Excitement was high as prospective residents gathered at Brooke Grove Retirement Village (BGRV) on September 6 to meet their soon-to-be neighbors and celebrate Montgomery County’s recent approval to begin construction on the next stage of BGRV’s independent living expansion. Phase I of the project opened in November 2004 followed by Phase II in June 2005.

The 18 well-appointed cottages included in Phases III and IV vary in size from 1,400 square feet to over 4,000 square feet with a basement. Major options include fireplaces, sunrooms, decks and screened porches. Depositors are in the process of personalizing their homes through the selection of kitchen and bathroom cabinets, counter top laminates and flooring. Demand for independent living homes at BGRV is high with 100% of the cottages in all four phases sold out. A waiting list is in place.

“Initial construction activities will focus on sediment control,” said Brooke Grove Foundation Vice President Dennis Hunter. “Work will begin at Lake Hallowell and proceed back toward the sediment control pond which, at the completion of the project, will become a future wet pond and water feature.” Once the sediment control pond is in place, work will commence on other areas of the project, such as the clearing of trees, site grading, underground utilities, and the placement of a new road to the business office. “There are a few months of site work that must be done before construction begins on the cottages,” concluded Mr. Hunter. It is anticipated that some residents will be able to move into their homes in early summer 2008 and that the project will be completed by late that same summer, weather permitting.

Phases III and IV of the project also include a

(continued on page 4)
The “next phase” just became the “now phase”! What’s happening now? I’m glad you asked. The answer is that new independent living cottages are under construction right now. What’s in store for the soon-to-be-bigger-but-still-small-and-intimate community? First of all, there will be 18 more beautiful, spacious homes with more options than ever on one of the most beautiful senior living campuses in this neck of the woods. (Really! They will be built in the neck of the woods, right between the trees and the pastures.)

Of course, there’s much more. After a gourmet meal (standard fare around here) at Westbrooke, you can enjoy a leisurely walk along the LifeTrail (our fitness trail, to be seriously expanded during the current construction) on which you will experience the wild life. (No, no, you know that I mean deer, fox, bluebirds and such.) If you venture off the beaten path, you might even enjoy Butterfly Fields, our future adventurous attempt to replant indigenous species of butterflies on campus. If you haven’t guessed, we love nature and want to maintain the natural feel to our campus as much as possible.

But, far more than homes and far more than nature, we value people. Brooke Grove is about relationships. Our homes and the natural environment are just context, tools and resources for deepening relationships. The real magic of Brooke Grove is a close-knit community in which people support and care for one another. That gourmet food I mentioned earlier? Well, it really does taste great, but food is always best when shared with people you know and enjoy.

We love “touching people’s lives.” It’s not just a phase we’re going through.

Keith Gibb Appointed to The Arc Board of Directors

Brooke Grove Foundation President Keith Gibb was recently elected to a one-year term on the board of directors of The Arc of Montgomery County. He also serves as a member of the nonprofit organization’s business advisory committee, a position he has held since 2002.

Through advocacy, educational, vocational services and other programs, The Arc seeks to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with lifelong opportunities to live, learn, work and play with dignity, freedom and full inclusion in the community.

“Brooke Grove Foundation and The Arc of Montgomery County have a lot in common, including our philosophical point of view, the respect we have for our customers and the way in which we work to bring out the best of the human spirit,” said Mr. Gibb. “I have enjoyed my association with The Arc’s business advisory committee, and I am truly honored to be elected to the board of directors. I look forward to serving in this new capacity.”

Clients in the vocational services division of The Arc have provided mailing services for Brooke Grove Retirement Village’s (BGRV) community newsletter, “Village News,” for more than a decade, and other clients have volunteered across the BGRV campus for many years.
**Pin Demonstrates Love and Support for Bereaved**

Through the initiative of Brooke Grove Retirement Village (BGRV) Chaplain Bill Neely, BGRV staff members, volunteers and resident family members who experience the loss of a loved one now receive a “grief pin” as a symbol of their loss and the organization’s support during this difficult time.

