

FOCUS
EDMOND

Making a place for memories

BY DAVID PAGE
THE JOURNAL RECORD

EDMOND – Touchmark at Coffee Creek expects a major increase in residents during the next few weeks.

The retirement community in Edmond is nearing completion on a three-story expansion and a one-level memory care neighborhood.

A new wing on the Grandview building is expected to be completed in June, said Jamie Ham, executive director of Touchmark. The Grandview expansion will include 34,812 square feet and 36 apartment homes for people who live independently and residents who need some assistance with daily activities.

Touchmark's memory care neighborhood – Prairieview Memory Care Residences – was designed for people experiencing memory loss. Prairieview includes 50 private studio apartments divided into four neighborhoods of 12 to 13 residential units each.

"We expect Prairieview Memory Care to open within the next couple of weeks and residents to start moving in," Ham said.

The project was designed as small neighborhoods to encourage personal interaction and a family atmosphere.

Each neighborhood has its own kitchen and dining area, living room, space for activities and access to the courtyard. A beauty salon/barber shop, spa bath, multi-purpose room, family conference room and doctor's office will be shared by the four neighborhoods.

Touchmark selected artwork and furnishings for Prairieview Memory Care with a purpose.

Artwork includes landscapes and statuettes. Tactile items are placed around the complex to give residents items to manipulate to exercise their bodies and minds, said Joseph Billig, vice president, architecture for Touchmark.

Billig selected a large whimsical frog art set for the "Growing Together Gardens."

"For residents, this is their home, and because of the nature of Alzheimer's disease and other age-related dementia, a secured environment is necessary," said Billig. "Thus, most of the residents' days will be spent in their neighborhood. For that reason, it is even more important the spaces are warm and inviting and feel like home."

Memorabilia walls in each neighborhood reflect Oklahoma sites – universities, landmarks and daily life – selected to make a connection with local residents. There is also World War II-era memorabilia, including film posters and historical pho-



Specialty memorabilia in each neighborhood at Prairieview Memory Care reflects local Oklahoma sites, universities, landmarks and daily life, such as a print of Will Rogers, hung by Touchmark architect Joe Billig (right) and Cliff Miller (left), Touchmark furniture, fixtures and equipment installation manager. COURTESY PHOTO

tographs.

"Home might mean prints and statuettes of cats and dogs or even hens," Billig said. "Birds, landscapes, trees, all add a comfortable feel to the building. Specific pieces, such as a horse facing one direction, are strategically placed to guide residents to or away from spaces or exits."

Accessories and knickknacks were selected to be fun for residents to pick up and explore – perhaps evoking a memory or a story. Tuscan colors of earthy reds, browns and oranges, golds and yellows were selected to create an upscale feel. An outdoor garden provides residents contact with plants.

Touchmark at Coffee Creek, part of the 638-acre Coffee Creek planned residential development, broke ground last summer on the \$15 million expansion project including the Prairieview neighborhood and the three-story addition.

Since 2006, Touchmark has purchased wind power from Edmond Electric to oper-

ate Grandview. The Grandview expansion and Prairieview will also be operated with wind power.

"Touchmark is a strong believer in environmental stewardship for a number of reasons," Ham said. "We thought purchasing wind power was in our company's best interests, our residents' best interests and the community interest."

In addition to Grandview and Prairieview, Touchmark has 56 homes ranging in size from 1,600 square feet to 2,000 square feet in the Parkview neighborhood.

Parkview opened in 2005 and Grandview opened in 2006. The Grandview expansion and Prairieview are considered to be Touchmark's phase two.

Phase three is in the future.

"The overall design of the campus is for a scheduled phase three that is not even on the board right now," Ham said. "There is potential for future growth. That is our plan."

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