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Settling in at the Village

Seniors enjoy new community in Enterprise Park

By Micah Flores
MFLORES@CNC.COM

On-site restaurant, pub and café.

Community movie theater, fitness center, hair salon and spa and outdoor putting green.

Toss in the fact that Roche Bros. supermarket is just a short stroll away, and being a resident of the Village at Proprietors Green — Marshfield's new luxury senior rental community in Enterprise Park — certainly has its conveniences. At 175,000 square feet, the complex boasts a network of facilities and amenities reminiscent of a cruise ship than a rental community.

But for new residents, like 85-year-old Bernadette Corbett, one perk trumps them all.

"The first thing I like is the staff," Corbett said during an interview in one of the complex's private dining rooms. "They can't do enough for me. I'm so grateful, and they're so pleasant."

With about 45 residents having moved in since the April 1 opening, the facility — which is the largest building in Marshfield — is filling fast. Already at about one-third of total capacity, new tenants are signing up every day, said executive director Richard Johnson.

"It's a Herculean task to open a community like this," said Johnson, who noted that in addi-

tion to the 79 independent living apartment homes, the complex also offers specialized care at its 46 assisted living apartments and 24 memory care units specializing in Alzheimer's patient care.

Caring for the differing needs of residents are about 45 full- and part-time employees, but Johnson said that number would likely peak at 70 in the coming months.

During a tour of the community, Johnson, who said he walks up to four miles per day inside the facility, pointed out the décor and overall attention paid to both design and detail.

"It's not traditional. It's not modern. It's transitional," he said, noting that the "soft warm sea colors" blend well with the abundance of natural light.

Johnson said that a lot of people have been exposed to what the facility has to offer through its current residents, and that word of its opening — as well as interest in seeking out qualified tenants — traveled quickly.

The Village at Proprietors Green, which is operated by Welch Healthcare & Retirement Group, is the group's second independent senior living community. Welch also owns and operates a total of seven rehabilitation and nursing centers, three adult day care centers and one home care company.

In the case of Corbett, she's one



STAFF PHOTO/CHRIS BERNSTEIN

Longtime Marshfield residents Biff and Natalie Henderson moved to the Village at Proprietors Green April 30.

of the many who learned about the facility before its completion. She said her daughter and son helped find her the new place, and it didn't take long before "their enthusiasm sort of spilled over on me."

A widow of 11 years, Corbett made the transition from an eight-bedroom Watertown home to what she said was a fully

loaded apartment with more than enough room. According to Johnson, two-bedroom units average 1,050 square feet and come with weekly housekeeping and 30 prepared meals per month.

"I was very willing," said Corbett, noting that the change in residence has offered her five

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For more information contact Village at Proprietors Green at 781-834-7885 or www.ProprietorsGreen.com

A taste of the country comes to Marshfield

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sons and one daughter a little peace of mind. "It relieves the worry of 'Mama, is she safe? Is she going to fall?'"

Corbett spent summers in Marshfield for more than 50 years, which is just about how long she was married to her husband John before his death. She said that while she sees her family often (they still own a seasonal cottage in Brant Rock), it's nice to be able to take advantage of some of the available social activities offered at the new community.

"They've made it so nice. There's so much available for you to do," she said, citing a recent North End bus tour in which she and a few of her fellow residents dined on Hanover Street in Boston.

Corbett's neighbor, 90-year-old Charles Sell, agreed that a variety of daily activities and excursions ranging from fitness programming to virtual skydiving or bowling on the Nintendo Wii make the village an exciting place to live.

"They're adding things every month," he said, naming a new computer program and his preference, playing bridge in one of the community game rooms. "They're getting more and more people interested."

Sitting next to Charles was his 85-year-old wife Margaret, who everyone called "Peggy."

"I like that there's no cooking," she said, referring to the restaurant and its free dinner service.

According to Johnson, the kitchen is in good hands, as executive chef Tom Jablonski runs the show. Jablonski, he said, established himself in the culinary world when he opened Mama Maria's in Boston's North End.

"I enjoy the dinners, and everything is good," Peggy said.

Having made the move from their much larger home in Kingston, the Sells, who Charles says are still in the process of downsizing, said they took to their apartment better than they

"I love the deck and how it faces east. I love to go out there in the morning and feel the sun. It's lovely."

Natalie Henderson, on her apartment at Village at Proprietors Green



STAFF PHOTO/CHRIS BERNSTEIN

Village at Proprietors Green resident services director Leslye Peterson (front left) joins a group of residents for an outing to Tony's Clam Shack on Wollaston Beach in Quincy.



The new in-house vehicle for Village at Proprietors Green residents, "The Green Maiden," sets out on its maiden voyage.

expected.

"I liked the apartment more so after we moved in," Peggy said, noting that she's relieved that the move worked out.

While making the transition can be difficult, Johnson said the staff does their best to facilitate the process.

"They let go of their homes, but they still have their memories," he said, noting that the Sells are typical in that once they're moved in, they're glad they did.

Also glad they made the transition are husband and wife of 69 years Wilfred "Biff" Henderson,

93, and Natalie Henderson, 91. The Hendersons, as longtime residents of Marshfield, had the distinction of being local even before they moved out of their Ohio Street house.

"We went through school in Marshfield," said Natalie, noting that while she was one of 20 seniors to graduate from Marshfield High School in 1937.

Biff, who transferred in from Hanover during his junior year, was one of 19 seniors to graduate a few years earlier, in 1933. Having spent the majority of their time together living in Marshfield, the Hendersons are in agreement that moving into a senior rental community was best for them and their family.

"They've got their lives to live," said Natalie, referring to their four children, 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

As for the new apartment, Natalie said she thinks she and Biff got the best one.

"I love the deck and how it faces east," she said. "I love to go out there in the morning and feel the sun. It's lovely."

Although Biff and Natalie only moved in April 30, the fact that Marshfield was already home meant that developing a routine was not difficult. While Natalie continues to stay involved with the First Congregational Church of Marshfield, which is where both she and Biff were married in 1940, and the occasional Community League activity, Biff says in on Sunday mornings to listen to the words of televangelist Joel Osteen.

"That's his church," said Natalie.

Biff, who previously joked that the secret to a healthy marriage was not being able to run very fast, said he was thankful for his new home.

"The people are excellent and the place is nice," he said, before recalling a theme of one of Osteen's books. "Life is very short. Don't worry about what you haven't got. Thank God for what you have got."