

## A TOAST TO CULINARY INNOVATION



NEW WINE BAR AND SMALL PLATES MENU  
COMING TO TRADITIONS

Consider it a “venue within a venue” -- this September, Traditions will open a wine bar and small plates area within the restaurant. With seating for 24 to 30 people, the new option will be by reservation only.

Mike Scheff, Director of Dining, describes the new area within Traditions as “sophisticated, inviting and warm.” Within the space, a 12-foot by 9-foot wine wall will house about 80 bottles of wine.

Says Mike Scheff,

“People might get one or two small plates for themselves or to share. They might try the pairings our staff recommends, or try something different, sampling different wines with different dishes. The pricing will be very reasonable, which makes it easier to explore multiple options.

This is one more way we’re stepping up our wine game, and our food game. We’ve already started doing wine dinners, and they’ve been incredibly well received. I’m 100% confident that this addition will also lead to wine tasting events on a more regular basis, potentially more educational wine programs, and small, intimate wine menus and dinners.”

Wines will include a selection of regional, international, and local wines, curated through Covenant Woods’ wine vendor by Traditions manager Mark Sellers. The option of presenting “flights” of wine -- a set of small samplings -- is being explored. A separate menu of small plates will feature eight to ten items created to pair with the wine collection. Residents should watch for further announcements on the progress of this exciting new addition.

## OCTOBER - DECEMBER QUARTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER

- 15<sup>TH</sup>** Resident Feedback Questionnaire Open
- 22<sup>ND</sup>** Resident Town Hall  
Celebrating 135 years of Covenant Woods
- 25<sup>TH</sup>** Resident Feedback Questionnaire Closes

### NOVEMBER

- 7<sup>TH</sup>** Bi-Annual Memorial Service, The Commons
- 9<sup>TH</sup>** Annual Christmas Market, The Commons
- 12<sup>TH</sup>** Veteran’s Day Appreciation Event  
Veteran’s Day Supply Drive begins
- 16<sup>TH</sup>** Veteran’s Day Supply Drive ends
- 18<sup>TH</sup>** Employee Town Hall
- 23<sup>RD</sup>** Collections begin for Christmas Mother
- 30<sup>TH</sup>** Resident Tree Trimming Party, The Lodge

### DECEMBER

- 4<sup>TH</sup>** Manor East Holiday Parties
- 6<sup>TH</sup>** Holiday Reception, The Commons  
and Fireside at The Lodge
- 7<sup>TH</sup>** Collections end for Christmas Mother  
Employee Holiday Breakfast
- 14<sup>TH</sup>** Resident sponsored Employee Christmas Party
- 20<sup>TH</sup>** Resident Holiday Champagne and Jazz Brunch



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## Celebrating 135 years of Covenant Woods

ANNIVERSARY EVENT FEATURES  
A TASTE OF THE COMMUNITY’S RICH HISTORY

On October 22, 1883, the Richmond Home for Ladies, now Covenant Woods, opened its doors to seven women and a matron. In honor of this significant event, Covenant Woods will celebrate its 135th anniversary with a resident presentation followed by cake and ice cream at the October 22nd Town Meeting, and with a special menu in Traditions and Manor East.

The Donnan-Battle dinner was a tradition of the Richmond Home for Ladies. This event was introduced in the 1930s, when Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Donnan left a donation in memory of their daughter, Mrs. Archibald John Battle. Mr. Donnan had served as President of the Board of Directors for many years, and both he and Mrs. Donnan were involved in maintaining the welfare of the Home and its residents.

The dinner was served at the Richmond Home for Ladies each October for nearly 70 years and became a cherished tradition.

The Donnan-Battle dinner menu will be recreated and served this October 22nd, beginning at 5:00 pm in Tra-

ditions and the Manor East Dining Rooms. The menu will include chicken à la king, sliced country ham, asparagus, sweet potato casserole, congealed salad, watermelon rind pickles, and hot rolls just as it did for 70 years.

The story of Covenant Woods began in 1882, when Dr. William W. Parker and Dr. D. H. Gregg agreed to the need for a home for widows and other “aged and infirmed females”. By 1914, a new home was opened at Stuart Avenue and Mulberry Street, with 36 residents and staff. A second floor was completed in the building in 1933, making room for 18 more residents, and in 1959, a modern kitchen and larger dining room were added to the rear of the house. The year 1999 launched an era of major change. Leadership agreed to move the Home, admit men as well as women, and to change the name to Covenant Woods. In 2001, Covenant Woods opened on 40+ acres in its present Hanover County location.

Growth continued in the new millennium. Today, more than double in size and acreage, new services, community features and residents continue to build the story of Covenant Woods.



## FESTIVITIES EXPANDED

### CHRISTMAS AT COVENANT WOODS

Covenant Woods will be dressed for the season with sparkling lights around the grounds and gorgeous décor provided by our committee of resident elves. A holiday wine tasting, a tea, carol sings, holiday movies, and the famous Covenant Woods hot chocolate bar will fill the season with highlights. A new, lighter fare Reception for prospects, vendors, community leaders as well as other friends and residents of Covenant Woods; a Holiday Champagne Brunch for Covenant Woods residents; and an afternoon party in each neighborhood of Manor East will make this a year to remember.

