Inside The Mayflower...

Long-Term Care Never Looked So Spectacular!

Call it the best of all worlds: Elegant, maintenance-free living. Five-star services and amenities. Plus the guarantee of continuing long-term healthcare. Total security from the inside out. What’s not to love about retirement living at The Mayflower?

“We offer the whole package: a long-term care plan in a resort-style environment,” says David McGuffin, President and CEO. “Our residents live life to the fullest, without ever having to worry about future healthcare needs. In this economy, more than ever, The Mayflower also makes good financial sense. You’re making your dollars work for you by pre-funding long-term care costs. At the same time, you’re enjoying everything a continuing care retirement community has to offer. Economically and otherwise, it’s a very smart decision.”

“It Was an Easy Decision to Make”

A smart decision — and an easy one — says Ruth McDaniel, a new Mayflower resident. “I moved to Winter Park eight years ago,” she says. “I was living alone, and my friends kept telling me about The Mayflower. I took a tour here and at another retirement community. But, for me, there was really no other choice. I feel comfortable and secure.

Ruth, who had surgery just prior to moving in, was able to use the Health Center for after-care. “It was phenomenal,” she says. “After I went back to my apartment, I could still go to the nurse every morning. I don’t know how I would have gotten through it, if I had been home alone.”

Speaking of home, Ruth loves her spacious Mayflower apartment. “I have a full kitchen, sun room, bedroom, living room and laundry,” she says. “And, everything else I need is right in the community — a library, a bank, a doctor, restaurant-style meals, fitness programs, study groups, everything. It’s wonderful!”

“It’s a Blessing to Be Here”

Father Bob and Sallie Phillips met at The Mayflower. (It’s okay... he’s an Episcopalian priest.) Both were widowed. One day, a mutual friend asked Bob to help a lady who was having computer problems. “He came right up, got down on the floor and connected all the wires — it was great!” Sallie recalls. “Then he came back again the next day with a mouse, then with something else the day after.”

The connection, as it turned out, was a good one. Bob and Sallie married approximately a year later and moved into a stunning two-bedroom apartment that they modified to suit their needs. “We are blessed to be together and blessed to be here,” the couple says. “They say that people who live in communities like The Mayflower live longer because they have no worries. We understand that — because having healthcare facilities right in the building provides major peace of mind. We thank the Lord every day that we are here.”

With a New Reality in the Real Estate Market, Buyers and Sellers Move Forward

There’s a "new normal" in the housing market. And with it, some cautious optimism. “I’ve been saying we’ve hit bottom or leveled off for a while now, and I think we’re slowly seeing improvement in prices,” says Scott Hillman of Fannie Hillman & Associates. “It’s going to take awhile with the bank loan issues and short sales — even here in Winter Park. Hopefully, we’ll see a lot of those properties get sold in the next 12-15 months. When they’re off the market, I do believe we’ll start to see some increase. Inventory is already starting to reduce.”

Hillman acknowledges that the double-digit appreciation, which occurred from 2004 to 2006, was an aberration in the real estate market. “Normally, it’s conservative and safe,” he adds. “No one jumps up more than 4% on an annual basis. But, the leveling off is occurring, and we are getting back to normal. If you price what your home is worth now, you can sell it. You couldn’t say that a year ago.”
When You Make the Move, The Mayflower Makes It Feel Like Home

Shelby Reaves probably knows more about The Mayflower than nearly anyone else who lives there. That’s because, as Operations Manager for Turner Construction back in 1989, he was in charge of building the facility. He and his wife Sylvia have kept their eye on the community ever since.

“I’ve known the management team from the beginning,” says Shelby. “I have confidence in them. I’ve watched the growth and improvements throughout the years. The Mayflower’s reputation is stellar.”

Now, some 20 years later and after being on wait list for three years, the couple has finally moved in. “The ideal apartment became available, so we jumped on it,” they say. “We sorted out our home and took what we wanted, leaving very little for our kids to do. You have to get your act together for this phase of life and be proactive. Who else will do it, if you don’t?”

Shelby and Sylvia modified their new residence by opening up counter space in the kitchen, creating a pantry, adding closets, moving doors, putting wood trim around the windows, creating a dressing area in the master bathroom, and upgrading all the common areas. “It’s not your typical apartment,” they say, with a smile.

“But, best of all, we don’t have to worry about the maintenance here!” adds Sylvia. “People ask me what it’s like living at The Mayflower, and I say it’s being on a cruise ship that doesn’t go anywhere and you have the comfort of your own furniture in your cabin. It’s absolutely delightful.”


