

Meadows at Mountain Lake complex dedicated to Martin

by Rachel Vecchioni
STAFF WRITER

MOUNTAIN LAKE PARK

— Those attending the ribbon-cutting and commemoration ceremony at the new Meadows at Mountain Lake complex last Friday afternoon could not have asked for better weather to celebrate the facility built by Garrett County Community Action Committee (GC-CAC) Inc. A tent and luncheon were set up in the courtyard of the new building, which is perpendicular to the original Meadows East, built in 1983.

The new complex provides an additional 90 apartments to the already existing 700 units that

Garrett County Community Action already provides to low-income, elderly, or handicapped individuals of Garrett County.

"The Meadows is a place where seniors have on-site advocacy and access to services, strategically designed to enable them to live longer independently," said a CAC spokesperson. "Today we celebrate the completion of this campus-like senior housing facility."

Financing partners behind the project were the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, National Equity Fund, Garrett County Community Action, Maryland Energy

Administration, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of America. A total of \$15.25 million was contributed to the project.

Duane Yoder, president of Garrett County Community Action, opened the ceremony by recognizing Appalachian Parent Association and former Mtn. Lake Park Mayor Britten "Leo" Martin Jr. as being instrumental to the project.

A memorial plaque was designed and placed in the courtyard honoring Mayor Martin, "who was always concerned with what was happening in 'his' town." Martin passed away unexpectedly this year.

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Beverly Beard, chairperson at GCCAC, said a few words, followed by current MLP Mayor Don Sincell, who previously sat as a member of the town council.

Sincell talked about Martin taking a drive down every street in Mountain Lake Park every Sunday to make sure everything was in order and to address any structural issues the town might be facing as far as road repair and/or zoning issues.

Sincell and Oakland Mayor Peggy Jamison both spoke fondly of Martin and what a loss it has been with his passing. Jamison is also president of Garrett County Municipalities Inc.

Shelby O'Neill of Enterprise Community Partners; Julianna Albowicz, representative of Sen. Ben L. Cardin; and Bryan Hooper, deputy administrator for

USDA Rural Development, spoke on the benefits the new complex will provide, as well as commending Garrett County for providing local housing to those in need of it.

Jessica Briggs, vice president of community development at GCCAC, presented a plaque to town council, which read: "The Meadows at Mountain Lake gratefully acknowledges Leo Martin with appreciation for his support and contributions to this project. His leadership and dedication to our community will be remembered forever. — Britten Leo Martin Jr., Mayor of Mountain Lake Park, 2001 – 2017."

The memorial stone placed in the courtyard reads the same.

Following the official ribbon-cutting, tours of the new complex were offered, as well as food and drink, provided by Goehringer's Catering. The ribbon was donated by Green Acres Garden Center, Oakland.



Staff photo by Rachel Vecchioni

Pictured at the ribbon-cutting for the Meadows at Mountain Lake are, from left, Jessica Briggs, GCCAC vice president and project manager; Duane Yoder, GCCAC president; Bryan Hooper, USDA Rural Development deputy administrator; Kathy Beisner, Rural Development acting state director; Andrew Donlon, special assistant to Congressman Delaney; Julianna Albowicz, outreach director for Sen. Van Hollen; Katrin Kark, Local Initiatives Support Corporation; Don Sincell, mayor of Mountain Lake Park; Beverly Beard, GCCAC chairperson; Alvin Lawson, MD DHCD construction finance manager; Doug Devlin, Devlin Architecture; Commissioners Jim Hinebaugh and Larry Tichnell; and Dick Devlin, contractor of Devlin, Inc.