During the final week of November the decorations will go up campus wide, culminating in a festive kickoff as residents gather to trim the tree in The Lodge and enjoy music, wine and appetizers during the afternoon of Friday, November 30th.

Residents of Manor East and their guests will begin the month with a celebration on December 4th, when parties with food and music will be held in assisted living, memory support and healthcare.

Bright and early Friday, December 7th, employees will enjoy their annual holiday breakfast hosted by the Human Resources Department.

On December 6th, Covenant Woods will return to the roots of the “Hol-

iday Open House”. This party originally started as a simple open house, but over the years, it grew to a full meal requiring seating, serving as our key holiday gathering. To accommodate our large gathering of friends, this year’s Reception on Thursday, December 6th, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm will be a stand-up event designed to welcome prospects, community leaders and vendors to mingle with residents and their guests. The Commons and Fireside will serve as the venue for this festive holiday gathering which will feature light hors d’oeuvres and cocktails. Vistas and Traditions will be open with their regular evening service and menus.

Residents will celebrate employees on December 14th, hosting their Annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon, where they provide wonderful dessert treats for employees – along with their much-anticipated Employee Appreciation Fund checks!

Thursday, December 20th, residents will be invited to celebrate the season on a more intimate scale, as Covenant Woods hosts its first Holiday Champagne Brunch. This elegant, resident-only event will be a full-service, upscale brunch with jazz music, specialty cocktails and an assortment of breakfast and lunch culinary delights.



## ANNUAL RESIDENT FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE

TO BE DISTRIBUTED MID-OCTOBER

The Covenant Woods Annual Resident Feedback Questionnaire will be made available to residents between October 15th and 26th. According to Meghan Tomes, Director of Resident Services,

“The annual feedback questionnaire is one tool we use annually that lets us get meaningful feedback from residents in a confidential manner. This feedback assists us in measuring our performance, which is essential for meeting our quality improvement goals.”

This year’s questionnaire will cover five key areas: dining services, housekeeping and maintenance, the leadership team, community policy and overall feelings.

Says Tomes, “In years past, we’d ask questions on every area. But over the last three years, we’ve been honing in on service areas we have been working on over the past year to measure results. Additionally, a shorter survey leads to higher return rates.”

Independent living residents will receive their questionnaire by paper in their mailbox. Covenant Woods’ staff will hand-deliver questionnaires with additional questions on nursing to assisted living and healthcare residents. Families of residents of Manor East will also receive a questionnaire at their homes. This year, all recipients have the op-

tion to complete the questionnaire via their hard copy or online.

Questionnaire participants are encouraged to present both positive and constructive reviews of each topic. “Community questionnaires tend to get the most results about service areas needing improvements or what residents do not like versus what they do like. It is equally important for residents to tell us what they like and what is working for them so we do not change a service or procedure they like,” says Tomes.

Last year’s survey had a 76% return rate in independent living, 51% in assisted living and 49% in healthcare, and family participation ranged from 36% to 50%. Feedback from these questionnaires has led to improvements throughout the community, particularly in the area of communication.

Residents who reside in Manor East and need assistance are encouraged to contact Lauren Duvall, Social Worker at (804) 569-4208 or Meghan Tomes at (804) 569-8182. Due to confidentiality issues, staff members can’t help residents complete the questionnaire, but community volunteers are available to help upon request. Residents can expect to see a report about the questionnaire by mid-February.



## LOCAL ARTISANS RETURN FOR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET

Covenant Woods’ annual Christmas Market returns November 9th, with more than 30 local vendors presenting their unique handcrafted wares. This year’s artisans range from the Covenant Woods Guild with their popular homemade bake sale, to ceramic housewares, natural soaps and lotions, bow ties, a Richmond watercolorist, a local orchard with seasonal produce and preserved jams and jellies, quilts, knitted products, jewelry, handmade wood furniture, and various other home goods. The Market will be open from 10 am to 5 pm.

The Christmas Market began seven years ago as an event exclusively for residents, to bring them an easy way to shop for unique holiday gifts. It has since evolved into a showcase of local talent with all local vendors and all hand-made items. The Market is open to the public and this year about 400 people are projected to attend. According to Community Relations Manager Elizabeth Pace:

“We’ve created the Christmas Market as a venue for new and established artisans. We work to ensure that we don’t have too many duplicate categories, with a curated list of local talent. Covenant Woods is a great space for an event like this, since it’s open and accessible for all.”

Portions of each vendor’s proceeds go to support the Raymond T. Holmes Community Services Fund. This fund is named for a longtime volunteer who was instrumental in the development of Covenant Woods. It focuses on three key areas: cultural programs, a clinical pastoral student internship, and transportation for seniors living outside of Covenant Woods who do not have access to transportation for medical visits, grocery store trips, and other essential appointments. As an extra benefit to Market vendors, Covenant Woods donates the community’s booth at the Hanover Tomato Festival to the vendor who donates the most per year. Last year’s top spot went to the local, family owned fruit farm Agriberry.