Twenty-five years to the day after the first residents moved in to Well•Spring, A Life Plan Community, current residents got together for a fun reception to mark the milestone and to kick off a year-long celebration.

Residents enjoyed live music and plenty of treats from the Well•Spring kitchens before heading in to dinner.

As a special keepsake, each resident received a coffee mug emblazoned with his or her name and the year they moved in to Well•Spring.

Drs. Hester and Leon Petty attend the 25th Anniversary kickoff party

Residents Clem Clement, Buzz O’Brien, Hayes Clement and Lou O’Brien

The band added a terrific vibe to the festivities

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Bauman Bistro, lounge, Special Occasions Room open

The newly opened Bauman Bistro and Special Occasions Room nearly triple the dining space for Well-Spring’s 420 residents. A new lounge, which can seat approximately 65 people, will offer residents a full bar with mixed drinks for the first time.

Construction on Phase 2 – the Resident Activity Center – is expected to be completed around December. The center will feature a new 340-seat theater, art studios, a wood-working and hobby shop, rehearsal space and the Jo Safrit & Cathy Ennis Gallery, showcasing rotating exhibits of artworks from the collection of UNCG’s Weatherspoon Art Museum.

The project marks the largest addition of amenities to Well-Spring’s main campus since the opening of its Aquatic and Fitness Center in October 2002.

“These new spaces are very much in tune with what our residents and prospective new residents are looking for in a well-rounded, active and rewarding lifestyle,” said K. Alan Tutterow, executive director.

The Bauman Bistro – made possible in part through a generous gift from the late Ed Bauman and his wife, Vivien, longtime Well-Spring residents – provides casual dining options for the first time in Well-Spring’s 25-year history. Made-to-order dishes, homemade pizzas, sandwiches, simple entrees and a salad bar highlight the Bistro’s culinary offerings in a relaxed setting.

“The dining preferences of today’s residents are much different than those of when we opened in 1993,” Tutterow pointed out. “Now people appreciate being able to choose between a more casual dining setting and that of our formal, fine-dining space, the Weaver Dining Room.”

With the opening of the Bauman Bistro, began on a complete renovation of the Weaver Dining Room, which will wrap up around the same time as the Resident Activity Center. “With the reopening of our updated Weaver Dining Room, we will continue the long, highly regarded tradition of fine dining for which Well-Spring is so well known,” Tutterow said.

The opening of the lounge marks an enormous evolution of this amenity. “When Well-Spring was built, there were no plans for a lounge,” Tutterow said. “With future resident feedback, we quickly adjusted those plans to accommodate a bar. And we later converted an existing space into a larger lounge area. Having now outgrown that space, we’re pleased that the new lounge – operating with a full liquor license – can seat around 65 residents and visitors at any given time.”

The new Special Occasions Room, featuring a separate outdoor entrance, can seat around 80 people and is an ideal space for private parties, receptions and meetings.

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The late 2018 opening of the new Resident Activity Center – Phase 2 – will herald a significant strategic move by Well•Spring to provide its residents with immediate, on-site access to a wide array of arts programming. Well•Spring is partnering with regional arts groups and will host productions ranging from the beloved 5 by O.Henry annual series of plays in conjunction with the Greensboro History Museum to performances by Greensboro Opera, Bel Canto opera company and the Greensboro Symphony, among others. A full slate of initial programming will be announced later this year.

“The Resident Activity Center – and the theater, in particular – will provide our residents with an incredible arts-centered lifestyle,” Tutterow said. “It’s hard to beat enjoying a live performance by the full Greensboro Symphony, for example, basically in your own home.”

Well•Spring partners with Weatherspoon Art Museum on exciting exhibitions, education opportunities

Well•Spring and Weatherspoon Art Museum, part of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, are launching a special reciprocal partnership to provide Well•Spring residents exposure to world-class artwork and art education opportunities and the Weatherspoon with a unique outlet for exhibiting works from its collection.

The Weatherspoon’s dedicated and rotating exhibition space is part of Well•Spring’s new Resident Activity Center. Space off a new concourse there has been supported by a generous gift from Jo Safrit, a Well•Spring resident and longtime Weatherspoon supporter. In turn, the space – to be known as the Jo Safrit & Cathy Ennis Gallery – is being provided to the Weatherspoon for rotating exhibits.

