

LifeStyles

METH-WICK COMMUNITY

A Newsletter from:



Life as it should be

Issue 39 Winter 2012

“We have everything we need right here.”

In 1999, Ted and Mary Le Smyth drove their 30-foot Winnebago 4,700 miles across Newfoundland (after a five-hour ferry ride to the island). They spent five weeks on the island, enjoying nature — puffins, whales, elk and moose. Today, as Deer Ridge residents, they still place a priority on enjoying nature. “Now we have nature outside our window,” says Mary Le. “We’ve seen red-tailed hawks, deer, song birds, beavers, opossums and raccoons.” When the Smyths began visiting

Cedar Rapids senior communities they were “just looking” and didn’t think they were ready to move. Then the couple became smitten with Meth-Wick’s beautiful campus and walking trails and placed their names on the waiting list for Deer Ridge and Greenwood Terrace. One day Chris Madsen, Meth-Wick’s director of sales, called about an opening at Deer Ridge and they decided to take a look. “Chris opened the blinds and the view was beautiful,” says Mary Le. “We didn’t want to lose the



Deer Ridge residents Ted and Mary Le Smyth and their dog Sadie enjoy living in the midst of nature.

chance to call this our home.” Sadie, their Australian shepherd mix, also influenced their decision. “We knew Sadie would love taking walks on campus.” Putting their Cedar Rapids

house on the market and deciding which household items to keep or sell were not easy tasks, say the Smyths. But two factors kept them from becoming overwhelmed. “We had lived in a camper for five weeks so we thought downsizing would have to be easier than that!” says Mary Le. “Becky Esker at Get Organized! was also very helpful. She even took items to auction for us, which was a big relief.”

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Dates to Remember

January 16—Piano music with Mark Pence, 2:00 p.m., Live, Laugh, Learn Center.

January 28—Book Club, 2:00 p.m., Live, Laugh, Learn Center.

February 4—Accordion Duo, 2:00 p.m., Live, Laugh, Learn Center.

February 11—Bingo with Hills Bank, 2:00 p.m., Live, Laugh, Learn Center.

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METH-WICK
COMMUNITY

She makes moving easier



Becky Esker helps prospective Meth-Wick residents overcome fear. But it's not a fear of spiders or heights that causes their stress; it's the unfamiliar experience of moving. Becky, a professional organizer who owns Get Organized! in Cedar Rapids, helps many new residents navigate the unknown territory of downsizing their home and moving to Meth-Wick. "Some clients have lived in the same house all of their adult or married life, and have never moved," says Becky. "They are at a total loss for what to do."

Becky and her Get Organized! team work hard so their clients don't have to. "They can be as involved as they like," she explains. "Some clients have

family members who help them with moving tasks while others don't have anyone living close enough to help. Or they may have family nearby, but they don't want to be a burden." Depending on a client's situation, they may choose to tell Becky the moving date and leave everything to her. "On moving day, we have a team to unpack and put things in order," she says. That includes setting up the kitchen and making the bed. "It's such a relief for our clients to know they don't have to do everything alone." According to Becky, one out of three clients use her complete package of services.

There are two ways that Meth-Wick residents learn about Get Organized! When potential residents first meet with Chris Madsen, Meth-Wick's director of sales, they receive a brochure on the services provided by Becky's company. Some folks, eager to get started, will contact Get Organized! after they place their name on Meth-Wick's waiting list. Information is also provided to each new resident. When their application is accepted, residents receive a letter from Meth-Wick

introducing Get Organized! and how it can help them make the transition from their home to Meth-Wick. As a welcome gift, Meth-Wick pays for two hours of Get Organized!'s services. As a special time-limited offer, everyone on Meth-Wick's current waiting list will receive a \$2,500 Get Organized! voucher to cover complete moving services from pack to unpack, when they move by March 31, 2013.



Becky Esker and crew provide a full range of moving services.

Ted and Mary Le Smyth, featured on page one, used Becky's services for their move in May 2011. "I met with them and talked about what's involved in the moving process," says Becky. "They decided to handle some of the downsizing themselves." The Smyths held several garage sales while Becky took the more valuable items to auction. She also sold several of the Smyth's household items in her consignment store, It's Simply Serendipity, a service she offers to all clients.

Smyth, continued from page 1

In keeping with Meth-Wick's policy for pet owners, a patio was poured and a door was added so that Ted and Mary Le could take Sadie outdoors directly from their apartment. Ted, a carpenter by profession, built a seat for Sadie by the picture window as well as a carpeted "paw rail" that sits over the woodwork and protects it from excited scratching.

Ted, Mary Le and Sadie have settled nicely into their extra-large two-bedroom home and life at Meth-Wick. Ted takes photos of each new Deer Ridge resident and their name and photo are placed in a book in Deer Ridge's library.

"This helps us put a name to a face when we forget," laughs Mary Le. Ted also takes photos at Meth-Wick events, creating a slide show with music and graphics through smilebox.com, which he e-mails to other residents. For those without e-mail, his photos are displayed on digital frames in Deer Ridge's main lobby.

As hall representative, Mary Le meets monthly with other Deer Ridge hall reps and a member of Meth-Wick's staff to discuss residents' needs and concerns. The Smyths also enjoy Deer Ridge's twice-monthly "Wing Ding," when everyone in their wing gets together for dinner. "Dining at Meth-Wick is casual

and comfortable," says Ted. "Some senior communities we visited were very rigid in their meal plans. You have a lot more freedom at Meth-Wick."

While Meth-Wick's beautiful campus was a factor in their decision, so was the friendliness of its staff and residents. "There is a small town feeling," says Ted. "We are the village of Meth-Wick. Everything we need is right here." 



Sadie watches "The Nature Channel" from a carpeted step built by Ted.

While the Smyths were able to manage the challenges of downsizing, Get Organized! can also accommodate clients who have limited physical abilities. While downsizing and packing are her company's "obvious" services, she points out that anything related to moving is covered.

Becky has moved many folks into Meth-Wick since starting her business in 2001. "I never moved anyone who said 'I wish we had waited,'" says Becky. "What I do hear is 'I'm so glad we made the move now.'" 

Robin's Nest

Our residents come from all walks of life — engineers, farmers, teachers, nurses,



Robin Mixdorf, President & CEO

doctors, homemakers — to name but a few. In spite of this, recent research shows that some potential residents have a misconception that Meth-Wick is out of their financial reach. I attribute this to our sprawling, beautifully landscaped campus and our wide range of services and lifestyle options. These benefits paint a picture of upscale living. On the contrary, a wide variety of people find Meth-Wick affordable.

To discover how surprisingly reasonable Meth-Wick is, call Chris Madsen, our director of sales, at 363-2402, ext. 638. Chris will be happy to help you compare your current expenses to projected living expenses at Meth-Wick. She'll show you how life at Meth-Wick is within your means. 