



Fellowship Square

**“Farewell Tour” Kicks Off at Reston Affordable Senior Housing Property
as 300+ Seniors Prepare to Leave 1970s Building
that Has Been an Integral Part of Reston’s Founding Vision**

Residents of Lake Anne Fellowship House, Reston’s first affordable housing community for seniors, start preparations to move to new, modernized property that will provide enhanced amenities while still assuring that rent is never more than 30 percent of a resident’s income, which averages \$10,000/year.

Feb. 2, 2022 – Reston, Va. – This summer, the 313 seniors who call Lake Anne Fellowship House (LAFH) their home will move from its 50+ year old building to a [brand-new state-of-the-art residence](#) across the street. This month, Fellowship Square officially kicked off “farewell” programming in preparation for this upcoming move to recognize and say goodbye to the aging building that has been an integral part of the Reston community since its construction in 1970 as one of the **first high rises** and the **first affordable senior housing property** in Reston. The 240-unit building will be demolished, then redeveloped, once residents are relocated to the new property being constructed in collaboration with [Enterprise Community Development](#).

“Fellowship Square is taking the next several months to communally and collectively remember, reflect, share stories, and say good-bye to this community touchpoint that has served as a home for thousands of seniors over the past 50+ years. This residence has embodied the founding vision that Reston be a community for all income levels, races and religions,” said Christy Zeitz, CEO of Fellowship Square. “We will be celebrating this building’s and this community’s contribution to housing diversity and affordable housing solutions in Reston, and the impact it’s had on so many seniors with limited resources. At the same time, we’re looking forward to our next chapter: the summertime move to a new modernized building that is the result of [collaborative partnerships](#) to help some of Virginia’s most underserved seniors have a secure home where they can thrive.”

An Essential Component of Reston’s Founding Vision

Affordable housing communities like Fellowship Square have been an essential component bringing to life the [vision](#) of Reston founder and developer [Robert E. Simon](#), whose goal was creating an open and welcoming community where everyone, regardless of income, race or religion, could live, work, play and remain throughout their lifetime. Over the past 50+ years, Lake Anne Fellowship House has provided housing to more than 1,300 low-income seniors, enabling vulnerable low-income residents to age in place in Reston, where explosive growth and expansion have driven prices up. While Reston is now one of the most expensive zip codes in the state, the senior residents at LAFH – many of whom live on Social Security or Supplemental Security Income alone, with an average annual income of approximately \$10,000/year – are able to remain in their local area and enjoy the dynamic Reston community.

“One Last Time” Farewell Programming and Community Open House

[“Farewell Tour”](#) programming will include monthly events for residents focused on celebrating the diversity of the Lake Anne community, such as New Year Celebrations Around the World, Culture through Crafts, a Flowers of the World spring garden event, move preparation workshops and more. An open house for family members, neighbors, neighboring organizations, local businesses, and the greater Reston community will be held in May to enable community members to visit the building “one last time,” celebrate its role in the Reston vision, and to preview the changing and modernizing of the neighborhood with the new Lake Anne House facility being built across the street.

“With the new Lake Anne House nearing completion, the time is right for us to honor the old Lake Anne Fellowship House which has served as home to more than 1,300 Restonians over the past five decades. While the new Lake Anne House will also be adjacent to the cultural and historical center of our Reston community and will have much-needed upgrades – and I know its residents are really looking forward to that – it will be bittersweet to lose this longtime feature of our Reston landscape.”

-Walter Alcorn, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Hunter Mill District

“For more than 50 years the Lake Anne Fellowship House has honored our founder’s vision of inclusivity and the ability to remain a resident of Reston during one’s later years. The Fellowship House has been a vital part of our community, and we at Reston Association are excited about the upcoming opening of the new building. We are especially pleased that no current residents were displaced while the new building was being constructed, so the vision of Reston founder Robert E. Simon Jr. could continue without interruption. Thank you, Lake Anne Fellowship House.”

- Caren Anton, President of the Reston Association

“The building holds so many memories for me with our residents, with my coworkers, visitors, and even my family. My career with Lake Anne Fellowship House began two decades ago at this building, when I started in October 2021. I have seen this building and this community go through so many changes through the years and it will always hold a special place in my life as a place of good friendships and growth.”

- Jenny Wang, Long-time LAFH Assistant Community Manager

Fay “Gabby” Bowden, 77, has lived at LAFH for the past 8 years and is excited about “everything” in the new building. “The thought of having a brand-new apartment built just for you is very special.” Mary Przewlocki, 72, a resident of LAFH for the past 2 years, enjoys cooking and is “especially excited about the new kitchen and its new appliances.” Eun Lee, 84, is thrilled about “no more dishes by hand!” – as every unit will be equipped with a dishwasher.

Collecting Memories of a Changing Reston

Fellowship Square invites members of the greater Reston community to share stories and memories about Reston’s founding vision, the development of LAFH, the impact of diverse housing options like LAFH, and any other accounts to share. Submit your memories and stories [here](#).

Fellowship Square, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is one of the leading local providers of affordable housing and services to low-income seniors, operating 670 units in the metro region and serving over 800 residents. The organization has contracts with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to subsidize housing expenses associated with caring for our aging population, ensuring that the rental cost is never more than 30% of a resident’s annual income and making our homes some of the most affordable in the region. Through professionally managed apartment communities, programming, and services, Fellowship Square maintains the respect and dignity of its clients by ensuring that residents have the support they need to live independent and fulfilling lives even in the face of serious obstacles, such as the high costs of housing and health care in the greater Washington, DC area. For more information on Fellowship Square, visit fellowshipsquare.org, call 703.860.2536 or email info@fellowshipsquare.org.

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Photos below: (jpeg images available upon request)

Lake Anne Fellowship House under construction in 1970



Lake Anne Fellowship House today



Rendering New Lake Anne House: Construction to be completed in Summer 2022



LAFH residents at a kick-off “Farewell Tour” event in the building that celebrated the community’s diversity



Contact fellowshipsquarecommunications@gmail.com or 202.255.0561 for jpeg files