In addition to potential talks and workshops on various art subjects, Well•Spring will underwrite and host an annual Distinguished Visiting Artist Lecture, spotlighting artists chosen by the Weatherspoon who epitomize the museum’s focus on contemporary and modern art. The lecture expands on Well•Spring’s long relationship with The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, of which the Weatherspoon is part, and the life plan community’s commitment to continuing education opportunities for its residents.

“Well•Spring is thrilled with this new relationship with the Weatherspoon,” said K. Alan Tutterow, executive director of Well•Spring, A Life Plan Community. “While the gallery is not a terribly large space, it is a high-profile, defined area that all of our residents and many of our visitors will pass by. It’s incredible that we will be able to display art of the caliber for which the Weatherspoon is known and to work with the museum on engaging educational opportunities, including the annual lecture. This is a great fit for both Well•Spring and the Weatherspoon.”

Nancy Doll, director of the Weatherspoon, agreed.

“The Weatherspoon has longstanding connections with Well•Spring,” Doll said. “Residents attend some of our lectures, exhibition receptions and other special programs. Moreover, a good number of Well•Spring residents are museum members, and some have been dedicated docents, offering tours to groups from K-12 through adults. This effort also meets one of the goals of our current Strategic Plan – to increase collaborations with key external community partners. We welcome this opportunity to partner with Well•Spring, another organization that fills an important role in Greensboro.”
Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden to offer hands-on learning, horticulture education

Well•Spring will launch a partnership with the Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden in Kernersville to provide Well•Spring’s horticulture-oriented residents with additional learning opportunities.

Next year, Ciener experts will offer some hands-on guidance with residents who sign up to grow vegetables, flowers or herbs in our raised-bed garden, featuring 43 elevated containers for gardening enthusiasts. They also will offer a wide array of educational talks and lectures on horticulture.

“We are thrilled to partner with Well•Spring and share our wealth of knowledge and expertise with other garden enthusiasts,” said John Whisnant, Ciener’s executive director. “Since gardening is the number one pastime in America, it seemed like the perfect fit.”

Well•Spring created its raised-bed garden a few years ago and most recently upgraded the facility with high-tech gated fencing and a roomy potting shed.

Opened in 2011, the Ciener Garden was the vision of the late Paul J. Ciener, a well-known businessman and owner of Ciener Woods Ford. Ciener loved horticulture and toured great gardens around the world, studying plants and garden style. The garden is his gift to the region that gave so much to him. When fully developed, the Ciener Garden will boast more than 25 individually styled garden areas, an amphitheater, wetlands and more. It already is a popular event space for weddings and parties.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CIENER GARDEN, PLEASE VISIT CIENERBOTANICALGARDEN.ORG.

Residents share stories in new video series

Check out our new video series “Why We Live at Well•Spring,” featuring several of our residents who describe the thought processes they went through in determining to transition to a life plan community, as well as why they chose Well•Spring – such as Doug and Patti Gilbert, shown here. The segments can be viewed as they are released on our website and Facebook page.

Ships ahoy!

It was quite the afternoon when residents competed in our Aquatics Center pool during the Cardboard Regatta! The paddling was ferocious as participants – navigating boats made of nothing but cardboard and duct tape – maneuvered to the end of the pool and back in multiple rounds. A good time was had by all – in the pool and viewing from the sides!
Resident, retired Army officer publishes book on military leadership

Residents of Well-Spring, a Life Plan community often note that they are delighted upon moving in to realize the many varied and interesting backgrounds of their new neighbors. Teachers, attorneys, clergy, physicians, educators, world travelers, soldiers... the list is endless.

One of Well-Spring’s most acclaimed residents is retired U.S. Army Lieut. Gen. Walter F. Ulmer, Jr., who has called the life plan community his and his wife’s home for the past 17 years – their 33rd move since marrying in 1952. He and Marty have three married sons, 11 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren spread all around the country.

Ulmer served as an Army officer in Korea, Japan, Vietnam, and Germany. He holds military decorations from the United States, Korea, and Vietnam, including the Master Parachutist and Combat Infantryman badges. He led the 3d Armored Division in Germany and III Corps at Fort Hood, was a faculty member at Army War College and West Point, where he served also as Commandant of Cadets from 1975-77. He holds a graduate degree from Penn State University, where he was named an Alumni Fellow.

