



## We're growing strong!



*Message from*  
**Amy Jo Powers**  
—Executive Director

Recently, I penned one of the regular updates for people who invest in Touchmark on West Prospect. When I finished, it crossed my mind that perhaps this information would interest others as well. I'm sharing highlights with you as a testament to our year of growth in 2006 and our optimism for 2007. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Touchmark on West Prospect's obvious improvement is a result of dedicated employees, the endorsement of residents, and direct community involvement. Indeed, 2006 was a standout year for growth. Combined growth in The Grande and Fox Pointe at Touchmark Village totaled 44 units—an extraordinary accomplishment equaling a 26-percent increase in occupancy. We continue to use resources wisely, looking for economies of scale and identifying ways to improve services while maintaining rates.

As a result of increased occupancy, we added staff, specifically in the areas of Nursing and Life Enrichment/Wellness. Two new positions were created: Our Wellness nurse is a registered nurse who focuses on the needs of independent residents; the Life Enrichment/Wellness assistant supports current programming and allows expansion of activities.

In December 2006, we welcomed another addition to our Life Enrichment/Wellness program—a new Toyota Sienna, which will provide greater flexibility in resident transportation.

Touchmark on West Prospect is once again under construction, with 10 Fox Pointe homes scheduled for completion within the next few months. For the first time, Fox Pointe at Touchmark Village will participate in this year's Valley Home Builders Association's Parade of Condos, scheduled May 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20.

We invite you to visit us and enjoy a meal as well as participate in any of our events. When you have a referral, please contact me or one of our Sales associates, Chad Strong or Jen Thompson.

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## The changing days of our lives

*by* **Marge Coalman, EdD**  
—Vice President of Wellness & Programs, Touchmark

According to research by Penn State Associate Professor Matt Kaplan, PhD, and others, the activity level of the grandparent generation has gone up, due in part to improved health, increased fitness over the life span, and a worldwide emphasis on supporting lifelong learning. Grandparenting itself has changed significantly. Shared interests now may include mountain biking, martial arts, photography, or skiing. Today, there are grandparent university programs that offer courses and workshops for grandparents and their grandchildren, and several entrepreneurs specialize in “grandtravel,” planning vacations for the two generations

who want to explore new horizons together.

There are some losses associated with this cultural shift. The days of Sunday dinners at grandmother’s house may be gone altogether or occur primarily during holidays and specially planned reunions. Children go to school year-round in many places, with summer vacations limited or lost. Extended families may correspond primarily by e-mail, cell phone, and webcasting. The net effect is less time for connecting generations and building relationship-based, real-time personal encounters within the community.

The intergenerational programs at Touchmark communities emphasize enhancing opportunities for connectivity among the generations. Whether the family is near or far, there are occasions to connect with children and young adults. Programs and events are planned and held to sup-

**“Effective intergenerational programs provide time as well as space to build relationships between children and older adults.”**

—*High/Scope Educational Research Foundation*

port ongoing relationships between residents and guests of all ages. There are scheduled program offerings that provide intergenerational activities both within Touchmark and beyond. To contribute ideas or volunteer in the Full Life intergenerational programs we sponsor, contact Life Enrichment/Wellness Director Bobbie Thompson.

## A lifestyle and home built for you

**by Jen Thompson**  
—Sales Associate

April showers bring May flowers ... but what do May flowers bring? New residents to Touchmark! Just as the Pilgrims came to America on the Mayflower, new residents are beginning their voyage to Touchmark on West Prospect. Prepare yourself to enjoy a community designed just for you. Whatever your age or choice of accommodations, you will have access to outstanding services, amenities, chef-prepared cuisine, maintenance-free living, and quality health services.

The time is now to explore your next voyage in life with

a Fox Pointe or Grande home. As you begin to discover new horizons, you will find that you have time to pursue your passions. Sail the world, go to school, write a novel, or even start a new career. To become one of the great explorers of the 21st century, please contact our Sales team at 920-832-9100.

## Experiencing the wonder of Asian cultures

**by Bobbie Thompson**  
—Life Enrichment/Wellness Director



**Kana Kudo demonstrates Japanese calligraphy.**

Thousands of years ago, beautiful Chinese characters (symbols of meaning) were used to communicate in a written form called calligraphy. About a thousand years ago, Japan adopted some of the same characters and created its own to add to the many hundreds of flowing black ink lines that tell such artistically presented stories.

Touchmark recently celebrated the wonder of other cultures with an educational and entertaining Asian Festival. The program featured a sampling of crispy, delicious Thai spring rolls; a Japanese calligraphy demonstration and a presentation of the kimono by Japanese foreign-exchange student Kana Kudo; and origami demonstrations by Barb and Stu Leslie’s granddaughter, Elizabeth.

