

GOLDEN ORCHARDS OPENS “Apple Tree Lane”

The Lakeshore’s Premier Assisted Living Facility located at 2464 54th street in Fennville opened a new wing this month exclusively dedicated to the care of older adults with Dementia. The new wing is called “Apple Tree Lane” and will be staffed by individuals who’ve completed special training in Montessori Based Dementia Care.

Michelle DeJong, Director of Community Relations, tells us, “the philosophy behind the Montessori approach focuses on an individual’s abilities and keeps them engaged in meaningful activities. This enhances self esteem and allows the highest level of functioning possible. It’s a very personalized level of care.”

Sue Gawaluch, Executive Director, explains, “our community members can personalize their rooms by hanging their own pictures or bring their favorite chair. They can even bring their own bed if they want.” Clearly, the goal is to make community members as comfortable as possible and keep them engaged with their environment.

Rooms are comfortable and spacious with plenty of room for personal furniture. Each room has its own thermostat for individual control of heating and cooling. “We have 20 rooms in this wing” says Gawaluch. “There are also ‘companion rooms’ available where a husband and wife can stay together.” There are a total of 40 rooms at Golden Orchards so the new facility is half the total capacity.

The ribbon cutting, officially opening the new wing, was performed by Fennville Mayor Dan Rastall. Afterward, wine and snacks were served to the many guests and well wishers present for the ceremony.

Fennville’s Assisted Living Facility was built in 2002 by Don and Mary Lamar and originally called Golden Orchards. Lifehouse Properties took over the facility in February of 2006 and changed the name to Golden Orchards.

Contact Sue Gawaluch at 269-561-4663 for further information.



L to R: Carol Walczyk, ????? Carpenter, Holly Kauffman, Dan Reurink, Sue Gawaluch, Pam Wicks, Dan Rastall



Figure 1 A personalized room



Figure 2 Sue Gawaluch and Michelle DeJong



Figure 3 A personalized room



Figure 4 A companion room



Figure 5 Some of the viands