

PANORAMA

SUMMER 2025

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The
SUMMIT



HOME SWEET HOME

First residents move into new cottage neighborhood

Linda Cyr had the block to herself for a few days, but was happy to see neighbors move into Northside, the newest cottage neighborhood at The Summit.

“I’m really excited to see neighbors moving in here,” Cyr said.

Cyr was the first new resident to move into one of 18 cottages—the first major expansion project at the Life Plan Community in recent years. The first six cottages were ready for residents this summer with the final 12 on schedule for completion by Christmas.

“We are so excited to welcome new neighbors into The Summit community,” Marketing Director Brenda Dixon said. “These new cottages are the first step in expanding the housing offerings on campus.”

Cyr, who brought along her pups, Bear and Maggie, said The Summit’s expansion, which will include new dining options and a wellness and aquatic center, enticed her to secure a new cottage.



“Everything they were doing here seemed like it was going in the right direction for me.”

As an early depositor, Cyr was able to customize her cottage, including countertops, flooring, cabinets and paint colors. “It’s been a lot of fun to watch these cottages come to life,” Move-In Coordinator and Marketing Assistant Holland Lee said.

Dixon said early depositors for Hybrid Homes will have similar options to customize aspects of their new homes. The Summit Advantage Club is a key tool in planning for the future, allowing potential residents early access when they are ready to move.

For Cyr, the move made perfect sense. “It’s just wonderful,” she said. “I’ve been wanting to do this for several years.”

Cyr worked with Tamera Lemon to organize and downsize, along with a talented group of movers. “It takes a village and that’s what they’ve got at The Summit.”

The Summit team made moving in, even on the hottest day of the year, seamless. She mentioned to Dixon that a shelf in the laundry closet was a little too high, and shortly after, maintenance arrived to rehang it.

“The staff couldn’t be more accommodating,” Cyr said. “It’s just been a really super experience.”

The Summit recently started the Crown Club for new depositors and residents to get to know neighbors before moving in.

“Everyone has just been wonderful,” Cyr said. “I’ve had a chance to meet and get to know my soon-to-be neighbors.”

Cyr said the cottages are new and modern.

“To be able to have a cottage with a little space for the dogs is just a dream come true. They’ve done such a wonderful job in designing these.”



Linda Cyr and her dogs, Bear and Maggie, are happy to be settled in their new cottage.

HYBRIDS ON THE WAY

Construction begins on new Hybrid Homes

Construction is underway on new Hybrid Homes, a first-of-their-kind product in the Lynchburg Region.

Each building includes 11 Hybrids.

The first two buildings, which will be completed next summer, are fully reserved with The Summit developing a waiting list for additional Hybrids.

Early reservation gives depositors flexibility in selecting finishes for their home.

Marketing Director Brenda Dixon said joining the Advantage Club is a great way to plan for the future by ensuring a hybrid, cottage or apartment is ready when you are.

Hybrids are spacious homes with two-bedroom and one-bedroom options. Virtual tours are available for hybrids and cottages.

“We’re incredibly excited to bring this innovation and appeal to The Summit, especially since these hybrid homes are one of the most in-demand options at Lakewood, our sister community in Richmond,” Dixon said.

*Additional Hybrid Homes available for deposit in the coming months.
Call the Marketing Team today at 434.333.2138 for more information.*







Rotarians, residents team up to place peace pole in Wyndhurst

The Rotary Club of Forest and residents of The Summit recently teamed up to place a Peace Pole in Wyndhurst.

John Bates, a resident and member of the Rotary Club, approached Executive Director Kristi Martin about placing a Peace Pole inscribed with the inspiring words “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in eight languages, including English.

Martin helped Bates identify a parklet in the community. The pole is stationed in the shade beside a bench, allowing walkers or joggers on Enterprise Drive a chance to cool off and reflect on the essence of peace.

“If we keep talking about peace, maybe people will pay attention,” Bates said.

“If we keep talking about peace maybe people will listen.”
— John Bates, resident of The Summit & Rotary Club of Forest member —



Resident display art work

Residents recently showed off their creativity during the Resident Art Show.

“An art show is a fantastic way for residents to connect, share what they’re passionate about, and display their artwork for others to enjoy. Art is a powerful tool that genuinely helps people express themselves,” Move-In Coordinator Holland Lee said.

Lee worked with Wayne Greenlaw, Chair of the Art Committee, to coordinate the display. Residents welcomed guests at an opening reception.

“The art show opening reception was a huge success, with nearly 100 people attending. We also hosted a more intimate Meet the Artist Reception, which let the artists share details about their work that is on display,” Lee said.

Residents shared a variety of art mediums.

“The Resident Art Show is a great opportunity to foster intergenerational connections and allow residents to showcase their talents and their work to their friends, neighbors and loved ones,” Lee said.





Water Ride

Residents took a unique trip down the James River, featuring beautiful views of Lynchburg, with historical experts during the James River Batteau Festival.