Designed by Susan Whitmore, whose daughter, Erika, died of cancer in 2001, the grief pin was created to encourage those surrounding the wearer to lend their support and participate in the bereaved’s sorrow while also honoring the lost loved one.

“In the U.S., we have colored bracelets for every conceivable cause … yet, we have no symbol that portrays a person in grief,” explained Ms. Whitmore, who also established The Erika Whitmore Godwin Foundation (www.griefHaven.org).

“Imagine how others might react if they saw you walking down the street, a cast on your arm and stitches, bandages and bruises all over. People would be more cautious and thoughtful; they would go out of their way for you. Yet those who are grieving walk around looking normal and healthy when, in fact, they are extremely wounded inside and would benefit greatly from the type of support and compassion an ‘obvious’ tragedy would afford them.”

The pin’s upside-down heart represents a heart in grief, the diamond shape is the symbol for hope, and the scrolls are an ancient symbol of love. When the wearer is ready, fortified with hope and love, the pin may eventually be worn right-side up.

**Breakfast is Served at Camp Friendship**

Brooke Grove Foundation (BGF) employees were on hand to make sure that each of the campers attending Camp Friendship in Laytonsville, Maryland, this summer started their day with a delicious, yet healthy breakfast. Over the last 15 years, in what has become a cherished annual tradition, staff members from two BGF campuses, Brooke Grove Retirement Village (Sandy Spring, Maryland) and Williamsport Retirement Village (Williamsport, Maryland), volunteered to serve the morning meal during one week in July and another in August. The food was prepared by BGF’s culinary services personnel, and the Foundation took care of the grocery bill.

A haven for kids with cancer, Camp Friendship is the primary program of the Carol Jean Cancer Foundation (CJCF). A nonprofit organization established by the Eiserer family in 1986, CJCF was founded in memory of Carol Jean Eiserer, a Maryland schoolteacher who died of a malignant brain tumor at age 43.

Campers attend Camp Friendship free of charge, and volunteers, including medical personnel, staff the camp.

For information about CJCF and Camp Friendship, visit cjcf4kids.org.
BGRV’s Journey to Culture Change
Presented at National Dementia Care Conference

“Back to the Future: Our Journey to Culture Change” was the subject of an August 28 learning station presentation offered by Brooke Grove Foundation Corporate Director of Marketing Susan Frazier at the 15th Annual Alzheimer’s Association Dementia Care Conference held in Chicago. The presentation offered insight into the process of culture change experienced by Brooke Grove Retirement Village (BGRV) during the research, planning and implementation phases of its innovative, new Memory Support program for assisted living residents.

The Dementia Care Conference gives dementia care peers from around the United States an opportunity to learn from renowned aging experts and participate in educational programs addressing the unique needs and demands of the profession.

“By sharing the ups and downs of our journey as well as some of the cutting-edge methods that have positively impacted quality of life for Brooke Grove residents, we hope to provide insight that will be useful to others as they work to provide optimal living for those with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia,” explained Ms. Frazier.

Admissions Team Welcomes Trish Rider, RN

Patricia (“Trish”) Rider, RN, recently joined Brooke Grove Retirement Village’s (BGRV) admissions team as the department’s community nurse liaison. In her new role, Ms. Rider helps to ensure appropriate facility placement for all new resident admissions and readmissions and also acts as a liaison between BGRV and the community, including physicians, hospital discharge planners and health insurance providers.

Ms. Rider comes highly qualified for the position with 27 years of experience as a registered nurse, including 16 years of clinical/managerial expertise in gerontological nursing. She joins BGRV from Hebrew Home of Greater Washington in Rockville, where she was the assistant director of nursing. She has also served in nursing management at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg.

“Trish’s comprehensive experience in long-term care as well as her friendly, easy-going personality make her a real asset to BGRV and to all those we serve,” said BGRV Director of Admissions Janet Wright. “We are pleased to welcome her to our team.”