A native of Maine, he retired from active duty in 1985 and relocated to Greensboro to become President and CEO of the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL), a global non-profit research and educational institution. Its open enrollment courses provide leader development and organizational management guidelines. CCL presents annually the Walter F. Ulmer, Jr. Applied Research Award for outstanding research on topics of contemporary interest in the leadership field.

After a decade at CCL, Ulmer spent several years living at Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia and worked as a management consultant, specializing in organizational climates and executive development in both commercial and military organizations.

Afterward the Ulmers returned to Greensboro, having searched from Rhode Island to Florida for the ideal place to which they’d retire. “Actually, the judgment was made based in part on our having lived in Greensboro for 10 years when I worked at CCL, having friends here and appreciating the community,” Ulmer said. “But the primary reason was the clear quality of the staff – competent and dedicated to the kind of unique work essential in a retirement community, and a universal sense of caring and competence. ... There is considerable diversity of background of the Well-Spring folks that brings a pleasant chemistry to activities and discussions.”

Ulmer has lectured on leadership in the United States, Europe, Australia, Japan and the former Soviet Union and led several studies of leadership, the latest a 2010 assessment of the leadership characteristics of Army major general division commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His book, A Military Leadership Notebook, was published last November and is described as “a cookbook filled with proven recipes for leading in war and peace – how to create climates that empower leaders at all levels to lead and to build organizations that win.” While geared toward military scenarios, much in the book can be adopted in other organizational settings. Well-Spring utilized the book throughout the year for leadership training of its team. “Anywhere people in a group are working to get something done, the basics of leadership apply,” he pointed out.

“My hope is that these lessons will be helpful to current and future generations of leaders across all sectors of society,” because anywhere people are working as a group to get things done the basics of leadership apply,” Ulmer said. “At the current pace of sales, the book will take about 50 years to cover that audience!”
Residents of Well•Spring, A Life Plan Community stay on the go! Recently, many joined in on jaunts to the N.C. Museum of Art in Raleigh and the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va.

A group of daring Well•Spring residents recently packed up and headed upriver – the Dan River, specifically – for an exhilarating day of tubing.

Leading the group of fun-seekers was Robin McCloskey, Aquatic & Fitness Coordinator, who sets a high standard for our residents’ fitness and wellness offerings.

The flotilla launched from a spot near Danbury, near Hanging Rock State Park in Stokes County, and headed off for a 2½-hour water safari. At the end of their journey, residents smiled, proud of their achievement.

“It was wonderful!” exclaimed resident Ethel Yari, who makes exercise a daily priority.

Out and About

Holiday Tree Decorating Contest

Supporting area nonprofits

As part of its longtime commitment to support the local community, Well•Spring, A Life Plan Community will again host its annual Holiday Tree Decorating Contest, which benefits nonprofit organizations in the area.

From Nov. 29 to Dec. 11, residents of and visitors to Well•Spring can vote for their favorite holiday tree, among 10 decorated by nonprofits as a way of creatively illustrating each organization’s mission. Each participating organization receives $500, and the organization’s tree that receives the most votes receives an additional $2,000 charitable donation from Well•Spring.

In honor of Well•Spring’s 25th anniversary this year, a special silver snowflake ornament has been commissioned to include on each tree. The members of Well•Spring’s Residents’ Council will vote on the tree they feel best conveys the spirit of Well•Spring’s anniversary. The winner of this special contest will receive an additional $500 charitable donation.

The 10 area nonprofits competing this year are:

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<th>Foundation of Greater Greensboro</th>
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<td>Alzheimer’s Association of Western N.C.</td>
<td>Junior League of Greensboro</td>
<td>Red Dog Farm</td>
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<td>Communities in Schools</td>
<td>The Public Art Endowment, an Initiative of The Community</td>
<td>Triad Local First</td>
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<td>Greensboro Woman’s Club</td>
<td>Horsepower</td>
<td>Triad Pride Performing Arts</td>
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For more information on the contest, please visit well-spring.org and follow along on Well•Spring’s Facebook page.
Memorials, Honorariums and Other Gifts

The Board of Trustees of Well•Spring, A Life Plan Community and the Well•Spring Foundation gratefully acknowledge the gifts that have been made by the following contributors from September 2017 to August 2018 in memory or in honor of loved ones, friends and those who have touched their lives in so many ways.
OUR MISSION

Well•Spring is a not-for-profit organization providing aging-adult services which create an experience that exceeds the needs of an evolving and diverse population of older adults.

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