“Here at The Mayflower, our motto is ‘We can do that for you,’” says Jana Ricci, Director of Marketing. “We understand that this is a big move for our residents, so we don’t take a ‘one size fits all’ approach. Most upgrades and customizations are available at an additional cost, but we try our best to be as flexible and cooperative and accommodating as possible to incorporate them into your new residence.”

The Right Accommodations

Ernie and Ann Cross’s home in Cape Cod was not far from the spot where the Pilgrims first landed in 1620. Perhaps that’s one of the reasons they felt so at home at The Mayflower. Or maybe it’s because Winter Park is a college town — and the couple previously lived in Hamilton, New York, where Ernie served as vice president of Colgate University. More likely, however, it’s because they found The Mayflower so “warm and welcoming” … and have also been able to personalize their Villa and make it their own.

“We have very eclectic taste, and our furniture is quirky — some from the Cape, some from Florida. We brought it all with us and remodeled accordingly,” says Ann. “To show our little things, like crystal, we added special shelving. We also put in wood floors, our choice of light fixtures, and a large fireplace. Plus, we widened the doors for better access. We were able to modify our Villa the way we wanted to. Throughout the process, The Mayflower was very cooperative and accommodating.”

Introduction to The Mayflower by two of their neighbors from the Cape who had moved to Winter Park, the Crosses visited several times and toured the community. “Then we just decided, and that was it,” Ann recalls. “Continuing care was a very important aspect of our decision. Already, we’ve both had physical therapy here, and it’s been wonderful. The fact that the therapist came to the house to check on me was really impressive.”

In fact, “impressive” is a word that applies to The Mayflower across the board, according to the Crosses. “The residents are friendly; the staff is exceptional and the facilities are amazing,” they say. “We attend cultural events and go to all the lectures. We’re fortunate to be close to Rollins College. There is so much to do. We’re having a marvelous time!”

Crossing Paths

As new residents of The Villas at The Mayflower, the Crosses from Cape Cod discovered they have a lot in common with their neighbors just down the street. Not only do they share the same address, they also share the same name — and the same glowing opinion of the place they now call “home.”

High school sweethearts Pete and Ann Cross (yes, both wives are named Ann) lived just a mile away from The Mayflower and had heard good things about the community for years. “It started us thinking” — what if something were to happen to us, healthwise? — says Pete. “We talked to our kids about it, and that got us thinking even more. We knew it was wise to plan ahead.”

The former president of Barnett Bank, Pete understands as well as anyone the financial advantages of pre-funded healthcare offered by CCRCs and the peace of mind that comes with not having to worry about what might happen in your later years. The excellent reputation and the 5-star Gold Seal rating of the Mayflower’s Health Center was the key reason behind the Crosses’ decision. “It’s unusual for people like us to take this step before we really needed to,” says Pete. “But, we came, we saw, and we decided to take the plunge!”

Their Furniture Fits Just Perfectly

A Customized Approach to Retirement Living

What Do These Three Couples Have in Common?

They all moved to The Mayflower in the past 6 months, despite the economic downturn. Why? CCRCs offer so many estate-planning and healthcare security advantages that it doesn’t make good financial sense to wait — especially during uncertain times.

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Lights. Camera. Fashion. For the past 18 years, “model” residents at The Mayflower have taken to the runway every spring to showcase the latest trends in senior fashion . . . and to prove beyond doubt that true beauty knows no age.

At this year’s Fashion Show, Winter Park Village’s Patchington “dressed” the nine models — providing more than 18 different styles that ranged from classic to contemporary. All reflected a fun, whimsical feel.

What’s in vogue this season? Bright, bold colors like aqua, purple, green and orange — as well as a soft, feminine “long over lean” approach that uses long, flowing vests and cardigans.

“Finding attire that blends style and comfort can often be a challenge, but these outfits offer the best of both worlds,” said Dot Cline, a former professional model who participated in the show. “The clothes are beautiful and classy; they’re the perfect fit for our lifestyles.”

“I wanted to make my book interesting since there has been so much written on the subject. So, I wrote mine in alphabetical order and included an item about fashion for each letter,” says Sue, a former Winter Park High School teacher who taught fashion marketing for 18 years. Sue’s son helped her with the design and publishing of the book, which took several years to finish. “I had such a feeling of satisfaction once I completed it,” she adds. “The process was very fulfilling — especially for someone who loves fashion as much as I do.”