



## Touchmark celebrates grand opening



*Message from*  
**Kathleen Best**  
—Chief Operating Officer

In May, Touchmark welcomed the Edmond Chamber of Commerce, many of Edmond’s business leaders, and directors from the Touchmark family. Following the official ribbon-cutting ceremony, guests toured the community and enjoyed food and music throughout.

Residents also enjoyed this opportunity to show off their new homes and introduce new friends. Thank you to all who came and participated! Please enjoy the pictures from our grand opening on page three.

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## Connecting the generations

*by* **Marge Coalman, EdD**  
—Vice President of Wellness & Programs, Touchmark

In the modern world—at least throughout much of North America today—the “wisdom of elders” is often overlooked and sometimes unattended. The lessons of the past have shown that the elder statesmen, scientists, businesswomen, poets, writers, homemakers, and philosophers have provided wisdom and life experience to all of us via the

political process, cultural enrichment, and critical thinking. In today’s society, however, it seems that we have forgotten the contributions of our elders through the ages.

William Thomas, MD, is a researcher and practitioner who has studied the phenomenon of isolating older adults. He states that, “Loneliness, helplessness, and boredom are impervious to the silver bullets of modern

**“One thing is certain,  
and I have always  
known it—the joys of  
life have nothing to  
do with age.”**

—*May Sarton, poet*

medicine.” As people age, what they need to offset the possible loss of family, neighbors, and friends are caring relationships provided by an environment of support and sustaining efforts of goodwill.

Children may or may not have access to the opportunity to share their dreams and stories with a grandparent or older adult who is not a member of their family. The intergenerational programming in Touchmark communities is designed to bring people of all ages together to enrich each other’s lives. In many program offerings, children are gaining knowledge and respect while developing genuine mutual friendships with residents in their seventh, eighth, and ninth decade of life; in fact, there are centenarians in some communities. Programs and events are held both inside and outside Touchmark to support ongoing relationships among residents and guests of all ages. To contribute ideas or volunteer in the Full Life intergenerational programs we sponsor, contact Life Enrichment/Wellness Director Amy Connaway.

## Upcoming events

**Thursday, June 15, 3 pm**—Grandmother and Granddaughter Tea in Legends Dining Room.

**Thursday, June 22, 3 pm**—Grandfather and Grandson Chess Tournament in Game Room.

**Thursday, June 22, 7:15 pm**—Transportation leaves Touchmark for *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, playing at Plunkett Park.

**Friday, June 23, 5:45 pm**—Transportation leaves Touchmark for the Paradise Casino Night at the Edmond Senior Center.

and send an e-mail response.

Residents living in Touchmark communities also can take advantage of several computers located in Touchmark libraries or business club rooms. For more information, please contact the front desk.

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### Let Your Spirit Soar

*Writers, photographers, and poets live and create in Touchmark communities, and Touchmark is featuring some of this talent and creativity in each newsletter. The Let Your Spirit Soar theme for June is “I remember when ... .”*

## Touchmark’s unique family e-mail helps bridge the digital divide!

Increasingly, people of all ages are turning to the Internet and e-mail to keep in touch and send photos. If you have family or friends living at a Touchmark community who don’t have e-mail, you can still communicate with them electronically by using Web e-mail. Here’s how:

- Go to **Touchmark.com** and locate the appropriate community.
- Once you’re on the community page, click on the **Contact Us** on the left-hand side.
- A screen that lists several options will load; click on **Send a Message** to a Resident.
- Write your message.
- Click **Send**.

The message is sent to a designated staff member, usually in Social Services of Life Enrichment, who prints the e-mail and hand-delivers it to the recipient.

Beverly den Ouden’s father lives at Waterford at All Saints in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. “My father is frequently in my thoughts, [and] the quick use of the e-mail is a convenient and meaningful way to connect those thoughts to the person I love.”

If a resident wishes to reply to an e-mail, he or she can contact the staff member who hand-delivered the e-mail. The staff member will work with the resident to compose

## What a prom night!

*by* Hazel Nervig

—Resident from Touchmark’s retirement resort in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

I remember when ... I was a junior at Watertown High School and prom was coming up. My Latin teacher, Ms. Lister, met me in the hall and asked me why I wasn’t going to the prom.

“I don’t have a dress.”

“I have gone on several cruises, so I have a couple dresses that would be your size,” Ms. Lister replied.

“But I have no date!”

“Well, come on, let’s go to the date bureau!” she replied.

So I took the dress home and hung it up—above the heat register. The furnace blew up! So after a quick trip to the cleaners, Fred and I were finally off to the prom.

We enjoyed the night dancing to our favorite tunes, even though Fred’s shoes were pretty scuffed up! After prom, Fred and I hopped into his uncle’s car that he was borrowing. It then started to rain very hard. Not knowing the car very well, Fred had a hard time finding the button to turn the windshield wipers on. Before he could turn on the wipers, we ran into the curb and blew a tire!

“You stay here. I’ll go and get help,” Fred said.

“I’m not staying in the car by myself! I’ll go with you,” I replied.

So I hiked up my dress, and we went sloshing up to the nearest fill station. After many hours passed, we got the tire fixed. Fred finally got me home about 3 am, and I haven't seen Fred since. But the funny thing about my prom night was—my parents believed the entire story!

*For July, please submit a poem featuring patriotism and community service. Deadline for this issue is June 12. For a list of the guidelines, monthly themes, and deadlines, please contact Life Enrichment/Wellness Director Amy Connaway.*

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## Celebrating the grand opening



Guests and residents (left to right) Martha Best, Liz Coddling, Virginia Craig, Jennie Stinson, and Bea Coleman.



Resident Nieta Huston and Life Enrichment/Wellness Director Amy Connaway chat and enjoy some refreshments.



Left to Right: Chief Operating Officer Kathleen Best and her mother, Martha Best, with guests Carl and Mitzi Hancuff.



Resident Virginia Craig (center) and her former neighbors Keith and Sarah Montgomery.



Parkview neighbors Leaman and Judith Harris and Stan Steele (right).

