



Down Home Living

A Publication of Locust Grove Village

Spring, 2018

Locust Grove Village Celebrating 40th Anniversary

Locust Grove Village is 40 years old!

Beginning in 1978 as Rush County Nursing Home Society, this community came together to meet the needs of its elders and their families.

It is time to celebrate the many transitions and services that have been provided over the past 40 years. We will be sharing interesting historic perspectives by people who were instrumental in the development and growth of RCNH first and into Locust Grove Village. These stories will be shared in newsletters, press releases and other means to highlight the great work that has been done over the years for Rush County citizens.

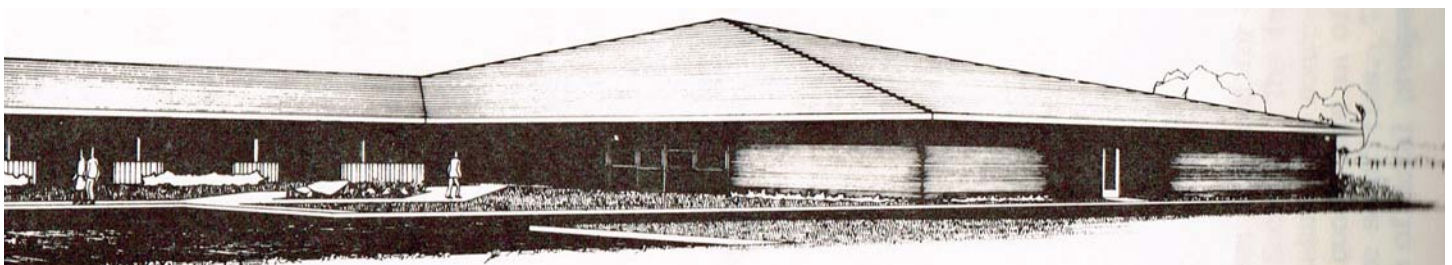
In 1978, the Articles of Incorporation outlined the intent of the Rush County Nursing Home, "The nursing home and extended care facility to be operated, governed

and maintained by the corporation shall be for the benefit of all of the inhabitants of Rush County Kansas, and any person falling sick or becoming injured or maimed within its limits." And now in 2018, forty years after these documents were designed, our vision continues... "To be the premier full range provider of senior living options and services to Rush County and central Kansas seniors."

The first story in this historic look back comes from Richard Barrows, retired pharmacist who offers a step-by-step account of the formation of Rush County Nursing Home Society as told to Maggie Reinhardt. Richard was an original incorporator and served as chairman of the board for 30 years until his retirement in 2008. He now lives in Leawood (see story page 2).

Celebrate
40
1978 2018
Commitment to the Future

As we celebrate our service to the community over the past 40 years, we look to the future with a renewed commitment to provide a facility that meets the needs of our seniors. Plans are being formulated to upgrade and renovate the 40 year old facility. Watch for upcoming announcements from Locust Grove Village. This plan by Locust Grove Village will advance elder care services, provide for workforce development, and further improve the greater community for the next 40 years.



Architect Rendering 1978

RUSH COUNTY NURSING HOME

Richard Barrows One Of LGV's Founding Fathers



After Richard Barrows bought the pharmacy in La Crosse in 1974, it didn't take long for him to realize local residents were leaving town for long-term care.

He and other concerned citizens sounded the alarm to find a solution and Locust

Grove Village (LGV) is the result.

"If the community had not come together back then, there would be no Locust Grove today," Barrows said. "Sixteen Rush County residents joined forces to establish the Rush County Nursing Home Society.

"Each of the 16 donated \$1,200 to start the not for profit entity. The sole purpose was to construct and equip a new nursing home."

At the time the community was rallying around this project, Rush County had 26 long term care beds at the hospital. In addition, Harold Herman offered 25 beds in the old Baker Hospital building.

"In 1975, Harold decided to close his nursing home rather than remodel it to current standards," recalled Barrows, who is retired and living in Leawood. "The old building had lots of steps and was not handicapped accessible. This meant that 25 more people were going to have to move out of county.

"We visited with Bob Hamilton and approached local officials about an addition of more beds at the hospital, but the idea didn't catch on. So, we began to explore the possibility of a new facility."

