

Maplewood Park Place



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"Maplewood is governed by seniors for seniors," says Executive Director Scott McAlister, who reports to two boards, one made up of residents and the other of both residents and individuals from the outside community that are professionals in the senior living industry.

Maplewood Park Place is a cooperative continuum care retirement community of 300 residents. Prospective residents first learn about cooperative ownership: buying real estate as opposed to renting a senior living apartment.

Regardless of the ownership model, "it's not a senior living company that creates the vision of Maplewood, it's the residents," says McAlister, who adds that Maplewood Park Place was voted "Best Senior Living Community" by Bethesda Magazine's readers earlier this year.

"Being here is like being on a cruise ship that never leaves port," says resident Dr. Marcy O'Neill of the camaraderie and activities at Maplewood. New residents often arrive with bit of anxiety

about change, but they report easy transitions.

The most significant new service at Maplewood is the alliance with primary care geriatricians Dr. Gary Wilks and Dr. Roy Fried, who function as a concierge practice that allows for a generous amount of time for each appointment. Maplewood's support means residents don't pay a fee to be part of the practice. Any independent living resident can see the doctors during their regular office hours four days a week. They are also on emergency call at night and on weekends.

"Residents of our community have experienced firsthand the depersonalization of medical care," says McAlister, "We devoted resources to improving the primary care experience dramatically."

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