BGRV Celebrates Beginning of Construction on Newest Independent Living Cottages

(continued from page 1)
Independent Living

Olney Big Band Named to Hall of Fame

The Olney Big Band (OBB), directed by Brooke Grove Retirement Village independent living resident Rip Rice, Ph.D., was recently awarded the designation of “Ambassadors of Big Band Music” by the Sally Bennett Big Band Hall of Fame in West Palm Beach, Florida. The certification was presented to Dr. Rice by Hall of Fame Musical Director Ben Grisafi during an August concert performed by the OBB in downtown Olney.

According to Mr. Grisafi, the OBB received the “Ambassadors” designation in recognition of the excellent job it does in promoting and playing Big Band music; for going the extra mile to play for seniors in retirement, assisted living and nursing home environments, many times with no compensation; for working with young people to interest them in preserving Big Band music; and for issuing “In the Mood,” a quarterly publication that includes accurate stories about the greatest Big Band Era orchestras and musicians.

The OBB is a 20-piece orchestra that plays historic jazz and swing music, primarily from the 1920s through the 1940s. Its players are all volunteers, performing at civic and charitable events, concerts, dances, senior residences and private affairs.

For further information, visit www.olneyjazz.org.

Dreams Take Flight

Independent living residents soared with the spirited heroine of aviation and women’s rights when local actress Mary Ann Jung of “History Alive!” performed as Amelia Earhart in a live, interactive appearance following one of the dessert socials held at Westbrooke this summer.

In an educational and entertaining presentation entitled “Dreams Take Flight,” Ms. Jung recalled the life of this fascinating pilot and enlisted audience members to participate as key characters.

Ms. Jung has appeared on CNN, “The Today Show” and “Good Morning America” and has been a lead actress and Director of Renaissance History and Shakespearean Language at the Maryland Renaissance Festival for 26 years. Her performance portfolio includes a variety of other historic figures, including Queen Elizabeth, Clara Barton and Julia Child.

Residents continued their walk back in history with a visit to the College Park (MD) Aviation Museum and the world’s oldest continually operating airport. Established in 1909 when Orville and Wilbur Wright set out to teach the first two Army officers to fly, the airport became the site of the first Army Aviation School in 1911 and the launching spot of the U.S. Air Mail Service. After touring the museum, the group enjoyed a meal at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, located on the edge of the airfield’s tarmac and featuring décor reminiscent of a World War I French farmhouse.
A new support group for family members of The Meadows and The Woods assisted living residents was launched on August 30. Under the direction of Family/Resident Ambassador Wisma Satriano, the Family Support Group offers educational opportunities and the chance for family members to develop supportive friendships.

During the first meeting, Brooke Grove Foundation Associate Medical Director Grace Brooke Huffman, M.D. presented information on pharmacological treatment for dementia. The September 27 meeting featured consultant and former Alzheimer’s Association staff member Nancy Dezan, who discussed ways to make the most of a family visit.

For further information, contact Ms. Satriano at 301-260-2312 or WSatriano@bgf.org.

The tropical sights and sounds of Hawaii filled the senses as assisted living residents joined Brooke Grove Rehabilitation and Nursing Center (BGRNC) residents for a luau in BGRNC’s beautiful Sharon courtyard this summer. The event included hula dancing, a conga line and lots of great food.

