

BUSINESS




Summit by Morrison

Summit by Morrison closes on development loan

Whitefield senior living community on track to welcome residents this spring

WHITEFIELD — Summit by Morrison announced it recently closed on financing with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development for its 83-unit senior living community in Whitefield.

The two low-interest loans from the Rural Development Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program, which partners with municipalities and non-profit organizations to invest in essential community facilities in rural areas, total \$24,973,000.

“Closing on our USDA Rural Development loan is a key milestone as we work toward welcoming residents to Summit by Morrison this spring,” said Chad Dingman, executive director of Summit by Morrison and The Morrison Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Care. “Summit by Morrison is the solution to a growing need for independent living and assisted living options for North Country seniors. It has taken tremendous effort from our team and commu-

nity partners to keep all the pieces of this project moving forward.”

In 2014, The Morrison Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Care, a long-time non-profit operator of a nursing home and assisted living facility in Whitefield, conducted a community needs assessment. The results supported what community leaders had long thought: senior housing in the Whitefield area and the North Country was not keeping up with the growing need. Many of the area’s residents exceeded the

guidelines to qualify for income-based subsidized senior housing but did not have the means to live in private, for-profit independent and assisted living communities.

“Many North Country residents must currently travel up to three hours south to find appropriate senior housing options,” said Brian Fogg, chairman, Summit by Morrison board of directors. “We found this to be unacceptable. When

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Real Estate

Springtime projects that reap lasting rewards

It seems we have survived yet another of Old Man Winter’s stormy blasts and are looking forward to a decent and more temperate weekend. This time of year can be a bit of a tease. Last week, I was able to get out and enjoy a quick bike ride and a couple of nice hikes. Once the weather hit, we were all stuck back indoors waiting for another branch to snap under the weight of that heavy snow. Snowstorms aside, I still get excited about springtime projects in the back yard.

I’m not much of a gardener and I most certainly don’t have a single green digit, thumb or otherwise, between my two hands. But one thing I did learn last year was the joy (and ease) of perennials. If you are itching to get into the back yard for some renovations and DIY adventures, consider going green this year. For me, the best part about

perennials is they come back every year. So this spring, without lifting a finger, I’ll have some beautiful sprouts blossoming up as soon as the snow melts and I won’t have dug a single hole.

The trick with perennials is that they tend to only blossom for a very short time. In most cases, they are “in bloom” for two to three weeks. So if you plan correctly (and with a bit of luck) you can plant different flowers that will bloom consecutively and you’ll have a fresh batch of flowers to enjoy throughout the whole summer. Some of the more common perennials are tulips (my favorite), lilies, black-eyed Susans and asters. You can do a little research before heading to your local greenhouse and start planning for next year.

While visiting my brother in Sandy, Utah, a couple weeks ago, he showed me a pretty neat project he

has going in his back yard. Like most of us, he lives in a neighborhood where the houses are not all that far apart. On one end of the yard he added some concrete pavers and crushed stone in order to create a sitting area. The view is the amazing Wasatch Range and the sunsets are simply breathtaking. And although they enjoy the company of their neighbors, that doesn’t mean they don’t want a little privacy once in a while.

Since great fences make great neighbors, he installed a fence around the entire back yard. The benefits of this are numerous. It is a great place for Lily, their greyhound, to run around safe from cars. He and his wife have a great place to relax anytime of day and enjoy the view. And they can entertain a few friends in the privacy of their now secluded back yard. The benefits

also extend to the neighbors as well since with the addition of the fence, they now also enjoy the same privacy. You can tackle this backyard project with a bit of planning, some lumber and concrete and ideally a few friends who will likely enjoy your private back yard once you are done!

“Privacy fences tend to be a big selling point for buyer families with pets and kids,” notes Badger Realty agent, Susan Solar. “Not only is it a plus for the buyers, but sellers will appreciate the increase in their home’s resale value. As long as the

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