A NEWSLETTER BY LIFESPIRE OF VIRGINIA

Community Matters

Five communities. One Vision. Where Faith, Wellness and Community Flourish.



Faith. Wellness. Community.

LifeSpireLiving.org

January - March 2020

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From the Editor



As we turn the calendar page and begin not only a new year but also a new decade, change is upon us. In the last year, each of our communities concluded renovation, expansion and construction projects. Lakewood welcomed more than 100 new residents after the culmination of its expansion project, while community members at The Culpeper settled into its new building that replaced the original

building that opened its doors 70 years ago. The Chesapeake updated its lobby and dining venues while simultaneously celebrating 50 years in operation and The Glebe opened the doors to its new memory care neighborhood. While our continuing care communities continue to thrive, we launched an at home program – Lakewood at Home – that offers seniors the ability to stay at home and age in place.

We are thrilled to share that our community is at an all-time high occupancy. At this time last year, we had just over 1,265 residents calling LifeSpire communities home. At the close of the decade, that number skyrocketed to nearly 1,401 and another 63 members of Lakewood at Home. Plans are in the works to make room for more while also continuing to improve the amenities and residences we have in place currently. While the expansion at Lakewood ends, we're updating the existing buildings to make sure they match the aesthetic of the new facilities. Soon we will break ground on new cottages at The Culpeper.

It's an exciting time to live and work at LifeSpire as we watch our communities thrive and grow. I know I personally can't wait to see what is ahead and I know we are looking forward to serving each and every one of you in the coming year and years to come.

—Hillary Smith







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COMMUNITY MATTERS

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LifeSpire of Virginia operates four unique continuing care retirement communities throughout Virginia: The Culpeper in Culpeper, The Glebe in Daleville, The Chesapeake in Newport News, and Lakewood in Five Communities. One Vision.

Richmond. Each community welcomes and supports people of all backgrounds in a faithbased family atmosphere.

LIFESPIRE OF VIRGINIA

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The Chesapeake Celebrates Its Golden Anniversary

Fifty years is a milestone in the life of any organization. For couples it's the golden anniversary -- symbolizing love, compassion, courage, understanding and wisdom. Late last year, The Chesapeake celebrated its 50th year in operation. Throughout the community's fifty years of service on the Tidewater peninsula, the team has sought to provide compassionate care in a faith-based environment every single day. Over the course of 50 years, that commitment translates to 18,250 days, 438,000 hours, or 26,280,000 minutes.

The month of festivities began Sept. 19 with a resident gala, complete with red carpet. Residents enjoyed a variety of entertainers, a unique selection of tasty delights, champagne and sparkling cider to celebrate the milestone. Attendees at the celebration received a 'message in the bottle' which featured the two winning anniversary poems submitted by residents and team members. Long stem yellow roses were the perfect finishing touch for a delightful evening. Sept. 24 featured a second gala for residents in assisted living and health care. On Sept. 26, the community hosted a town hall where the fiftieth anniversary video was unveiled. The event culminated with a performance of songs from 1969-2019, the community's years of operation, by The Chesapeake's chorus.

On Oct. 9, The Chesapeake hosted an outdoor, invitation-only community event for Chesapeake Club members, board members and government officials. The final event took place Oct. 23 for The Chesapeake's team members.

LifeSpire is grateful for all of the residents throughout the past 50 years who chose to live at The Chesapeake. We appreciate the families who entrusted the care of their loved ones to us and the caring staff who provided love and compassion for all residents.

Over the course of **50 years**, that commitment translates to **18,250 days, 438,000 hours,** or **26,280,000 minutes.**

Averett University's Dr. Tiffany Franks Joins LifeSpire Board

LifeSpire of Virginia is pleased to announce that Dr. Tiffany Franks, President of Averett University, has joined its Board of Trustees. The appointment comes as part of the organization's ongoing partnership with the university.

In her role as trustee, Franks will provide strategic leadership, planning and oversight for the organization.



