

NEWS for SENIORS

Fountain Valley Senior Center News & Activities

Holiday events with the Senior Center

New Year's Eve Celebration – Dec. 30: Join us as we bring in the New Year a day early. The Front Range Big Band will provide entertainment. We will have light snacks, desserts, beverages and sparkling cider. The fun starts at 5 p.m., we will ring in the new year at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7.

Holiday closures — The center will be closed after Bingo on Dec. 23 through Dec. 27, as well as Dec. 31-Jan. 3.

Silver Key Connections Cafe'

Dec. 20-23 (Dine-in menu) Beef Fajita w/ Peppers, Onions, Cheese, Sour Cream & Salsa, Tortillas, Spanish Rice, SW Black Beans, Strawberries Tuna Salad, Croissant, Chickpea Soup, Sunflower Broccoli Salad, Apple Pork Pot Roast w/ Onion, Celery, Carrots, Potato Medley, Orange Chicken Pot Pie w/ Buttermilk Biscuit, Lima Beans, Tossed Salad w/ Red Wine Vinaigrette Dressing, Pear <i>Closed Christmas Eve</i>	Dec. 27-31 (Dine-in menu) <i>Closed Dec. 27 for Christmas weekend</i> Baked Citrus Tilapia, Lemon Herb Rice, Mixed Vegetables, Coleslaw, Tropical Fruit, Roll Pepper Steak, Brown Rice, Lima Beans, Dinner Roll, Strawberries Stuffed Bell Pepper, Baby Baker Potatoes, Cauliflower, Carrot Raisin Salad, Spiced Peaches <i>Closed New Year's Eve</i>
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Lunch Menu

For more information about Silver Key Connections Cafe', call the Fountain Valley Senior Center at 600-2644. Local Silver Key Connections Cafe' meal sites include the Fountain Valley Senior Center, 5745 Southmoor Drive, in Fountain.

Connections Cafe is open!

To prevent the spread of germs, all silverware and cups will be disposable.

Villas at Mesa Ridge nearly complete; few units still available

By Karin Hill
Villas at Mesa Ridge, the new senior apartment complex under construction between Mesa Ridge Parkway and Cross Creek Avenue in Fountain, is nearly complete and leasing is well underway.

With little advertising – mostly networking with the Fountain Valley Senior Center – the property has already filled up 80 percent of its units, with about 10 apartments still available as



The main entrance of Villas at Mesa Ridge faces Cross Creek Avenue near the Safeway in Fountain.
NEWS PHOTO BY KARIN HILL

of press time, said Dee Goodall, regional manager of Wilhoit Properties.

“This town is in great need of what we do: affordable housing for seniors,” Goodall said.

Most of the apartments that have been leased already are designated for lower income seniors. The ones still available are also considered below average income, but at 60 and 80 percent of AMI they are on the higher end of the spectrum.

Now, workers are putting on finishing touches and landscaping at the 60-unit development. Officials expect to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony sometime in January.

The development features a cardio fitness center, covered picnic areas with grills, a library media room with computers, community room, an on-site management staff and 24-hour carefree maintenance. Large open floor plans feature fully-equipped kitchens with dishwasher, refrigerator, garbage disposal, stove/oven and microwave. Each home also has ceiling fans, full size washer/dryer, and a private patio/balcony with additional storage.

Rainbow Housing Assistance Corporation, a nonprofit organization that provides service-enriched housing programs for residents of rental housing communities throughout the country, will be implementing senior services at this location.

Developed by Wilhoit’s parent company Zimmerman Properties, Villas at Mesa Ridge will feature affordable rental housing for residents 62 and older. This is the Missouri-based company’s first development in Colorado. Goodall says the company is excited about this new venture and that more Colorado projects should be expected in the future.

The vacant land was donated to the city in 2009. Zimmerman Properties approached the city a few years ago about purchasing the land for this development, and city leaders agreed that senior housing would be a much-welcomed addition.

Zimmerman worked with the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority and other sources to assist with funding the project, which is estimated to cost around \$17 million. The use of government tax credits allows the developer to offer lower rents.

To contact the temporary leasing office, call 719-252-1779.

Silver Key and Pikes Peak Habitat to partner on senior home program

Support for this initiative will help to combat senior housing challenges and isolation in the Pikes Peak region amid the affordable housing shortage which is a public health crisis that ultimately impacts us all.

The Myron Stratton Foundation has awarded a \$150,000 grant to fund a new collaboration between Silver Key Senior Services and Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity focused on keeping seniors safely aging in place. “The new Senior Home Modification program expands the missions of both organizations on safe housing with specific focus on helping seniors remain in their homes longer,” stated Jason DeaBueno, Silver Key’s President and CEO. “We appreciate the support of the Myron Stratton Foundation Board to provide seed funding for this program with extraordinary potential,” stated Kris Lewis, Executive Director/CEO of Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity. Housing, in particular senior housing, is at crisis stage in the Pikes Peak region. Social determinants of health starts with safe, stable, and affordable housing. Silver Key and Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity are excited to join forces in this first-time and innovative partnership.

Home safety and accessibility improvements will range from interior grab bars, ADA-approved door handles and thresholds to exterior ramps, railings and roof repairs. Select recipients will also engage with Silver Key’s multiple wraparound services designed to keep seniors healthy, independent and safely living in a residence of their choice for as long as they are able, as they age. Program services will not be fully available until March 2022 after planning and processes are finalized between the organizations. To learn more how you can make a difference, visit www.silverkey.org or <https://pikespeakhabitat.org/>.

Data indicates that one of the fastest growing demographics in the El Paso County region are retirees aged 65+. Population growth and demographic shifts in the region necessitate that

we bring needed resources to El Paso County.

About Silver Key:
Silver Key Senior Services was founded in 1970 to improve the quality of life for area nursing home residents. Today, Silver Key’s mission has broadened to provide more than 11,000 seniors annually with a wide variety of services, including Silver Key Connections Café, Silver Key Home Delivered Meals including Meals on Wheels, Silver Key Reserve & Ride transportation services, and vital Senior Health & Wellness services that offer a full spectrum of senior assistance including government food program distribution, pantry, Behavioral Health and Companionship services and much more! To learn more about Silver Key and volunteer opportunities, visit www.silverkey.org.

About Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity:
People in our community and all over the world partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Since 1986 Pikes Peak Habitat has assisted 200 families in El Paso County. Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability, and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and their families. Habitat’s mission seeks to put God’s love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope. For more information, visit www.pikespeakhabitat.org.

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