

St. Catherine's Village offers new living option

ST. CATHERINE'S Village recently announced that skilled nursing dedicated to memory care now is available at the all-inclusive Life Care Community in Madison. This living option allows residents with dementia or Alzheimer's disease to age in place more comfortably, according to Mary Margaret Judy, executive director at St. Catherine's Village.

"When a loved one is faced with advanced memory challenges, the last thing you want is to disrupt their routine and force them to move," she said. "At St. Catherine's Village, they can remain in a familiar setting even as their disease progresses."

Twenty-four private bedrooms with in-room showers are available for this new living option, which combines person-centered memory care with skilled nursing services. The first to take advantage of the opportunity is long-time St. Catherine's Village resident Robert "Dan" Burt. High school sweethearts who have been married for 58 years, he and his wife Jeanelle initially moved into an independent living apartment 10 years ago. She still resides there today.

"We had a friend who lived at St. Catherine's Village and we would come visit, so we were familiar with the community," Mrs. Burt explained. "One day, my husband started to show signs of memory loss and soon after was diagnosed with dementia. I did a great deal of research and everything I read said that moving into a Life Care Community was an excellent option because it would be less disruptive for him to stay in one place as his memory issues advanced."

That's when the couple decided to move to St. Catherine's Village.

"I wanted a one-bedroom apartment that had a big closet and a balcony overlooking the lake," she said. "One was available so we signed the paperwork right away and put our house on the market. Amazingly, we sold and closed with a month."

THE BURTS HAD BEEN in their independent living apartment for five years when the staff noticed that Burt's routines were changing. One day Mrs. Burt knew it was time to move him to the community's memory care facility, Campbell Cove. "We transitioned him gradually. At first

Dan and I would go over to Campbell Cove and listen to hymns then go back to our apartment. We began, occasionally, letting him eat lunch there without me. He also would stay an hour or so while I attended some of the many seminars St. Catherine's sponsors here at the village. All this allowed Dan to become familiar with the property and living areas," Mrs. Burt said. "Finally we moved his belongings over into a room at Campbell Cove while he was at lunch. He didn't want to stay but the staff reassured me. Give us three weeks and he will be fine. Sure enough, almost three weeks to the day, he felt safe and secure in his new surroundings."

"During this time, I could visit him whenever I wanted to, which helped me with the separation. Because my apartment is in the complex next door, this was easy for me to do. After more than 58 years of loving him, I'm reassured to know he is being well cared for. In fact, I have the privilege now of going over every day to assist him with lunch and supper."

A MOVE TO ANOTHER area was on the horizon two years later when Burt

experienced more traumatic health issues. After approximately two weeks in the hospital with serious complications from blood clots, Burt transferred to Siena Center, the skilled nursing section.

"I really wanted him to go back to his room at Campbell Cove but we knew he needed a higher level of care than what was available there," Mrs. Burt said. "The round-the-clock-care at Siena Center was what he required."

While in skilled nursing, Burt's health improved however the staff at the nursing home was not specialized in the nuances of caring for those with dementia.

"There is a standard of care here at St. Catherine's Village that is well above any other place I have seen," Mrs. Burt said. "You can see the dedication and compassion on their faces. Everyone here, regardless of background, is treated the same way."

The seamless care Burt receives has been noticed by Mrs. Burt's family, as well. She is happy to say that her sister Norma Ruth and her husband Parham Williams are now residents of independent living.



Appreciation BBQ

The Madison County Economic Development Authority (MCEDA) held its annual Business and Industry Appreciation BBQ recently as part of its existing industry outreach program. The event, honoring local business and industry, provided a networking opportunity to connect business and industry leaders with each other, economic development partners, and elected officials in a casual setting. Approximately 120 attendees enjoyed the barbecue and music by Patrick Harkins. Shown are (from left) Marcus Dufour, Andy Kilgore, Chris Hinton, Billy Klauser, and Greg Word.

business notes

Travis Mitchell recently joined the audit division of the CPA firm of **Haddox Reid Eubank Betts PLLC**. Travis is a Certified Public Accountant licensed in Mississippi and Texas with six years of experience in public accounting and five years of experience in the mental healthcare industry.



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