Franks (pictured left) became President of Averett University in July 2008. With 24 years of senior-level administrative experience in

higher education, that began when she was 23 as the dean of students, Franks' leadership style and problem-solving expertise has led her through leadership roles in admissions, financial aid, student life, marketing and communications, public relations and fundraising. Before taking the helm at Averett, she served as the Executive Vice President at Greensboro College in North Carolina.

"Dr. Franks' expertise as a trusted leader, community developer and fundraiser will be a valuable resource as LifeSpire of Virginia continues to grow. Her participation on our board is a continuation of the partnership with Averett and our organization's commitment to lifelong learning, intellectual and spiritual growth for both residents and employees," said LifeSpire's President and CEO Jonathan Cook.

Jodi Leonard Takes the Reigns as Vice President of the VBH Foundation

LifeSpire of Virginia is pleased to announce that Jodi Leonard has been selected as the vice president of the Virginia Baptist Homes (VBH) Foundation. In this role, Leonard will lead the annual planning, relationship building and fundraising administration for the organization. For the past four years, she served as the organization's director of development. Leonard succeeds Pat Morris who retired in December 2019 after eight years of service.

"We are grateful to Pat for her service to the foundation. Her work will leave a lasting impact on our organization. While we are sad to see her go, I'm confident Jodi will pick up right where Pat left off," said Jonathan Cook, LifeSpire's President and CEO. "In Jodi's tenure with LifeSpire, it has become abundantly clear that she is dedicated to serving non-profits and is always willing to go above and beyond for the residents and staff in each of our communities. Her commitment to servant leadership and passion for our mission make it possible for our residents to live purposefully in their home long after their resources have been exhausted."

"T'm excited to step in this role and continue to make a difference in the lives of our residents, staff and families. Over the past few years, the foundation has grown into an active component of LifeSpire, strengthening our mission and work in each community," said Leonard. "What means the most is having our supporters trust us by investing in our services and mission. As the landscape for senior living starts to change, the foundation will play an important role in enhancing resident life by optimizing fundraising opportunities. I look forward to sharing ideas with our residents and staff to continue making positive change for all."

A Long Island native, Leonard has more than 25 years of fundraising experience in Virginia and New York. She recently received her designation as a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) from CFRE International signifying confidence in ethical fundraising, accountability, service and commitment to making a difference for good. She also completed a Leadership Intensive Training for New and Emerging Directors from the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.



Leonard (pictured left) attended Nassau College in New York, and received certification in fundraising from the University of Richmond's Institute on Philanthropy. She keeps busy at home with three children, two dogs and a guinea pig.

The Culpeper: A Photo Tour

In May 2019, The Culpeper opened the doors to its new building that was constructed on the site of the original building that was more than 70 years old and in need of an upgrade. Now, nearly a year after residents moved in, a photo tour reveals a state-of-the-art facility that incorporates familiar aspects of the old building. Take a look inside the \$33.5 million, 125,000-square-foot facility.



Welcome to The Culpeper's Main Lobby

where residents and guests can relax by the fireplace and watch our large flat screen television, socialize with friends and neighbors or start the day by reading the daily newspaper. The main lobby fireplace features brick from the original building and showcases the antique dining room table where residents used to eat in the original building. It has 10 leaves.





The chapel is part of the large assembly room which can be separated into three separate smaller sections for large group functions, smaller private occasions or group activities. The chapel hosts Sunday worship service, as well as Catholic mass, Episcopal communion and many other religious services. Featured in our chapel are five original stain glass windows to highlight our rich history and religious foundation.

Five Communities. One Vision.

Don't have time for a sit-down meal?

This is the perfect place to satisfy appetites. Diners can enjoy a grab-and-go salad or sandwich or choose to stay awhile to socialize with friends. This area is a great space to grab morning coffee or a delicious afternoon milkshake.



The dining room features beautiful architectural design including exposed beam and high ceilings. Three meals are expertly prepared exhibition style by the executive chef and dining team. This beautiful main dining room offers expanded dining hours to suit the preference of every resident.



