

Life with Peace and Serenity

After a lifetime of working, raising families, and dealing with home ownership responsibilities and all the other demands of life, nothing could be more appealing than a life of peace and serenity. But peace and serenity mean different things to different people.

For Wheat Ridge Apartment resident Esther Becker, peace means sitting at her sewing machine in front of the window of her fourth-floor apartment creating the unique, colorful stuffed animals she has sold to a craft shop for many years. From her vantage point, her gaze takes in the valley below where farmers still plow with horses, and bald eagles soar on the currents.

Finding the Right Fit

Esther could not be happier with the decision she made back in 2017 when she visited friends at Fairmount and learned of the upcoming Wheat Ridge Apartment building project. She knew immediately that Fairmount was the right choice for her. "I had felt so overwhelmed by the size of some other retirement communities when I visited them, but the smaller community at Fairmount felt very comfortable," she explains. "So as soon as I heard Fairmount was building, I talked with Mitch in the Marketing Department and reserved my fourth-floor apartment before the first shovel of dirt had been turned. I moved in the day the building opened."

For Esther's fourth-floor neighbors, Don and Blanche Myer, the view of the tranquil countryside below connects them to their roots; they are Lancaster County natives who both grew up on farms. The Myers had taken several years to conduct an exhaustive search for the right retirement home. They attended



Esther Becker loves everything about her Wheat Ridge Apartment, from the beautiful kitchen to the view, and the space she has for continuing the sewing projects she so enjoys.

local Explore Retirement Living (ERL) annual events. They visited friends in various retirement homes, including Fairmount. Eventually, they narrowed their choices to just a few options, evaluating each one to find the right fit for them.

During the 2017 ERL event, the Myers heard about Fairmount's new Wheat Ridge Apartment building that was just in the planning stages, and saw a floor plan and location they really liked. They filled out an application and put their names on the wait list. However, when the apartments were completed, they were not yet ready to leave their Lancaster home where they had raised their three children. Blanche had also owned and operated a gift store in Leola for 20 years. Don helped with maintenance and payroll for the business while also working in a car-sales business until he retired in 2018.

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

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Surrounded by Beauty and Nature

The President's Perspective

Imagine waking up to the gentle rustle of leaves, the sight of rolling hills and the scent of newly mown hay. Nestled amidst the tranquil beauty of rural landscapes, Fairmount offers a serene haven overlooking picturesque farmlands. Whether taking a leisurely stroll along our walking paths, surveying productive farmlands as they enjoy a picnic in the pavilion, or simply gazing at the stars on a clear night, residents are constantly reminded of the beauty and wonder of God's handiwork.

I'm reminded of the words of renowned poet William Wordsworth who wrote in "The Tables Turned":

*Come forth into the light of things,
let nature be your teacher.*

In Fairmount's rural setting, nature, indeed, becomes a wise teacher, offering valuable lessons which showcase the amazing work of our Creator. Studies have shown that being close to nature can reduce stress, improve mood and enhance overall quality of life. Those benefits are obvious here on our campus as residents often stop to just delight in the beauty of the changing seasons and take time for reflection and rejuvenation.

One of the greatest joys of living in this rural area is that it seems to naturally foster a sense of community. Here

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at Fairmount, we intentionally cultivate a rich community life where neighbors become friends, and strong bonds form through shared experiences and a common love of the land. I am always delighted to observe how residents find deep friendship, support and a sense of belonging here.

Fairmount is far more than just a place to live. It is a sanctuary where residents delight every day in the privilege of peaceful living in a rural setting. Here amid rolling farmlands and scenic landscapes, they can find a sense of tranquility and belonging that enriches the soul and nourishes the spirit.

Intrigued by the benefits of our scenic location? Come see it for yourself! Take a drive through northeast Lancaster County and visit us here on top of Cats Back Ridge. I think you will understand why we consider our beautiful setting one of the best assets of living at Fairmount.



Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO



Thank You, Quilters!

During this year's three-day, February quilting event, the busy hands of over 200 volunteers finished 10 beautiful quilts and brought several others close to completion for our September 14 Benefit Auction. Special thanks to the coordinators of this event and to those who provided food for all the volunteers. Pictured (from left) are Reba Yoder, Dolly Kauffman and Priscilla Herr, all Fairmount residents.



