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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



"Brookdale is the first retirement community my husband and I looked at. We saw several others, but none quite matched Brookdale."
- J.W., a Brookdale resident

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What's New at Brookdale Living Communities?

Seniors Take Over Winter Olympic Games



*Smiling golf pros show off their Olympic medals at Lake Travis.
From left: Jack Kelso, Maurice Mercer and Charlie Sorrels.*

Forget about the dare devil downhill skiers at Salt Lake City this year. Let's talk 9-ball pool sharks and wacky water-walkers at The Island on Lake Travis Senior Winter Olympics Games.

Wellness Director Diane Wichert of the Lago Vista, Texas property, organized the event and had special medals prepared for all Olympic winners. "We all had a blast," she beamed, "and residents love the medals!"

Wichert said more than 40 residents participated in the laugh-filled games, which included shuffleboard, darts, race walking and the very popular golf ball drive into Lake Travis. Wichert also came up with the idea of renting a shaved-ice machine to create perfectly packed snowballs for a snowball throwing competition. A blown up picture

of good sport Executive Director Bob McMinn was the "hit me" target.

The snowball throw was the most fun, according to resident Lee Burson, adding that "everyone had just a wonderful time."

Residents are now getting in shape for the upcoming Summer Olympics and Wichert is looking into purchasing a permanent ice machine, which is, she added, also useful for "making great Marquettias."

Treasures or Trash?

These days, residents of Chatfield are sorting through their ancestral treasures on a regular basis and having a ball with their own version of "Antiques Roadshow."

The popular PBS TV program was the impetus for starting their own Roadshow, said Marketing Director Donna Juras, who brought in an expert to appraise items for residents and their friends.

"We learn so much and there are all kinds of surprises," said Juras, who noted one resident was delighted to find a \$25 bronzed statue of a partially clad woman was worth between \$2,000 and \$3,000. The resident's parents bought the statue new at a store in New York City on their honeymoon nearly 100 years ago.

The appraiser, from Winter Associates, a well-known local West Hartford, Connecticut auctioneer and appraising firm, also entertains the audience with stories about the origins of each piece. "We learn so much from her," said Juras, "but of course there are some disappointments. Some of us have heirlooms that have been in the family for years and turn out not to be worth much at all."

Juras herself was delighted to find that an antique embroidered tablecloth she picked up for \$10 was worth between \$300 and \$400.

The afternoon of antique appraising has been so popular that Juras said the Roadshows would continue on a regular basis.

Vincent Van Gough meets Vincent DePaul.



Frita Drapkin displays her artwork

When you're young at art like Frita Drapkin, it's easy to color your palette with good will and good deeds.

Drapkin teaches fellow residents at the Heritage of Southfield the fine art of painting. The novice group did so well they put on their first art show and turned the \$353.00 worth of proceeds over to a local Detroit social service agency called Mother Waddles Perpetual Mission.

"Mother Waddles" was Charleszetta Waddles who dedicated her life to feeding, clothing and ministering to the poor. She died last year at the age of 88, but her legacy continues through her daughter Andrea Ellis. Ellis said she was deeply appreciative of the gifts from Frita and her Young at Art group.

Ellis said she works with agencies such as St. Vincent DePaul in servicing basic needs of the poor.

Frita notes that she and her painting group continue to meet and hope to have enough works soon to stage another art show for Mother Waddles.

Morale Boosters for Sick Kids

Helping to ease the pain of sick children, residents of The Classic at West Palm Beach are spending time creating Bravery Badges.

Roughly 25 badges a month are sent to local children's hospitals courtesy of Myrtle Schmiederer and Wanda

Cubbage. The two women meet almost every week to make colorful badges as rewards for children facing serious operations or long term medical treatment. Made of old greeting cards, construction paper, ribbons and glue, the cards bring smiles to the children and “nothing but words of appreciation from the hospitals.”

The Bravery Badge tradition has been going on at The Classic for roughly 10 years with a variety of residents. Cubbage and Schmiederer agree that the process brings them great joy. The reason is simple, said Cubbage, “The badges make a sick child feel better and bring a smile to their face. What better reason could you want?”

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