

Touchmark opens final memory-care residence



PHOTO PROVIDED

Touchmark Executive Director Jamie Ham explains the importance of Prairieview's design that provides a variety of seating and activity areas while allowing staff to see all the way to the front door. The last of four memory-care neighborhoods is opening this month.

SPECIAL TO THE SUN

One year ago, Touchmark at Coffee Creek completed a major expansion that included a three-story addition of independent and assisted living apartments as well as the Prairieview memory-care residences for those living with Alzheimer's and other age-related dementia.

This month, Touchmark will open the final memory-care neighborhood — Cedar Court — and the public is invited to preview it from 1-4 p.m. July 24. Touchmark is at 2801 Shortgrass Road in Edmond.

Twelve residences are available in this fourth and final phase. Open-house visitors will have the opportunity to select the home, visit with families of current Prairieview residents and meet with staff to learn more about Touchmark's "Best Friends" approach to memory care.

Prairieview includes 50 private studios, divided into four neighborhoods. Each neighborhood has its own kitchen and dining area, living room, space for activities and access to a secure outdoor courtyard. A beauty salon/barber

shop, spa bath, multipurpose room, family conference room and doctor's office are shared by the four neighborhoods.

"The design philosophy in developing the Touchmark Prairieview memory-care residences is very person-centered," said Jamie Ham, executive director of Touchmark at Coffee Creek. "This is residents' home, and because of the nature of Alzheimer's and other age-related dementia, it's important that the spaces are warm, inviting and feel like home."

The Cedar Court open house will showcase the open floor plans, gardens, thoughtful interior design and person-centered care program — the "Best Friends" approach.

"Best Friends" was co-created by internationally known author David Troxel and Virginia Bell in the 1990s. The two created their model after working directly with people who have dementia, their family members and staff in adult day centers. The approach teaches caregivers how to have the "knack," which is defined as "the art of doing difficult things with ease."

"The 'Best Friends' approach is a perfect fit for

the Touchmark care philosophy," Ham said. "It focuses on what people with dementia need most, which is a best friend. That best friend can be a family member, staff person or friend, but it's always someone who empathizes with the individual, maintains a loving, positive attitude and is dedicated to helping the person with dementia feel safe, secure and valued."

About 74,000 Oklahomans live with Alzheimer's and other age-related dementia, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

An award-winning retirement community, Touchmark at Coffee Creek offers a variety of lifestyle options, including the Parkview neighborhood, independent and assisted living as well as memory care. Touchmark is part of the Coffee Creek 638-acre planned residential development, which includes a golf course, recreational centers and walking and biking trails for Coffee Creek homeowners. Touchmark is a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's EPA's Green Power Leadership Club. For more information, visit www.TouchmarkEdmond.com.

COMMUNITY

YOUR NEWS

Shaw inducted as president of Oklahoma Association of Youth Services

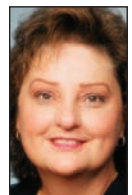
Edmond Family Counseling Executive Director Jackie Shaw was inducted as president for the Oklahoma Association of Youth Services during the group's annual meeting recently. The association is a statewide organization of community-based agencies.

Shaw has been with Edmond Family Counseling for 22 years. She began her career with EFC as a counselor. Through the years, Shaw held the position of case manager, assistant director and finally executive director for the last eight years.

Edmond Family Counseling became a part of Oklahoma Association of Youth Services in 1974. Shaw has been involved with OAYS since 1989. She served as treasurer for three years and also served as its "Central Cluster Representative" covering Guthrie, Edmond, Oklahoma City, Purcell, Moore, Midwest City, Norman and the Tri-City area. She will serve as president for their 2011-12 fiscal year.

Other officers inducted were Jim Walker, director of Youth Services of Tulsa as vice president; Walt Hedrick, director of Moore Youth and Family Services as treasurer; Susan Morris, director of Shawnee Youth and Family Resource Center as secretary; and Robin McSpadden, director of ROCM-ND Area Youth Services as past president.

"My goal for this next year is to ensure that youth service associations across the state of Oklahoma are able to continue to provide quality services to children and families in their communities," Shaw said.



Shaw

Weiss enters USAF basic

Alison M. Weiss of Edmond has entered Basic Cadet Training at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., in preparation to enter the first academic year at the academy.

The six-week, two-phased orientation program must be successfully completed by the cadets prior to entering their freshman year. The training prepares men and women to meet the rigorous mental and physical challenges experienced by new cadets.

Phase one involves personal in-processing, orientation and training in the fundamentals of being a cadet. Cadet trainees are prepared to adjust from civilian to military life and disciplines, and learn proper wear of the uniform, saluting policies and procedures, drill and ceremony, marching and living quarters standards.

During phase two, cadets train outdoors living in tents while learning to function in field conditions. Cadets apply and practice team work, cohesion and learn to deal with physically and mentally demanding situations. They complete the obstacle, confidence, assault and leadership reaction courses, and participate in a rescue mission termed Operation Warrior.

She is the daughter of Karen and Geoff Weiss of Edmond.

Weiss graduated in 2011 from Edmond North High School.



Weiss



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