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Then in 2023, the apartment that had attracted the Myers' attention six years prior again became available. They decided to make the leap and moved in October of 2023.

Since their arrival, they have been very happy with their decision. "Looking back, there's nothing we would have done differently," they say emphatically.

The Myers continue a very active lifestyle: Don enjoys hunting and still works part time driving cars to and from an auto auction. Blanche enjoys reading and cross-stitching. They both participate in the varied campus activities and remain very active in their church.

Time for Friends and Personal Pursuits

Esther loves everything about her peaceful life at Fairmount, from the coziness of her apartment to the view both from her apartment and from the nature trails she walks every day. She loves that she can have as much or little contact with others as she wants. There is always someone around to talk to if she wants to socialize and plenty of group activities—exercise classes, seminars, painting classes and trivia games—in which to participate. However, she also has plenty of time to pursue her varied personal hobbies, too. "I have time to sew my stuffed animals or comfort tops, I enjoy theorem painting, and I read and read," she exclaims, gesturing to the bookshelves filled from top to bottom with favorite books.

As for Don and Blanche, they are impressed with the friendliness, camaraderie and closeness of their neighbors. There is a sense of security in having friends and neighbors looking out for each other on a daily basis. They appreciate the easy access to the café and Health Care, all under one roof. As businesspeople, they are impressed with the quality of building workmanship and the evidence of good management exercised by Fairmount's administration.

"They always follow through on what they say they will do," Don explains. "Financially, we feel that our new home is a great value compared to other places we looked at. As much as we liked living in our former home, we don't miss it."



Don and Blanche Myer relax in their cozy fourth-floor Wheat Ridge Apartment, where they enjoy a great view and a floor plan that is a perfect fit for them.

Security in Excellent Health Care

While the rural location was a major draw for Don and Blanche, quality health care was always their top priority. Blanche relates, "Over the years we watched the health care ratings reported in the papers and saw that Fairmount achieved consistently high marks. Best of all, if one of us needs health care here, the other does not need to leave the building to visit."

Esther could not agree more. Her greatest peace of mind comes from knowing that when she meets future health challenges, the best of care is already in place. It is especially important not to have to depend on her family to try and provide that care. "I want my three children to be able to just visit, not to also have the burden of my care," she adds.

Plan to Join the "Fairmount Family"

If you or someone you know is postponing the consideration of retirement options because that time is still "down the road," we recommend you make an initial contact with our Marketing Department by calling 717.354.1800. It is wise to plan now and then become part of the Fairmount family at whatever time you feel is right for you. There is no fee to fill out an application, and if you aren't ready when a residence is offered, you do not forfeit your place on the waiting list if you say no. You too can have the peace of mind that comes with knowing this detail of your future planning is secured.



Fairmount

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Perspective issues are available at www.FairmountHomes.org.

Items of Interest

Central PA Blood Drive

On Thursday, June 6, the Central PA Blood Bank will hold a blood drive in the Farm Crest Community Room from 11:30am-6:30am. Donors may call the blood bank for an appointment at 800.771.0059.


Outdoor Concert Planned

Ransomed Bluegrass will hold an outdoor concert on Tuesday, May 14, at 6:30pm on the Wheat Ridge campus. Sponsored by Fairmount, the concert is free and open to the public. Please bring lawn chairs.

Fairmount's 7th Book Sale

Fairmount's 7th Book Sale is planned for Friday, October 4, 5:00-8:00pm and Saturday, October 5, 7:00-10:00am in the Farm Crest Community Room. All books are half-price on Saturday. Everyone is welcome. Donations of books are now being accepted at the Wheat Ridge and Crest View front desks.

Spring Open House!



**Join us for an informative overview
of Fairmount living:**

Tuesday, May 21 • Thursday, May 23
Thursday, June 6 • Friday, June 7
1:00–4:00pm each day

Go to FairmountHomes.org/OpenHouse & Virtual Tour
to sign up for the date of your choice.