Melinda Dellert receives the Virginia Baptist Homes Foundation Influencer Award from The Summit Executive Director Kristi Martin and VBH Foundation Vice President Jodi Leonard. Melinda joins two other Influencer Award recipients Hazel Harrison (left) and Virginia Marshburn (right).

Melinda Dellert receives Influencer Award

Melinda Dellert recently received the Virginia Baptist Homes Foundation Influencer Award.

Melinda, who grew up in a family of faith at the Moravian Church, spent her early years filled with music and community service.

She began piano lessons at the age of five and often played in her church, nurturing a lifelong love for music.

Melinda's professional journey began in Winston Salem, where she worked primarily as a secretary. After moving to Lynchburg in 1976 with her husband Jim, she continued her career at a private girls' school for nine years.

Melinda and Jim met on Christmas Eve through mutual friends. Jim, a classically trained musician and pastor, brought an autoharp to a Christmas gathering, having

just visited a nursing home. Their shared love for music and faith blossomed into a 36-year marriage.

Together, they moved to Lynchburg, where Jim served at Westminster Presbyterian Church and later helped establish Forrest Community Church, retiring after 18 years.

Melinda, who moved to The Summit 10 years ago, is deeply influenced by the sense of extended family within her community, finding joy and support among her neighbors.

"I believe that I am created for a purpose and I am part of a greater creation and my service is to reach out beyond myself and bring what joy I can to others. Each of us, I believe, are gifted particularly by God and mine is music. I've used it throughout my life in church, my school life and in my communities," Melinda said.

In the coming year, Melinda hopes to continue playing the piano for worship services and in Assisted Living, sharing her musical talents with the community.

"At 84, I see how music has brought joy and comfort to me. To share something like that is particularly special to me. I feel I was given the gift and it's my duty in response to the gift, to share it with others."

Melinda is an active member of her community, serving on the church choir, resident council, and book club.

She enjoys crocheting shawls for those in need and is always ready to lend a helping hand.

"I was quite humbled by receiving the Influencer Award. There are so many here that give so much of themselves to this community," Melinda said.

Residents share careers in the CIA

The Summit now has three women in residence who had clandestine careers. Hazel Harrison was recently joined by Liz Leukroth and Barbara Dobos.

These ladies worked at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for a total of over 90 years during the time of the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War.

All worked parts of their careers at CIA Headquarters Building in McLean, Virginia and other times, they volunteered for assignments domestically or on one or more of five continents.

Some of their assignments were as short as a few days or as long as several years. All three worked in the administrative field.

Sometimes, their responsibilities were broader when stationed overseas. Regardless of the assignment, duties included: preparation of reports either for superior officers or to transmit back to Headquarters; serving as a finance officer for the area in which they were assigned; providing logistics support to the station by contracting for the necessary administrative supplies; providing other tasks as directed by the officer in charge such as organizing events in support of VIP visits, or interface with other government agencies.

Working at the CIA was definitely not a 9 - 5 job. Many times, they might be required to work seven

days a week or to be on-call 24 hours a day. This was especially the case when assigned overseas.

If assigned to dangerous or “hardship” posts, they normally received additional financial compensation. Many times, each experienced being called into the office to handle details within their individual scope of expertise.

In addition, they might have to assume the responsibilities of another officer to ensure the mission was accomplished. It was always to their advantage to learn the duties of every person assigned to our office.

In our positions, we were keenly aware of the classification of documents, information, and areas of intelligence.

The three basic classifications were “Confidential, Secret or Top Secret.” They were not allowed to discuss work outside of the work place or even with spouses or roommates. This requirement was known within their circle as “the need to know.”

For each of them, there were some long days, but many times they



might have a once-in-a-lifetime experience such as meeting and shaking the hands of the sitting U.S. President, seeing the Bob Hope Show in Vietnam while on the front row, attending a dinner at a National Palace, going on a safari in Africa, traveling on the USS Constitution, seeing the Berlin Wall, or traveling in the Australian Outback.

They have lived in Africa, Europe, South America, Asia, and Australia. Hazel, Liz and Barbara all agree that working for the CIA allowed three gals from Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania to have wonderful and challenging careers that also gave them the opportunity to see the world. Now, they are happy to call The Summit home.



The Summit to offer home care, outpatient therapy to residents

The Summit will soon offer outpatient therapy and home care services to residents.

The services provide another level of holistic care that allows residents to age in place at the Life Plan Community.

“These added services will give residents peace of mind that they will receive leading-edge care at The Summit,” Executive Director Kristi Martin said. “We view residents as part of our family so they can trust that we will take care of them.”

The Summit will partner with Functional Pathways in bringing physical, occupational and speech therapy directly to residents’ homes. Medicare benefits will cover the cost of services.



In addition, residents will receive maintenance therapy to include balance and strengthening—with a physician's order—to maintain functional ability and independence.

"We want residents to be confident and comfortable in their own homes as they age," Martin said.

Residents will also have access to home health care, including personal care services with team members vetted through The Summit. This will provide greater control over the staffing and care provided.