Before the program, Clarence and Myrtle Miller shared some Asian items for display so that other residents could enjoy them. Little did they know what good fortune this gesture of kindness would bring them. As the calligraphy character for “friend” was created before residents’ eyes, a drawing was held, and Myrtle won the original artwork.

The festive occasion ended with four Hmong dancers (Paris



**Hmong dancers perform at the recent Asian Festival.**

Xiong and cousins Cha Mee, Ka Zia, and Pa Nou Vang) performing to traditional Hmong music. Residents burst into spontaneous applause at the beauty and awe of each presentation. Resident Shirleen Jones commented that, “The event was absolutely fantastic, and I think everybody said so. The Hmong dancers were truly magnificent!”

The program was followed with a Chinese carry-in dinner, complete with fortune cookies and lots of good stories of travel to Asian countries and military experience in Japan, Korea, and other parts of the Orient. “We can hardly wait to do it again!”

you show them things. You play ball with them or make arts and crafts with them; you exercise; you read to them stories they love, and they laugh, and you laugh with them. It’s fun.

It was so nice to see my great-grandson yesterday. Today, I spent time with my granddaughter and her mother, and Tuesday, I saw my other granddaughter, who is a twin, and tomorrow I see the other twin. When I lived so far away, I couldn’t see anybody. Now, I’m here, and I can spend time with them, and I love every minute of it. I feel so fortunate to have lived this long and be able to see them. It’s such a pleasure to grow more and more into my family. I remember at Christmas time, when we had a photographer here at Touchmark, we were so lucky to have everyone here; that picture of all of the generations is precious to me.

I didn’t have grandparents. Well, I had grandparents, of course, but I didn’t get to spend time with them. My grandfather came to visit us in America and the US extended his visa so he could stay longer. But then Hitler came into power, and they called all the Germans back to Germany, and so he had to return. I couldn’t spend time with him anymore. People look at getting older and think you’re going to just sit around. I don’t sit around. I’m busy, and I say what I think. I try not to hurt anyone with what I say, and I think about that before I speak, but I don’t hold back from living either. Sometimes people think they know better than younger people, but they really don’t; you have to mingle with people of all ages to know best. I guess I’d say having people of different ages and places in life makes my life wonderful!

*For May, please submit an article about active living—sports/fitness theme. Deadline for this issue is April 10. For a list of the guidelines, monthly themes, and deadlines, please contact Life Enrichment/Wellness Director Bobbie Thompson.*

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### Let Your Spirit Soar

*Writers, photographers, and poets live and create in Touchmark communities, and Touchmark is featuring some of this talent and creativity in each newsletter. The Let Your Spirit Soar theme for April is an intergenerational story.*

## Mingle with people of all ages

by Dorothy Daitch  
—Resident



**Dorothy Daitch holds a family photo.**

Naomi, a neighbor friend, and I were just talking today about the value of spending time with people who are a different age than us. It’s a wonderful feeling, no matter what age you are, to spend time with people of all generations. You’re learning things from them or

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## What others are saying

*“I just love this place. It’s so much fun living here, and everyone is so nice!”*

**Willard Hawley**

—Resident, interviewed during a recent live WHBY radio show at Touchmark

## Upcoming events

**Saturday, April 7, 2 pm**—Spring Scavenger Hunt. Bring the little ones. Prizes and refreshments. No charge. Lobby.

**Monday, April 9, 6 pm**—*Fox Cities Blooms!* at Gardens of the Fox Cities. Over 10,000 bulbs were planted for this outdoor floral extravaganza! Join us. No charge.

**Monday, April 23, 6:45 pm**—Harmony in Spirit musical group. Four Seasons. No charge.

**Thursday, April 26, 4:30 and 5:30 pm**—April birthday party with Gene Neyer, accordion player. Meal ticket or guest ticket.

**Friday, April 27, 2:30 pm**—Bird Club: celebrate Arbor Day among the trees, birds, and water on the Tressle Trail in Menasha. No-charge bus ride.

## Play time in the snow



Residents didn't wait for the warm, spring weather to enjoy the outdoors. Earlier this year, a group collected snow to create snowpeople.



Left to right: Audrey Boyson, Barb Leslie, Willard Hawley, and Kathy Curry made snowpeople during one of the biggest snowfalls of the winter.

## Mardi Gras celebration!



Arline Strohm (left) and Shirleen Jones



Mardi Gras: hilarious fun was had by all. Seventy-four residents and guests attended the musical celebration with the Riverboat Rascal (pictured), hurricane drinks, juggling, spinning the big wheel of fortune, and more.



**Save the date!**

**National Senior  
Health & Fitness Day  
Wednesday, May 30**