The Culpeper's main level

activity room is one of the many activity spaces available. The programming team at The Culpeper boasts a wide variety of activities including art classes, cards games and group outings. The activity room is the central hub of programs where residents can see what is happening each day, make reservations for upcoming programming and spend time enjoying favorite activities. The activity room also is the home to Dakim, the brain fitness program.





The fitness room

is open to all residents and is directly adjacent to the therapy department. The area features the rehab to home neighborhood for physical, occupational or speech therapy needs. The fitness room has equipment for varying degrees of athletic endurance from beginner to expert. The Culpeper also features exercise programs daily which include yoga, walking, aerobics, chaircise and light lifting classes.



The health care and memory care neighborhoods

have large open concept living and country kitchen dining spaces featuring abundant natural light, wide hallways and large social gathering places with a fireplace and large flat screen television.

Many of the spacious all-private residences provide beautiful views of the countryside. Residents are able to furnish apartments with their favorite personal items or furnished rooms are available upon request. The Culpeper strives to provide person-centered care and believes each resident's style and individuality should be celebrated.

Each residence also features a personal, private bathroom with walk in shower, handicap accessible features and plenty of room to spare. Each room has personalized closet space to meet residents' storage needs.





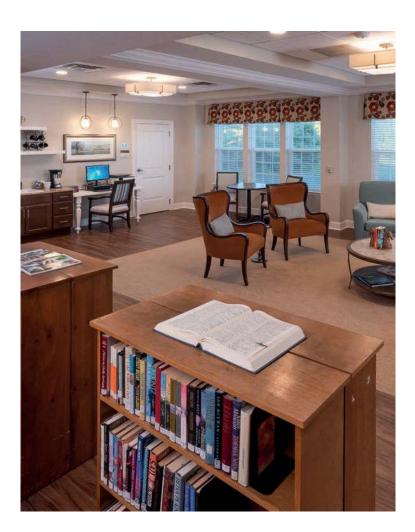
The hall leading towards the rehab to home neighborhood is beautifully aligned with stained glass windows. These windows were sponsored by Virginia Baptist Homes Foundation and made possible by donations from residents, staff and families in support of LifeSpire's VBH benevolent fund.

The Culpeper is the original site of Virginia Baptist Homes. The original cornerstone is featured at the entrance to remind all visitors of its rich history and beginnings.

The new building is beautifully landscaped and features outdoor living and dining spaces. The landscape offers magnificent views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the countryside. The Culpeper features a paved walking trail for outdoor lovers.

The health care and memory care neighborhoods offer additional activity spaces which are used for all residents' favorite activities, as well as an intimate space for private parties or functions. Both neighborhoods utilize the iN2L system to integrate technology into the lives of residents to enrich their lives through travel, connections and cognitive exercise.

The library is on the second floor where residents can relax and enjoy favorite books, read the morning paper, catch up a favorite magazine or visit with neighbors. A desktop computer is available for technology needs and the entire building features free WiFi.





Genea Luck, AARP Virginia associate state director for multicultural outreach, presents Culpeper Baptist Church Senior Adult Pastor Hans Murdoch with the award.

When asked to describe a typical day for him, Culpeper Baptist Church's Senior Adult Pastor Hans Murdock laughs. "I don't have typical days," he said.

That is because his time is split between service to The Culpeper and the church. It's a unique arrangement that began in 2015 as a result of a shared vision between Pastor Dan Carlton and LifeSpire's President and CEO Jonathan Cook. They hoped bringing a senior adult pastor on board would help to meet spiritual needs of residents and seniors in the broader Culpeper community.

"The local church should lead the faith conversations in our community and I think that most residents want to be connected to a local faith community," said Carlton. "It draws the church out of its shell and allows church leaders to be aware of greater needs."