Friday, October 26, 2 p.m. “Stages of Dementia and Recent Research” presented by Andrea Nelson Johns Hopkins University

Tuesday, November 13, 5 p.m. “How Case Management Services Can Be Useful” presented by Vicky Hulcher Geriatric Care Manager Coordinator Senior Care

Thursday, December 6, 5 p.m. “Overview of Woodhaven Pharmacy Services” presented by Sandy Owens and Julie Potter Woodhaven Pharmacy

All meetings will be held in the upstairs conference room of The Meadows 1641.
BGRNC Hosts MACS III Meeting

Brooke Grove Rehabilitation and Nursing Center (BGRNC) hosted a meeting of Region III of the Maryland Activity Coordinators Society (MACS) this summer. Speaking on the topic of “Culture Change: A Team Success Story,” program presenters included Brooke Grove Foundation President Keith Gibb, Brooke Grove Retirement Village (BGRV) Regional Administrator Patty Anderson, BGRNC Director of Nursing Dorothy Poole, BGRNC Quality Assurance Coordinator Sue Goldstone, BGRV Chaplain Bill Neely, BGRNC Assistant Administrator Deb Schyllander and BGRNC LIFE Enrichment Director Corinthia Cromwell.

MACS was founded in 1975 to unite activity professionals in geriatric settings. Among other objectives, this professional organization seeks to promote quality activity programming, act as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information among its members, sponsor continuing education opportunities for activity professionals, and serve as a liaison with local and state government regarding the promotion and regulation of geriatric activity programming. Region III includes members from Montgomery, Calvert, Charles, Prince George’s and St. Mary’s counties. Ms. Cromwell currently serves as MACS vice president for that region.

BGRNC Commended for Reduction in Restraint Usage

Brooke Grove Rehabilitation and Nursing Center (BGRNC) was recently commended by the Delmarva Foundation for its success in reducing restraint usage from a September 2006 rate of 14.7 to a 2007 rate of 1.5%, with no serious injuries or family complaints. A team that included the associate medical director, administration, nursing, family members and the quality assurance coordinator was formed to address the problem and find ways to improve quality of life for residents by reducing the use of restraints.

According to the Summer 2007 issue of Delmarva’s “Quality Quarterly” newsletter for nursing home quality, a statistical analysis indicated that when restraint usage was lower, so were the number of fractures and falls. This energized the team to implement changes, which included a “no restraint philosophy”; rewards for geriatric nursing assistants who turned in restraints; a medication review of all drugs known to contribute to falls; the development of a policy requiring a rehabilitation screen for all residents who fall; and the education of residents, families, staff and physicians on the negative effects of restraints.

“We changed the culture of our nursing home from one that looked to restraints as our only solution to resident safety to one that accepts the risks and challenges of caring for our unrestrained residents,” explained BGRNC Quality Assurance Coordinator Sue Goldstone, RN, in the “Quality Quarterly.”

BGRNC’s Family Council Meeting

Date/Time: First Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m.
Place: Second Floor Multipurpose Room
Facilitator: Margie Lapp, 301-330-5834

All family members of Brooke Grove Rehabilitation and Nursing Center residents are invited to attend.
You’re Invited…

“Taking Charge of Your Health: Education Not Medication”
presented by Pharmacist Brian Sanderoff
Wednesday, October 10, 7-8:30 p.m.
Brooke Grove Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
18131 Slade School Road
For further information or to R.S.V.P. for this free community seminar, contact Susan Frazier, 301-924-2811, option 3, or SFrazier@bgf.org.

Alzheimer’s Support Group
Wednesday, October 17, 10-11 a.m.
Brooke Grove Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
18131 Slade School Road
For further information, contact Bill Neely, 301-924-5176 or BNeely@bgf.org.

Memory Walk 2007
Saturday, October 27, 8 a.m.
Sylvan Theatre, National Mall, Washington, D.C.
Benefits the Alzheimer’s Association, National Capital Area.
To join the Brooke Grove Retirement Village team of walkers or request a Memory Walk information packet, contact Janet Wright or Rachel Scher, 301-260-2320, JWright@bgf.org or RScher@bgf.org.

Volunteer Orientation
Tuesday, October 30, 6:30-8 p.m.
Brooke Grove Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
18131 Slade School Road
For further information, contact Volunteer Services, 301-570-7081, or volunteers@bgf.org.

For resident activities information, call or see the LIFE Enrichment Director at each facility.