in a prayer and moment of silence in remembrance of the Virginia Tech students and families.*

COVENANT WOODS  
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