The first step was securing a certificate of need from the Kansas Department of Health to prove a new facility was necessary.

"Our research indicated there were 108 people from Rush County who were living in facilities outside the county because of a shortage of beds," Barrows said. "As soon as we had the certificate in hand, we hired an architect and brokerage firm to issue industrial revenue bonds

to finance the project."

Informational meetings were held in every Rush County town to explain the project and the approximately \$1,000,000 in bonds. Rush County residents were given first priority to purchase the bonds.

"When the sale of bonds was opened to the public, 85 percent of the them had already been purchased by Rush Countians," Barrows noted. "We were very gratified by the tremendous support of these people who virtually financed this project."

Construction began in 1977 and local vendors and subcontractors supplied as many of the materials and supplies as possible. The Hays based general contractor's foreman, Larry Zimmerman, was a long-time Rush County resident. Zimmerman and his son-in-law, Norbert Moeder, oversaw every aspect of the construction.

After interviewing many nursing home management firms, the founders chose Evangelical Good Samaritan to manage the new facility because of "its excellent reputation for quality care," Barrows commented. "This was also a good fit because Good Samaritan was a not-for-profit too."

Rush County Nursing Home was completed and dedicated in March 1978 and two residents moved in immediately. One was Jerry Greenway who had been waiting in a hospital room for the nursing home doors to open; the other was Edna Young who moved from a Great Bend facility to be closer to family.

Barrows acknowledged that some families hesitated to relocate their loved ones who were content in their current locations. This resulted in slow growth and financial difficulties.

"However," Barrows said, "in another display of local support, each of the 16 Society members personally signed a loan at a local bank for the \$150,000 we needed. It took less than a year to fill all 60 beds and from that point on, the

(continued on page 3)

Richard Barrows

(continued from page 2)

residence was full and had a waiting list until the early 2000s.”

Long term care was much different 40 years ago because assisted living facilities and home health services didn’t exist.

“Anyone who wasn’t fully capable of living independently went to a nursing home,” Barrows commented. “Therefore, many residents were fairly healthy and active but just needed a helping hand.”

After 15 years of operation, the facility was on solid financial ground and bonds were paid off five years early. Then, new bonds were issued to build the independent living apartments.

“The hospital and county commissioners were very generous in donating the piece of land between the nursing home and hospital for this project,” Barrows said. “While individual families have benefited from Locust Grove, the facility also has provided many jobs, which keep people in the community.”

On a personal note, Barrows said his mother and father-in-law both lived at the nursing home where the “care was excellent. This kind of quality care will continue as Locust Grove, the hospital and clinic work together. Going to a nursing home is more appealing if people can be close to family and their local doctors.”



The 1996 ribbon cutting for the Locust Grove Apartments. Richard Barrows, Board chairman, and Joanna Wilson, administrator, are shown with other officials.



Older Americans’ Month

For 55 years, Older Americans Month (OAM) has celebrated older Americans and their contributions to our communities. Led by the Administration for Community Living’s Administration on Aging, every May offers opportunities to support and celebrate our nation’s elders.

Events at Locust Grove Village include the Community Food Drive and a number of intergenerational activities with the La Crosse school district: La Crosse 3rd Graders presented their Wax Museum Project; Bingo with La Crosse 6th Grade Class; La Crosse 2nd Grade students and residents had a cake walk and Kid’s Fun Day featured carnival games, snacks and fun.





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Locust Grove Village Ranks High In Resident Satisfaction

The Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services recently conducted the 2018 resident satisfaction survey with the current residents of Locust Grove Village nursing home. This in-person interview conducted onsite by KDADS is another tool in demonstrating the quality of care and services provided at Locust Grove Village. Data is compiled by the National Research Corporation of Lincoln, NE.

Locust Grove Village scored an Overall Rating Summary of 75% compared to the national average of 54%.

“We feel this is a huge indicator of the quality of care and services provided by our team. From relationships, to care measures, to environment and comfort; the residents we serve are pleased,”

stated Charlotte Rathke, administrator.

As with any survey results there are areas to focus on and growth to continue. “Our team will look at these results with a critical eye and engage the residents in learning how we can make improvements.” Rathke noted.

The survey results will be posted for all participating homes on the KDADS website.