Through LifeSpire of Virginia, The Summit will offer AgeSmart, which provides residents access to the care and services they need to age in place at home, including personal care, companion services, assisted living, memory support and skilled nursing care.

AgeSmart offers financial protection of long-term care insurance along with the continuum of care and access to the amenities of a Life Plan Community.

The cost of long-term care can be staggering and unpredictable. The comprehensive plan covers not only the cost of care, but also manages and coordinates services as soon as needed.

AgeSmart trades the unknown costs of care for the known costs of the program—protecting residents' hard-earned assets and providing peace of mind that they will never be hit with catastrophic long-term care costs.

Prospective AgeSmart members must be healthy and independent and meet financial and medical eligibility criteria. If a member ever needs care beyond what can be provided at home, they can receive care in a LifeSpire community or one of their choosing.

Being an AgeSmart member gives residents access to wellness, fitness, social networking and educational programs.

Outpatient therapy, home health care and AgeSmart will all be available to residents of The Summit by the end of 2025.





On the Trail

Larry and Berkey Vicks take a bike ride down a new trail connecting Wyndhurst—the lovely community The Summit calls home—to Poplar Forest, the summer home of former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson. The trail is a short walk or ride from The Summit campus. It's just another unique way to explore the beautiful community in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.





Summit Summer

When the weather gets warm at The Summit, it's time for drinks and games on the patio, front porch rocking, a little fishing and time with friends. You might even spot some goslings.





Summer Birding

Ruth Johnson, a longtime resident of The Summit, uses her great view from her Assisted Living apartment to keep an eye on some of the local wildlife. Her daughter keeps birdfeeders well stocked, attracting a variety, including cardinals and goldfinches. Ruth is one of many residents who enjoys birding along The Summit campus, whether from their apartment or along the lake trail.



Gardens ready for planting

A new garden is ready for summer and fall plantings. The garden, which sits along Summit Lake, was moved to accommodate the campus expansion.

The garden includes a shed for storing tools and other garden items.

An eight-foot fence surrounds the garden to keep out deer. The maintenance team also posted-mounted hose reels with assisted hose rewinding, spaced so residents have access to all planters.

The garden includes a gravel road for golf cart access and a compacted stone base that allows residents to work without the worry of ticks and insects with the ease of maintenance.



Upcoming Events at The Summit

Next Chapter Expo | August 20

Connect with experts on downsizing, real estate, moving, estate planning, and more! We'll also have on-site donations for small household items, shredding services, and boxed lunches available for your enjoyment.

Choose from two sessions: 10 am - 12 pm or 1 pm - 3 pm. Please register by August 18. This is an exclusive event for Advantage Club and Crown Club members.

Fall Block Party at the Northside Cottages | October 1, 12 pm - 2 pm

It's an Open House and a special celebration to officially welcome the Northside Cottage community to The Summit. Get ready for a lively Fall Festival atmosphere, delicious food, and fun games for all. Please register by September 26.

BINGO Bash Fundraiser for The Walk To End Alzheimer's | October 9, 11 am - 1 pm

Come to The Summit for exciting BINGO games, fantastic prizes, raffles, and giveaways. Tickets are \$35 and include a delicious lunch. Be sure to purchase your tickets and register by October 6.

Meet the Artist Receptions

The Summit Art Gallery features local artists and resident art shows. August 8: New Canvas Art Club; September 5: Michael Gresham; October and November Show: Summit Resident Artisan Fair. Meet the Artist reception: October 10. All artist receptions at 2 p.m.

Caregivers Support Group

The Summit hosts a Caregiver Support Group the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Prayer Chapel. The support group is provided in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association.

Register for events by calling 434.333.2138 or online at SummitLynchburg.org/Events.

Team Members of the Month



April Ruff
February 2025



Kim Speight
March 2025



Gladys Ellis
April 2025



Z Crawley
May 2025



Dianne Poindexter
June 2025



HYBRID HOMES

A first-of-its-kind living experience in Lynchburg, Virginia

The Summit recently began construction on the Elm and Fraser buildings, each with 11 Hybrid Homes.

Combining the freedom and privacy of a single-family home with the convenience and security of an apartment, Hybrid Homes are available for pre-sale. Highlights of the Hybrid Homes include:

- Spacious and light-filled residences: Each Hybrid Home boasts expansive windows on multiple sides, bathing the interiors in abundant natural light.
- Open and creative floor plans: Enjoy generous living spaces designed for comfortable living and effortless entertaining.
- First-class amenities: stylish, fully-equipped kitchens, in-unit laundry for added convenience, and private patios or balconies extend your living space outdoors.
- The comfort of a private garage: Enjoy the convenience of secure parking right outside your door.
- A vibrant campus lifestyle: Enjoy a vibrant campus with a wealth of activities, events, and amenities to keep you engaged and connected.



Call the Marketing Team at 434.333.2138 to reserve your Hybrid Home.

The SUMMIT

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