For Murdock, those needs include Bible studies, resident and staff visitations and community event planning. He heads up the annual Christmas pageant at The Culpeper, day trips, game days and even a pickle ball group. Culpeper Baptist Church Named AARP Community Partner of the Year

"Our society is aging so there is a wonderful intersection between the aging of our congregations and the needs of our communities that are fertile for Kingdom work," explained Carlton.

Culpeper residents are not alone in the desire to provide these expanded faith connections. Senior citizens, home care and hospice agency staff, hospital representatives, service providers, faith community leaders, business employees, law enforcement and first responders and local government officials from Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock counties formed Aging Together— a collaborative effort to help these localities prepare for an unprecedented growth in the senior adult population.

The church facilitates a senior homebound food delivery ministry which Carlton said strengthens the partnership with The Culpeper, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and six other local churches. Once a month, program volunteers deliver food boxes to homebound seniors who would otherwise go without.

"This provides an opportunity for rural churches to become involved in the ministry, connect with seniors in their area and be available to meet spiritual needs that may arise," he said.



Additionally he worked with Brad Hales, pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church, to initiate Culpeper Livable Aging Community—a task force organization dedicated to helping mature adults age in place. The group is made up of local officials, community leaders and pastors of local churches who collaborate and work together to address issues seniors in the community face on a regular basis.

Carlton and Murdock both participate in Aging Together and while attending a meeting, they met representatives from the AARP. Noting the potential, Murdock forged the relationship. The church, under the direction of Murdock, collaborated with AARP to host four Movies for Grownups events, two Veterans Appreciation events, a Faith Leaders and Caregivers event and by hosting several planning committee meetings for the Aging Together Coalition.

The church also has several multicultural ministries including a Korean service, a Spanish group and it has promoted the AARP Prepare to Care resource books to their ministries.

By partnering, the organization saw firsthand the dedication of church leaders to local seniors. In November, Carlton was advised that Culpeper Baptist Church was the recipient of the 2019 AARP Virginia Community Partner of the Year Award. The award recognizes an organization or agency that has made outstanding contributions to the work of AARP by collaborating with volunteers and staff to enhance the quality of life for members of the community.

In the award letter, Genea Luck, AARP Virginia associate state director for multicultural outreach, stated she was proud to congratulate the church for its exceptional community partnerships. "Your willingness to welcome community members and host community events has a big impact in the lives of your neighbors," she said.

Murdock accepted the award on behalf of the church at the AARP's annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet in Richmond.

"Your record of collaborative achievement, service, and commitment provides an extraordinary example of the difference that community partnerships can make in the lives of individuals and in the wellbeing and vitality of a community."

While Murdock's schedule is jam-packed, he said all of it is flexible and changes as opportunities—like the serendipitous relationship with AARP—open up.

"We are always looking for partners who are interested in helping make our community a better place," he said.

Moving Day:

Lakewood Residents Settle into Hybrid Homes, The Clubhouse



and Marlene Rivas enjoy her view. Each hybrid home offers a private balcony.

Marlene Rivas had just put the finishing touches on her new hybrid home residence at Lakewood when she realized it was time to decorate for Christmas. For her, it's a week-long process that includes two trees, countless carolers and festive place settings for guests.

"I had seven trees before I moved to Lakewood: a red tree, one with pictures of all of my grandchildren, a silver and gold angel tree, one with animals, another with Santa Clauses and then my teddy bear tree. I had to give half of my ornaments to my kids!"



In addition to the holiday décor, Marlene said she gave family members dishes, crystal, china and the majority of her furniture before her move on October 24. She said it felt like she was spreading her home over the miles that separate her from her children and grandchildren. The biggest gift of all was of peace of mind. After the loss of her husband, Marlene decided to build a new "forever home." Like so many people, Marlene did not want to constantly call on her kids. She wanted to maintain her independence as she aged and her health needs changed.

"I was having some health problems and I was in a neighborhood with homes and couples and there were times I thought, 'do I call the rescue squad?' I was a little bit concerned about later, what would happen?" she said. "I thought if I became ill I'd hire someone to come in and take care of me, but then I thought I don't want to live with someone else. I didn't want to turn my house into a nursing home or turn it into an open door policy and lose my privacy."

