

Future Residents are Ready

The rain came down, but Fairmount's Wheat Ridge Apartments have been going up. Despite a rainy summer and fall, the foundation and basement walls have been poured. As the landscape of the Fairmount campus changed, 30 of the new apartments were reserved, and the excitement of incoming residents has grown along with the building.

Two of these future residents are Jake and Ruth Bare. After 67 years of marriage, three children, nine grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren, they have decided to join the Fairmount family. "We looked at each other about a year ago and agreed that we're ready," says Ruth.

The Bares were on the waiting list at a nearby retirement community, but when they heard from friends about Fairmount's new Wheat Ridge Apartments, they made an appointment to learn more. They soon decided to make Fairmount their new home.

Many Reasons to Choose Fairmount

Jake and Ruth have lived in Bird-in-Hand all of their married lives. They still reside in the house they built in 1969, on the farm where they had already spent the first 16 years of their marriage in the original farmhouse. In his mid-teens, Jake, with his brother Bob and their father, started a potato dealer business that has now been passed down to the fourth generation. Ruth also worked in the business for 20 years. As their family grew, many children and grandchildren settled in the



Jake and Ruth Bare look forward to joining the Fairmount family next year upon completion of the Wheat Ridge Apartments.

same area; two live with their families just down the road from Jake and Ruth.

With such close family connections, why would the Bares move to Fairmount? Jake shares a list of reasons: "We love the beautiful rural setting. We like a smaller community with its warm family feel. I like to mow grass, but our two acres is getting to be a lot of work for someone almost 87 years old. We have friends from church who live here and they all have good things to say about Fairmount."

During the year that they wait for the completion of their apartment, Jake and Ruth will have plenty of time to downsize their belongings and prepare for the move. When they move to

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Fairmount Homes *Perspective* is published quarterly for the residents, staff, volunteers and friends of Fairmount Homes, a Christian retirement community governed by a Board from the Weaverland Conference of the Old Order Mennonite Church.

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Please visit our website for additional information and to download an Application for Residency. www.FairmountHomes.org

Working Together, Our Fire Burns Brighter

The President's Perspective

Dr. Ben Carson, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, once shared this story: A church member had come to services regularly, then stopped attending. After a few weeks, his pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening, and he found the man alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace, and waited. The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In grave silence, they contemplated the dance of flames around burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth by itself. Then, still silent, he sat back in his chair.

The lone ember's flame flickered out. A glow remained momentarily, then disappeared. Soon the ember was cold and dead. Neither man spoke.

The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He stood up, picked up the cold ember, and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor went to leave, a tear trickled down his

host's cheek. "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon," he said. "I will be back in church next Sunday."

But if we work together, our fire is bright and lasts longer.

Fairmount is not a church, but we are an extension of God's church and everyone is important! We live in a world today which focuses on "I" rather than "we." Each of us represents an ember. If we walk alone we can become cold and our flame can burn out quickly. But if we work together, our fire is bright and lasts longer. We are not a perfect place, but we have many great people with differing gifts working together to provide great programs—programs with impact beyond the bricks and mortar of our buildings. I feel blessed to be part of this wonderful community and appreciate each ember!



Jerry D. Lile
Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO

29th Benefit Auction a Huge Success!

Our 29th Annual Benefit Auction was declared by all to be a great day! The move to a new location proved positive in many ways, including that it was our second best year ever financially. Pictures are displayed on the Fairmount website and on our new Facebook page. We express heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and especially to those who helped with the planning, setup, or tear down. It is a great community event that could not happen without everyone's help.



Crowds wait for the favorite annual event, the ultra-light candy drop.

Welcome to New Director of Human Resources

We welcome Susan Howard who has joined the Fairmount staff as Director of Human Resources. Her background, training and experience all make her well qualified for the position.

“My husband John and I raised our three children on a preserved historic dairy farm which has been in my family since 1950,” Susan explains by way of introduction. “We sold the dairy herd in 2000 and embarked on new careers but still live on our land.

“I have an associate degree in Business Administration (Penn State) and a BA in Applied Psychology and Organizational Development (Albright College), and my Senior Professional HR certification. For the



past eight years, I have worked as a leader on HR teams, focusing on culture transformation and change management.

“I was drawn to Fairmount because of its reputation for combining faith, family and community,” Susan continues. “I connect with its culture, values, and humble beginnings. I especially appreciate the history of Katie Nolt Kurtz, who pursued her vision of providing care for those who were dependent on others. Raised in a Mennonite home, I have

a strong sense of community based on a deep faith, agricultural roots, and family values.”

We wish you the best, Susan, in your new role at Fairmount. ➤

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Fairmount, they will still have their family close by. Ruth muses, “We will miss seeing our great-grandchildren so frequently. Still, they are getting older and will be heading off to school soon anyway.”

A Great Design for Health Care Access

Potential health challenges also motivated their decision, the Bares explain. “Our families are all busy with their own lives. We don’t want to burden them with our care down the road. And since the new Wheat Ridge Apartments will be connected to the health care center, if one of us needs nursing care, the other can easily visit without going out of the building.”

They look at each other and confirm once again, “We are ready!”

For anyone else who is ready to take a look, there are still a limited number of unreserved apartments in the new building. If you would like to reserve an apartment or learn more about this project or any of our other living options at Fairmount, please contact Mitchell Hanna at 717.354.1810 or mitchellh@FairmountHomes.org. ➤



Above is an aerial view of the latest developments on the Fairmount campus.



Fairmount

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Items of Interest



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Central PA Blood Drive

On December 13, the Central PA Blood Bank will hold a blood drive in the Farm Crest Community Room from 11:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m. Donors may call the blood bank for an appointment at 1.800.771.0059. Walk-ins are also welcome until 6 p.m.

Cooking for Diabetes

Fairmount will host a WellSpan Health event called “Cooking for Diabetes” on Tuesday, November 13, in the Farm Crest Community Room from 5:30-8:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. a competition will be held with three local chefs demonstrating healthy meal preparation. Registration is required. Please call 717.721.8790 extension 0 to register.



Give ExtraOrdinary!



Fairmount will be participating in this year’s ExtraOrdinary Give, an annual, 24-hour, online giving campaign with a “stretch pool” that will be divided among all of the participants, based on their percentage of the day’s total contributions.

To participate, visit ExtraGive.org on Friday, November 16, choose Fairmount, and make your donation. For this event, Fairmount will have a computer available in the Harvest View Conference Room at Wheat Ridge for anyone who may not have computer access elsewhere. ➔