
The Item

Familiar faces ready to share Artisan at Hudson

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HUDSON - It is opening in Hudson, but this new senior community has an Item-area flavor, brought by some key personnel.

When the Artisan at Hudson opens this fall at 253 Washington St., there will be familiar faces.

Beth Burns, who worked at the Wachusett chamber, and then as a real estate agent and hairstylist in Clinton, is working community relations for the new community.

“This role is the perfect combination of my past experiences from my time with the Chamber, my years in real estate and client relation skills from 23-plus years of being a hairstylist. I get to really engage with and get to know potential/future residents, which allows a bond of trust and together we can determine if the Artisan is the right fit for someone’s wants and needs, then choose the apartment that is best for them,” Burns said. “I also network with and form relationships with professional colleagues as well as engage with our surrounding community.”

The other familiar face is longtime area resident Michelle Jones, who is the Connections director.

“That means that she is overseeing the Connections Memory Care section of the community,” Burns said. “Caring for people with Alzheimer’s and dementia is a passion of Michelle’s and is near and dear to her heart. She has become a CDP (certified dementia practitioner). She has been working in senior living since she was a teenager

(including a stint at River Terrace in Lancaster) and we couldn't be prouder that her career has culminated in this important and well-earned position."

The partner company of Artisan is SageLife, located in Springfield, Pa. The company has communities in Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey.

"The Artisan At Hudson is the first and only community in New England," Burns said. "We always say we are 'Senior Living But Different.' Our mission is to create the best home for each member of the SageLife family every day by encouraging, empowering and celebrating successful aging. Our motto is: Living to the power of you! This means we are resident directed. The lifestyle - including menu choices in our four restaurants and two pubs, the activities etc. - reflect the suggestions and requests of the people who live there."

Burns said the staff adheres to the core "We Care" values: "Work as a team. Exceptional service always. Commitment to the Sage community. Anticipate residents' needs. Respect for residents, their families and each other. Exercise common sense. When we hire our employees, we specifically look for people who share these core values."

Artisan At Hudson will have 149 private apartments (61 independent, 65 assisted and 23 Memory Care), with 160,000 square feet of living space that sits on eight acres of land abutting the Assabet River Rail Trail ("We put our own path in that goes right to the trail, too," Burns said).

The independent living apartments come fully aplianced, with a full-sized stove, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, washer and dryer. Rent includes a monthly meal credit and climate controlled underground parking.

The assisted living apartments include a full-sized refrigerator and microwave. Rent includes all meals, all amenities and a continuum of personal support is available.

The entire community has weekly housekeeping, car and driver, 24-hour concierge/security service and seven day a week maintenance. The entire building boasts 10-foot ceilings and oversized windows. Rent includes all utilities, including heat, hot water, electrical, cable and wifi.

“The fully private Memory Care apartments have a unique, all-inclusive rent and our staff are specially trained in the ‘Positive Approach to Care,’ by international dementia care expert Teepa Snow,” Burns said. “Dining will be amazing. We have an award-winning chef as our director of dining services. We will have any-time dining in our café/bistros and incredible dinners in our formal dining rooms. We will also have al fresco dining on the patios in good weather. Dining will showcase restaurant-style menus and service. Our selections will be vast and plentiful, taking advantage of the seasonal offerings our region has to offer. Our skilled chef will, of course, honor individual requests ranging from vegetarian to heart healthy options.”

The independent and assisted living sections will have their own community living rooms, activity rooms and each side has its own pub. Many of the patios will have fire pits, Burns added.

The Artisan has a salon, fitness center and theater on site.

“What I like about this company is that they very simply treat people the way they deserve to be treated,” Burns said. “We get to know everyone whether they are a resident, a future resident, family members or members of our staff and everyone is treated with the same level of respect. Personally, I find that rare these days and am proud to work in such an environment.

“Our residents are all looking forward to the wonderful amenities that we offer and even more so they are looking forward to the socialization and comradery that they will experience with us,” Burns added.

She emphasized that Artisan is a “community,” not a facility.

“We refer to the Artisan At Hudson as a community, but we also are a vital part of the greater community we are in. We have a great relationship with the Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School. Last year, the students worked with us on different events, most notably catering a few of our Discovery lunches and we are looking forward to working with the co-op programs this fall,” Burns said. “We are fierce supporters of our area local businesses. We have partnered with different businesses and always make sure that any endeavor is mutually beneficial. We are members of the Marlboro Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Assabet Valley Chamber of Commerce, where I was recently appointed to the Board of Directors.”

Burns said the SageLife “is simply incredible. The president of SageLife, Kelly Andress, is an amazing woman who has created an atmosphere where our residents come first, our staff has the freedom to express and execute ideas and everyone comes together as a family. The Artisan has extended the SageWay culture into Massachusetts and is led by an incredible executive director, Sue Misiorski. Sue holds fast to the SageLife way and extends her genuine warmth to everyone she meets. Watching her with future residents is a beautiful sight that showcases her expertise, nursing background and wonderful heart. She has skillfully built the staff at the Artisan, creating a team of experienced, caring, fantastic people that I am very proud to be a part of.

“Life at the Artisan will be different from anything this area has seen,” Burns added.

For more information, see the website at ArtisanAtHudson.com or call (978) 763-7111.