At that time she said she saw a television advertisement about the expansion project at Lakewood Retirement Community that would include new hybrid homes, apartments and stateof-the-art amenities including a fitness center, pool, spa and restaurants.

The project began several years ago when LifeSpire conducted a thorough feasibility and development study prior to financing and design. In 2017, the old community center was demolished to make way for the amenity center and apartment building, known as the Clubhouse, and trees were removed to pave the way for hybrid homes. Since that time, Lakewood's team has been working diligently with prospective residents, residents, builders and county officials to prepare for the first new residents to move in starting in late October. The



new buildings house 44 apartments and 20 hybrid home residences.

Though Marlene had never really thought about moving into a community like Lakewood, the advertisement piqued her interest and she decided to check it out with her daughter. She signed up that same day.

"I was looking for square footage and a porch. The hybrid homes have more natural light and they're bigger. They're all a little bit different. I chose mine because of the balcony. Come springtime, it'll be wonderful on the porch."

Aside from time spent on her new balcony, Marlene said she most looked forward to decorating her new space. She brought her own chandeliers and begrudgingly parted with her grand piano. Now that everything is set up, she couldn't be more thrilled.



"When you're by yourself it gets lonely. It's easy to make friends here. I go to dinner almost every night and at least 10 people walk by and start talking to you. There's always something to do," she explained. "I have a group of friends, we talk about Lakewood all the time and most of them are on the list now. I knew I would feel more comfortable here and I want them to feel the same way."

That same sense of comfort is what brought Rebecca Moak and her husband David Richardson to Lakewood.

"I'm third generation in a retirement community. My great aunt and uncle moved to a community back in the 60s. My aunt was 66 years old, my uncle was 79. She lived in her independent apartment until she was over 100. So, my goal in coming here at 68 is to be here for at least 30 years if not more," she said.

For Rebecca, choosing Lakewood was an easy decision. Her parents lived in the community for years and she had the opportunity to go through all the levels of care with them. She said her mother always encouraged her to move in.

"I knew staff; I knew the process here and there wasn't a lot of staff turnover. I knew this was the place for me to be, so when the expansion opportunity opened I was able to jump on it," she said.

Rebecca moved into the new Clubhouse in November. Like Marlene, she said the process has

Moving Day: continued

been exciting. She has enjoyed finding new ways to display her favorite pieces of art and installed a custom glass-front cabinet and she looks forward to changing the décor inside. Her goal is to empty her storage units before the end of the year.

"Within two weeks of being here I just knew this was where I needed to be. I love my job and in some ways I'm very sad that that's coming to an end, but I didn't have a social life. My community was work and once work was over there was no community. Now I have my new Lakewood family. I'm starting my girl gang. My friends at work say I'm looking younger and they ask why and I say because I'm not stressed. Knowing you're where your place is feels great. I couldn't be happier."

Rebecca realizes she is one of the youngest people who live at Lakewood, but she is a champion for early planning and plans to take full advantage of a worry free lifestyle.

"I can pack my bags, get an Uber to the train station, go to New York, get on a ship, go across to Europe and not worry about anything. Being at Lakewood gives me the freedom to do things and not worry about someone coming to check on the house or is it going to be snowing? Are the pipes going to freeze? Some of the millennials are starting to understand that if they have smaller families or they only have one child, to put a burden on their son or daughter is going to be really difficult. Some are getting smart about it and starting to do planning. So, I'm trying to spread the word. It's not what a lot of people think."

Lakewood's Executive Director Barrett Way said a project of this magnitude is necessary for a retirement community to meet the changing expectations of prospective residents as well as to meet the future obligations of the contracts currently offered.

"Lakewood has always had a fantastic reputation for hospitality and loving care, but now we also have state of the art spaces and amenities to complement our staff and residents. Focus groups were conducted several years ago to garner interest from the surrounding community as well as to solicit feedback on what should be included in the project. From walking around the campus, you can tell there was a major focus on community, wellness and dining," he said. "The hybrid homes combine the best qualities of an apartment building with the sense of privacy offered by a single family home. Residents live in a community building, but also have the benefit of a garage, outdoor space, large balcony, large open floor plans and multiple exposures of light. The fact that there are only 10 residences in each Hybrid building makes it easy for all the residents to get to know each other."



Rebecca Moak shows Executive Director Barrett Way her balcony view, overlooking the water feature that will soon be completed.

Barrett agrees with the new residents: the construction and move-in process has been exciting, but not without challenges. He said welcoming 64 new families in 60 days was overwhelming, but the team took each day at a time to best prepare each apartment and new space for occupancy while maintaining the same high-quality services that the more than 400 existing residents have come to expect.

"We know that several months from now, our residents will be able to look back on this time period and be proud of the way our community came together to complete the project," Barrett said. "In December, we unveiled two of the three new dining venues as well as the indoor salt water pool."

In the meantime, Rebecca said she is enjoying watching the construction. It hasn't hindered her experience in the slightest. In fact, she describes the community like a cruise ship on land. She expects to have more to do than she even has time for.

"I'm looking forward to the day in a month or so of sitting in the spa when the snow is coming down and I'm just watching it while I'm sitting in this warm water. I found my bathing suits and I'm ready," she exclaimed.



The Chesapeake is pleased to announce its partnership with Cura Hospitality, a dining services and hospitality provider dedicated to enhancing life around good food. A leading specialist in senior living dining, Cura Hospitality began services in January.

"The Chesapeake family is excited about this new relationship. Our tradition of excellent food will be enhanced with this partnership. We are most impressed with the alignment of values and culture between The Chesapeake, a LifeSpire community, and Cura Hospitality," says David Loop, Executive Director for The Chesapeake.

According to David Nicholson, Cura Hospitality's district manager, "Cura Hospitality's operational excellence resonated with The Chesapeake administration. They were able to experience our personalized management style, dedication to preparing fresh and quality food and our firm's caring and nurturing culture."

The Cura Hospitality leadership team also took the time to meet and listen to residents who call The Chesapeake their home. "Cura Hospitality values and places a great importance on resident input. This is their home, so as their food service partner, our goal is to create a resident-centered culinary experience that reflects their lifestyle, regional tastes and traditions of The Chesapeake community," adds Nicholson.

Cura Hospitality's nutritional standards throughout The Chesapeake will create a healthy, well-focused and most of all- delicious food experience. Cura Hospitality's fresh and made-to-order food include a wide selection of chef-inspired entrees at each meal, madeto-order options including grilled seafood and steak, oven-baked pizza, entrée salads and homemade soups. For those with special nutritional requirements, Cura Hospitality provides gluten-free, allergen-friendly, vegetarian and vegan culinary options.

Through Cura Hospitality's Be Well wellness program and innovative marketing, residents will experience monthly food and seasonal promotions, in addition to encouraging personal growth and independence through hospitalityrelated activities and special events such as chef competitions, cooking classes, sustainable gardening, harvest days and brew clubs.



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The Culpeper *Culpeper*

The Chesapeake Newport News

The Glebe Daleville **Lakewood** *Richmond*

Lakewood at Home Richmond

Five communities. One Vision. Where Faith, Wellness, and Community Flourish.

Whether you enjoy the water or the mountains, the city or a charming small town, LifeSpire of Virginia has a retirement option that's right for you. Each of our four communities offers comfortable apartments and cottages in beautiful, inviting settings while our newly launched Lakewood at Home program provides you with the comfort of aging in your very own home. Regardless of the option or location you choose, our communities provide the peace of mind of continuing care should you or your spouse ever need it. Take advantage of the security of knowing your future is well-planned in an atmosphere where faith, wellness, and community flourish. To learn more, call (804) 521-9214 or visit lifespireliving.org.

